

# Schipperke Club of America, Inc.

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Dear Judges and Judges Applicants;

The Schipperke Club of America's Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to address a very important issue that we feel can have a negative impact on the future of our breed.

There has been an increasing trend toward exhibitors "trimming/sculpting" their Schipperkes for the conformation ring.

The Schipperke Club of America has attempted to be clear on this matter in both our standard and the Code of Ethics for its members. The Code of Ethics states that we agree "To accept and uphold the Standard of the Schipperke as developed by the SCA and approved by the AKC." The [approved breed standard](#) states: "As the Schipperke is a natural breed, only trimming of the whiskers and hair between the pads of the feet is optional. Any other trimming must not be done."

The proper, **natural pattern** of the Schipperke consists of varying lengths of coat making up the distinct **ruff, jabot, cape, topline and culottes**. We realize that it may be difficult to make the distinction between a correct, **natural pattern** and one that has been "expertly" trimmed to cut in the pattern. A dog possessing this distinct pattern in these areas should not be immediately suspected as being trimmed. In some recent cases where dogs have been trimmed/sculpted, it is trimming of the underline and culottes of the dog which is being done.

The following is quoted directly from the current AKC Standard for Schipperkes to give a further understanding of the unique coat pattern in the breed:

*Coat Pattern--The adult coat is highly characteristic and must include several distinct lengths growing naturally in a specific pattern. The coat is short on the face, ears, front of the forelegs and on the hocks; it is medium length on the body, and longer in the ruff, cape, jabot 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 the front legs. The hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape and continuing over the rump, lies flat. It is slightly shorter than the cape but longer than the hair on the sides of the body and sides of the legs. The coat on the rear of the thighs forms culottes, which should be as long as the ruff. Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized, as it is an essential breed characteristic.*

We have addressed this issue with our membership and have pointed out that each of us must look at our breeding programs and decide whether giving the appearance of correcting a fault by trimming is worth continuing to see this fault in generations to come.

We realize that as judges, you are a very important influence in determining our breed's future and hope that you will help us in keeping the Schipperke a unique and natural breed.

Sincerely,



Kristin Morrison, President  
On Behalf of the Schipperke Club of America Board of Directors