THE SCHIPPERKE

Pronounced - “Skip-er-key”



A dog for all seasons- a large dog in a small body

The Schipperke Club recommends that its members use any health screening tests available for this breed

THE SCHIPPERKE AT A GLANCE

Breed Group	Utility
Vulnerable Native breed	Not a native breed but fewer than 50 puppies registered per year
Size	Small
Exercise	Up to 1 hour per day
Coat length	Medium
Grooming	At least once per week
Sheds coat	Yes *
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	House or Flat
Minimum garden size	None
Lifespan	Over 12 years
Colour	Black, Cream, Gold

**If you are asthmatic or have an allergy, you should consult your medical advisor before considering obtaining a dog*

Health Information

It is strongly recommended that breeders use the following DNA tests on breeding stock:

DNA Test	MPSIIIB
DNA Test	von Willebrand Disease Type1
DNA Test	Brachyury (Bobtail Gene)

Characteristics of the Schipperke

As a breed the Schipperke has been described as a large dog in a small body with the instincts of a guard dog – protective, devoted, and courageous. When the breed originated, dogs had to be useful to survive.
So, the Schipperke became the guardian of the household, and like all guarding breeds, they possess a great sense of responsibility towards the home and everything in it and are very loyal and devoted to their family.

Schipperkes thrive best with an active way of life, and love to be with their owners whatever they are doing, from a walk in the countryside, walking along a city street or even spending a lazy day at home. They are generally clean and easy to house train, their coats are not difficult to maintain, requiring minimum grooming, but once a year they do shed their coat! Due to their small size they can live in a house or a flat; they are economical to maintain and will do well on any food – raw meat or a complete kibble.

Schipperkes are full of character and very intelligent, full of fun and mischief. With their inquisitive nature, nothing around their home escapes inspection. It should not be forgotten, of course, that it is necessary to train any dog to be a good citizen, regardless of the breed!

A short history of the Schipperke

Schipperkes have been present in the UK for over 100 years. They originated in Belgium and the earliest mention of them is in the writing of the monk Wenceslas in the 15th century. The breed was widely found throughout Belgium and was a favourite with craft guilds, particularly the shoemakers' guild. In about 1690, they organised shows and paraded their Schipperkes wearing elaborate collars made of brass. Although it is not known for certain why the Schipperke had no tail (docked) it is said that in revenge for unwanted visits to a house by a neighbour's Schipperke, the owner chopped the tail off the neighbour's dog! Apparently, others were so impressed by the little dog's appearance that it became fashionable. This tailless little black dog also found favour amongst bargees, keeping down the vermin and guarding the boats; henceforth they became known as 'the Belgian Barge dog'.

The first known import of a Schipperke to England was a little bitch in whelp called Flo, she was imported by a Mr JM Berrie in 1887. In 1891 Schipperkes took part in the very first CRUFTSDog Show.

Further information about the Schipperke including its' history can be found on the Schipperke Club website.

Obtaining a Schipperke

If you have decided that you would like to add a Schipperke to your family, please bear in mind that it is a long-term commitment and should not be taken on lightly. Schipperkes are rarely available 'off the shelf' as puppies are normally bred as part of a long-term program and not as a commercial venture. To obtain a puppy you can contact a reputable breeder from the club's directory of approved breeders and book one from a future litter. Details can be found on the Schipperke Club website: http://schipperkeclub.co.uk/breeders-directory.

Rescue Service

If you would like to give a home to an older dog please register your interest with our Breed Rescue Co-ordinator, but please be aware Schipperkes are not a common breed and average only two per year needing the help of our rescue service, so you could be waiting a long time as demand far outweighs availability.
Details available on the club website, see below.

Contact the Schipperke Club Secretary:

Mrs Janet Holland
Benthow Lowca, Whitehaven,
Cumbria CA28 6QT
Email: schojan@compuserve.com
Tel: 07710 286531

The Schipperke Club website has lots of information about the breed.
Use the QR code below or visit:- https://schipperkeclub.co.uk

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