

# TOP TWENTY EVENT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

## PROCEDURES

This event provides special recognition to those Schipperkes with the most outstanding records in the conformation ring during the previous calendar year, together with their breeders, handlers, and owners.

The event offers all who attend a chance to view, in one location, one at a time, the very best Schipperkes in the country, based upon their competitive standings for the previous year.

Using the scale of points, as approved by the SCA Board, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the breed standard. This procedure is not available at any AKC show and allows the spectators an opportunity to evaluate the dogs, scoring them at the same time they are being judged.

## ELIGIBILITY AND INVITATIONS – MANDATORY

1. The Awards & Medals Chair shall be responsible for compiling the list of invitees for the Top Twenty Competition and will forward this list to the Top Twenty Chair as soon as the statistics are compiled. The list of invitees will include the Top 20 Schipperkes (dogs and bitches combined) based upon the SCA all-breed point system (includes BOS points), as well as the 20 dogs and the 20 bitches with the most points based on the SCA breed points system (which includes BOB & BOS Points) during the previous calendar year (January 1 through December 31). This list will not include previous Top 20 winners or non-Champions, but will include all dogs/bitches tied within the 20.
2. To compete in this event, all owners, co-owners, and handlers must be in good standing with the AKC at the time the invitations are extended, and at the time of the event. Membership in Schipperke Club of America is not required.
3. Spayed bitches or neutered dogs that have been named among the final Top Twenty Schipperkes may compete in this event.
4. Previous winners of the Top Twenty Event are not eligible to compete in the current year's Top Twenty. Each year, previous Top Twenty winners will be invited to exhibit in the Showcase of Previous Winners (with their music) either just before actual judging, or just before the winner is announced.
5. In addition, the Top Obedience Dog, the Top Rally Dog, the Top Agility Dog and the Top Junior Handler will be invited for Exhibition Only. Invitations for Top Obedience Dog, the Top Rally Dog, Top Agility Dog and the Top Junior Handler shall be determined by the SCA rankings. No entry fee will be charged.
6. The dogs currently eligible to compete, and the previous winners of the Top Twenty Event, must all be invited to participate in the event by formal written invitation.
7. In order to eliminate any possible conflict of interest, no dog that is owned, co-owned, or shown by an active, voting member of the Top Twenty committee, or a member of their family as defined by AKC rules may compete at the Top Twenty event. The dog, if qualified may be listed in the event catalog and shown for exhibition only. No entry fee will be charged and they may run a small photo in the catalog at no charge.

8. All handlers will attend a brief meeting held prior to the event for the purposes of assigning arm band numbers, and reviewing the staging of the event.
9. All participants agree to abide by any and all rules as may become effective through authorization of the Top Twenty Committee and/or the SCA Officers and Board of Directors as concerns the conduct of finalists participating in the event. Failure to do so may revoke the privileges of invitation in the future, regardless of eligibility.
10. All qualifiers will be listed on the SCA National website before invitations are sent out.
11. The Score Sheet on page 7 *must* be used by judges.
12. The winners shall be announced at the Top Twenty Event.

### **JUDGES/SELECTION OF JUDGES – MANDATORY**

1. There will be three (3) judges of the Top Twenty Event. There will be one judge from each of the following three categories.
  - a. Breeder Judge  
An established Schipperke breeder who has been breeding for at least ten years, having produced at least five (5) Champions of Record as published in the AKC Awards; or is approved by the AKC to judge Schipperkes. The breeder judge must not own, co-own or be the breeder of record of any dog in the Top Twenty competition nor its sire or dam. The breeder judge may exhibit Schipperkes in all classes (including intersex) at the SCA National Specialty Show and any associated all breed shows, or Schipperke Specialty shows.
  - b. Multi-Breed Judge
2. A person approved by the AKC to judge Schipperkes and at least 10 other breeds.
  - c. Handler Judge  
A professional handler, either active or retired, who meets the requirements for membership in a Professional Handlers' Association (though not necessarily a member). The Handler Judge must have at least five (5) years experience. The Handler Judge must not have shown a Schipperke for an owner of a dog in the Top Twenty competition for two (2) years preceding the event. In addition, the Handler Judge may not handle any dog owned or co-owned by an owner of a Top Twenty entrant, at the SCA National Specialty Show or at any associated Schipperke Specialty Shows
3. Excluded from judging the event will be the following:
  - a. Any person actively serving on the Top Twenty Committee
  - b. Any person that has judged an SCA Top Twenty event in any of the three judging categories for the previous 5 years.
  - c. Any person who owns, co-owns, is the breeder of record of any dog entered in the Top Twenty competition or its sire or dam.
4. The Top Twenty committee will select the judges in each of the three judging categories. Excluded from the process of selecting the judges will be any committee member who has

any interest in a dog eligible to compete. Committee members will disqualify themselves if this circumstance exists or may be disqualified by the Chairman. A committee member who has an interest in a dog eligible to compete may participate in the selection process if the dog in question is excluded from competition.

