

Rescuing Naomi and Chip

BY LESLEY THORNE, RESCUE COORDINATOR

Schipperke Rescue is part of the Schipperke Club and is very well supported by the committee and members of the club.

Schipperkes are not a common breed and nowadays we average at two per year needing the help of our rescue team – this figure didn't change during the pandemic. Most of the Schipperkes that come to us are older dogs with changes in circumstances, particularly if their owners have passed away or have gone into care homes.

We are often alerted about a dog in need of our help through relatives of the owner, and Schipperkes found in other general rescue organisations come to our attention through our vigilant club members. We would like to encourage rescue centres to contact us as soon as they have a Schipperke in their care as we can help find suitable homes quite quickly.

Enquiries from those wanting to give a home to a rescue Schipperke are put on a waiting list but they can sometimes be waiting a long time as the demand far

outweighs the availability.

Occasionally, very elderly Schipperkes find their way to us and we often keep these in our care, providing them with a comfortable retirement. One such little lady is Naomi. She came to us at 16 years old after her previous owner passed away. When Naomi arrived she needed urgent dental care as, sadly, all her teeth had to be removed. She lived with us until she passed away recently at the grand age of 19-and-a-half years old.



Naomi pictured at 18-and-a-half years old, resting in her favourite place. **Lesley Thorne**®

A home for Chip

Chip was found in a general rescue centre by a club member where he had been for about nine months. He was 11 years old and his previous owner had passed away. The centre found him a home but, sadly, he was returned two weeks later. I found him the perfect home with an older lady who had experience with Schipperkes. They quickly became inseparable, but Chip developed health problems after six months. He was diagnosed with cancer that had spread and, sadly, passed away. They both enjoyed the time they had together, and he had a happy last few months with her.



Chip on the day he met his new owner. **Lesley Thorne**®

BREED SERVICES

Breed clubs take the welfare of their breeds very seriously and work tirelessly to provide help, support and homes for dogs in need.

The Schipperke breed club offers a range of events, including shows, training days and educational seminars, plus advice on the breed to people looking for a puppy or rehoming an older dog. The club can also provide owners with advice and help with training and breeding from their

Schipperke. It is a link between the breed and The Kennel Club on matters of health. Please contact the club secretary, Melanie Reed-Peck, for more information.

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