

SCHIPPERKE

GROUP: Non-sporting

SIZE:

Suggested height at highest point of the withers is 11 to 13 inches for males and 10 to 12 inches for females. However, quality should always take precedence over size. Weights are up to 18 pounds, but must be in proportion to height.

COAT:

Adult coat must include several distinct lengths that grow naturally in a specific pattern; short on face, ears, front of forelegs and on hocks; medium length on body, and longer in the ruff, cape, jabot (apron; extension of the ruff) and culottes; the ruff begins in back of the ears and extends completely around the neck; the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between front legs; hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape and continuing over the rump, lies flat, and is slightly shorter than the cape but longer than the hair on the sides of the body and sides of the legs; coat on rear of thighs forms culottes (skirts) which should be as long as the ruff and the points of which turn inward. **Fault: Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized (it is an essential breed characteristic).** Texture: Coat is abundant, straight, and slightly harsh to the touch; softer, dense undercoat is short on the body and is very dense around the neck, making the ruff stand out. **Faults: Silky coats; body coats over three inches in length; very short harsh coats.** **Trimming: The Schipperke is a natural breed, and the only optional trimming is of the whiskers and the hair between the pads of the feet. Fault: Any other trimming than that listed.**

COLOR:

The most recognized and acceptable color is solid black; however, the undercoat may be slightly lighter. During the shedding period, the coat may take on a transitory reddish hue. **Brown, cream, white, gay, blue, or red are acknowledged colors in many countries but are less traditional than black in the United States. Overall quality of conformation should not be sacrificed in favor of color. An otherwise excellent Schipperke should not be faulted for color.**

HEAD:

Foxlike, wide head that narrows at the eyes; well proportioned head. **Fault: Narrow head; domed skull; bull terrier-shaped head.**

Eyes: Small, oval rather than round, dark brown and placed forward on the head; neither sunken nor prominent.

Ears: Small, triangular, placed high on the head; very erect at attention; strong enough not to be capable of being lowered, except in line with the body. **Faults: Ears too long; ears too rounded. Disqualification: Drop ear or ears.**

Muzzle: Length from tip to stop is equal to length of skull, from the stop to the occiput; not too much stop. **Fault: Elongated muzzle.**

Nose: Small and black.

Bite: Even bite; tight scissors bite is acceptable. **Disqualification:** Any deviation of proper bite.

NECK:

Moderate length, slightly arched in balance with the rest of the dog to give the correct silhouette.

BODY:

Square in profile, thickset, short, and cobby; broad and deep chest reaching to the elbows; well-sprung ribs (modified oval) are wide behind the shoulders and taper to the sternum; forechest extends in front of shoulders between front legs; short, muscular loin moderately drawn up; broad, well-rounded croup with docked tail that is not visually discernible. **Fault: Sway back.**

Topline: Level or slightly sloping from withers to the croup; the stand-out ruff adds to the slope, making the dog seem slightly higher at the shoulders than at the rump.

FOREQUARTERS:

Muscular, sloping shoulders, well laid back with legs extending straight down from the body when viewed from front; leg bone is in proportion to the body, but not coarse; legs placed well under body viewed from side; **Faults: Straight shoulders; legs not straight when viewed from front.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Well-muscled hindquarters appear slightly lighter than forequarters, but are in balance with front; well let-down hocks with well bent stifles; viewed from the rear, the legs extend straight down from the hip through the hock to the feet; short rear pasterns; dewclaws *must* be removed. **Faults: Straight hock joints; straight stifles; cow hocks; dewclaws.**

Feet: Small, round, and tight feet with short, strong, black nails; front dewclaws *should* be removed; rear dewclaws *must* be removed. **Faults: Splayed feet; feet turning in or out; dewclaws.**

Tail: Docked to no more than one inch in length.

MOVEMENT:

Proper movement is a smooth, well coordinated and graceful trot with a tendency to gradually converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases; front and rear must be in perfect balance with good reach in front and drive in rear; topline remains level or slightly sloping downward from shoulder to rump; elbows remain close to the body, viewed from front; legs form a straight line from shoulders through elbows to the toes, with feet pointing straight ahead; viewed from the rear, the legs form a straight line from the hip through the hocks to the pads, with the feet pointing straight ahead.

TEMPERAMENT:

Curious, interested in everything in area; excellent and faithful little watchdog; reserved with strangers and ready to protect family and property if necessary.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

A drop ear or ears.

Semi-erect ear or ears.

Under bite or overbite.

Albinism.