5. Top Twenty event judges at a National Specialty shall not exhibit at any of the Regional Specialties held in conjunction with the National Specialty, nor in any classes at the National Specialty, including the Top Twenty.

## **EVENT GUIDELINES**

A ballroom in which to hold the event is required. The recommended minimum room's size is 65 feet by 75 feet. Ideally, the ballroom should be large enough to comfortably accommodate the show ring and seating for up to 100 spectators, including a clear aisle for safety.

1. A show ring is required. The recommended minimum ring size is 40 feet by 50 feet.
2. Reserved seating for spectators, either chairs or tables with chairs. If possible, there should be seating reserved for the Top Twenty Event participants.
3. A total of three judges (one breeder judge, one AKC Approved judge, and one handler judge).
4. A total of three ring stewards, one to be designated chief ring steward.
5. Three judges' tables with chairs at each table.
6. Three exhibit examination tables.
7. One table and chair for the announcer.
8. A microphone and sound system. A DJ to orchestrate the music for each exhibit.
9. An area to display the Top Twenty Event Trophy and rosette ribbons.
10. Rosettes (or suitable awards) for each participant and any former winners of the Top Twenty Event who are in attendance, and a rosette for the winner of the current year's Top Twenty winner.
11. Formal invitations to be sent to each of the current year's finalists and the winners of the previous Top Twenty Events.
12. Times of all Top Twenty Events shall be posted in the Judging Program and on the SCA National website.
13. A videographer, if possible. The top Twenty Event Committee should work with the SCA National Specialty Show Chairperson to arrange for the video taping.
14. A photographer.
15. Top Twenty Event Catalogs
16. Top Twenty Event exhibitor armbands.
17. A high-quality item to serve as a trophy for the winner of the Top Twenty Event.

## **TOP TWENTY EVENT FUNDING**

The Top Twenty Event Committee is responsible for fund raising to help financially support the Top Twenty Event. Fund raising may be done at any time during the year prior to the SCA National Specialty show, as well as during the Top Twenty Event. The SCA board will advance funds (up to \$500.00) annually.

## **AUCTIONS/RAFFLES**

1. Fund raising can include the auctioning or raffling of high quality items only.
2. A 50/50 raffle to benefit the top Twenty Event may be held during the SCA National Specialty Show on the day the Top Twenty is held.
3. The Top Twenty Committee is responsible for the selection of auction and/or auction items. The SCA Officers and Board of Directors have final approval of all fund raising activities conducted.

## **ENTRY FEES**

1. The amount of the Top Twenty Event entry fee shall be reviewed each year for adequacy by the Top Twenty Event Committee. The SCA Officers and Board of Directors members must approve any change in entry fee recommended by the Top Twenty Event Committee
2. The Top Twenty entry fee in 2005 was \$60.00; in 2008 it was \$50.00; in 2010 it was \$65.00.
3. Top Twenty entry fees must be paid by the Top Twenty entrants when responding to the formal invitation sent to them by the Top Twenty Committee.
4. Payment of entry fees entitles the Top Twenty entrant to receive one rosette, a two page spread in the Top Twenty Catalog, a copy of the Top Twenty Catalog, and one ticket for the event.

## **CATALOG ADVERTISING**

1. Catalog advertising is limited to invitees to the Top Twenty Event and to businesses.
2. The cost of advertising in the Top Twenty Catalog shall be reviewed by the Top Twenty committee annually. The SCA Officers and Board of Directors members must approve any change in catalog advertising fees recommended by the Top Twenty Event Committee.
3. The cost of an advertisement for a business in the Top Twenty catalog should be no less than \$30.00 per page and adjusted to ensure covering expenses and showing some profit.
4. Invited dogs that do not enter may also advertise in the catalog and receive their rosette, for a fee to be determined.

## **CATALOGS**

1. A Top Twenty Event Catalog shall be printed each year. It will be for sale just prior to the scheduled starting time of the event, during the remainder of the SCA National week, and by mail thereafter, through a designated Top Twenty Committee member and by payment of an extra mailing fee.

2. Each Top Twenty entrant will be provided a two page advertisement. The advertisement shall include a photograph of the dog and a four generation pedigree of the dog. *Invited dogs that do not enter may also advertise in the catalog for a fee to be determined by the chair.*
3. All Top Twenty previous winners will be featured in a brief section in the front of the catalog.
4. Every effort should be made to ensure that the armband number for each Top Twenty entrant corresponds to the page number for the entrant's listing in the Top Twenty catalog.

**THE TOP TWENTY CATALOGS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE:**

1. The judging procedure for the Top Twenty Event.
2. The scale of points to be used in judging the Top Twenty Event.
3. A photograph and brief bio of each of the three judges.
4. A list of the Top Twenty finalists, whether entered or not.
5. Advertisements placed by businesses for inclusion in the Top Twenty Catalog.
6. Score sheet for evaluating the Top Twenty entrants.
7. The people's choice ballot, if people's choice is offered, (must be printed on colored paper) may be inserted in each catalog.

**CATALOG SALES**

1. The Top Twenty Event Committee shall review the cost of catalogs annually to ensure the cost of the catalog is adequate to cover expenditures. The SCA Officers and board of Directors members must approve any change in catalog price recommended by the Top Twenty Event Committee.
2. The Top Twenty catalog mailed to individuals requesting catalogs shall incur an additional cost over and above the cost of the catalog, to cover the cost of mailing.

**TROPHIES, ROSETTES AND CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY**

1. Entrants in attendance will receive a rosette.
2. Invitees are afforded the privilege of responding "no" to the invitation if they are unable or do not plan to attend, and still obtain their rosette by ordering it in advance from a designated Top Twenty committee member. Fee for this, plus mailing cost, will be determined annually.
3. Co-owners and breeders of finalists may purchase additional rosettes by ordering from a designated committee member. Advance order is required. The total number of additional rosettes ordered may not exceed the number of listed breeders and co owners of the dog. Fees for this will be determined annually.

**EVENT SCHEDULING**

The Top Twenty will be held prior to intersex competition of the SCA national Specialty Show.

## **MUSIC CHOICE - OPTIONAL**

2. Each entrant will have the opportunity to exhibit their dog, accompanied by their choice of music.
3. Music selection will be first come, first served, based on date entry is received by the event chair.

## **JUDGING PROCEDURE SUGGESTIONS**

(Judging procedure may vary according to the procedure used, but in any case, each dog will be judged individually by each judge)

1. Each dog will be judged individually. The first dog will enter the ring and go around, then pose for "First Impression." The dog will then be moved down and back, and in a circle while all three judges watch, and the judges will score the dog for movement. The dog will then be examined and scored individually by the three judges, each judge examining the dog on the table as he/she sees fit. The dog will then circle the ring and exit. This process will be repeated until all dogs have been scored.
2. All dogs will be scored by each judge using the scale of points as provided by the Top Twenty committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Immediately following the judging of each dog, each judge will fold the score sheet and hand it to his steward, who will then turn it over to an independent and impartial person or persons to be tabulated. The scores for each dog, from each of the three judges, are added together by the independent and impartial person or persons. The total is the dog's score.
4. The winner will be determined on the basis of the total score of each dog
5. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by consulting the First Impression total. The dog with the highest First Impression total is declared the winner. If there is still a tied score, there will be two winners who shall share the title of Top Twenty winner.
6. The ballots for the People's Choice Award will be collected in a box prior to announcement of the judge's choice winner. These ballots will be tabulated by the same person or persons tabulating the judges' sheets.

## **EXPENSES - MANDATORY**

The Chairperson may request reimbursement of expenses for postage, telephone calls, copies, and other related costs by forwarding copies of the receipts and/or telephone bills to the Treasurer within ninety (90) days of incurring the cost. Any postage receipts must be clearly marked with the name and address of the addressee, and all telephone bills must clearly mark the calls made on behalf of the Club.

All expenses of \$50.00 and above associated with this position must be cleared by the SCA Treasurer before being incurred. If expenses are incurred without Board approval, then reimbursement cannot be guaranteed.

All expenses are to be submitted monthly to the Treasurer of the SCA. Receipts must be included and marked. If a telephone bill is included, then the telephone calls shall be highlighted and the name of the recipient caller should be noted. Failure to do so may result in a denial of the claim.

Note: When expenses are allowed to build, this affects the Treasury funds.

# TOP TWENTY SCORE SHEET

DOG NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST IMPRESSION (1-10) \_\_\_\_\_

## SCALE OF POINTS

For Evaluation of Individual Specimen  
On The Basis of the Standard

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS ASSIGNED
General Appearance	5	_____
Silhouette	15	_____
Balance, Proportion, Substance	10	_____
Head	10	_____
Neck, Topline, Body	10	_____
Forequarters	5	_____
Hindquarters	5	_____
Feet	5	_____
Coat - Pattern & Condition	15	_____
Gait	10	_____
Temperament	10	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100</b>	
	<b>FINAL SCORE:</b>	_____

**PLEASE NOTE: Final Score is NOT to be tabulated by judges or stewards.**