

Tickets are now available for the Northern Samoyed Society Samoyed and Pupper of the Year event which takes place at the Novotel, Nottingham on Nov 15. There is no need to qualify to attend and enjoy yourselves.
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Schipperkes

AT RICHMOND Beryl A Bradford (Bessan) awarded CCs in our breed for the first time and from her entry of 22, there were eight males and ten bitches present. DCC and BOB was Madama M Ayward and R & Sufferer's Ch Carotta Dangerous Liaison. RCC was the winner of LD, Mrs J Powell's Brookwell Black Goddess.

BCC was the open winner, Mrs A Beath's Ch Breyo Nixtime Girl with the second in open, Madama C and C Harry's Ch C Moly Malone with Ludwys taking RCC. BP again was Mrs J Hancock's Ryeman Black Rose.

The lower classes might just as well have not existed, with no males present other than reserves, five and open, with the bitches tightly bated with entries present in veteran, puppy, limit and open. Someone recently wondered if people were just concentrating on the top classes to see if they had a chance of winning the CC, and leaving the others at home, or just not entering, and other than the two puppy bitches, an analysis of the entry seems to bear this out, with no fewer than 11 champions present.

Someone would wonder what to do with an up and comer, with so many champions there, and just decide to not enter for a while until their youngster grows up. What do you think? There is nothing to say that the judge will only look at champions, as other shows this year have proven that to be a false idea, so if your dog is good enough it will win through in the end. It may be a matter of finding the right time and place and right judge, though, and if you can come up with a formula for that, let me know.

The Kennel Gazette listing of 2011 allocation of CCs shows only Windsor losing our breed, with all others remaining the same. Once the KC committee meets next year, I suspect that a lot of breeds will see more reductions, as the KC states that its decisions were based on entries at shows for the previous two years. It is no secret that entries this year have been drastically reduced from prior years, so next year's allocation for 13 could reveal even more cuts.

Melanie Reed-Peck, our club secretary writes: "Please note that the inside front cover of the schedule for the show in October states that dogs entered NPC are £1. The entry form does not show NPC so if you are entering a dog NPC please remember to send the £1."

Thank you for clarifying this Melanie, and on a related topic, attending the club championship show with NPC dogs, there is a very important reason why you may wish to bring along more dogs than normal.

Mina Viru, research assistant with the University of Helsinki, will be visiting the show for the purpose of obtaining cheek swab samples of Schipperkes for their study of epilepsy. The Animal Health Trust is also involved in this large study which encompasses all breeds, but in particular Mina is focusing on the Schipperke because of what they have found in the breed over in Finland.

Rja Seppala PhD, one of the main personnel in this study, writes "Genetic studies of epilepsy in Schipperkes". Epilepsy affects one per cent of humans. Most of the epilepsy syndromes are polygenic disorders. Epilepsy is five to ten times more common in dogs than in humans. Schipperke is recognised as one of the breeds with a high incidence of epilepsy. Based on health questionnaires the Finnish Schipperke Club estimated that the prevalence of epilepsy is 17 per cent among Schipperkes.

"Currently only a few epilepsy genes has been described in humans. Dozens of genes contributing to the common human epilepsy syndromes still need to be identified. The high prevalence of epilepsy in various breeds of dogs provides a great resource to identify more causative genes, especially in common polygenic epilepsies identified canine loci can be directly tested in collections of human epilepsy patients to expedite human epilepsy research. This type of research will help both canine and human health in epilepsy and many other common diseases.

"We have studied clinically a subset of epileptic Schipperkes. Clinical assessment included basic clinical and neurological examinations, blood chemistry, cerebrospinal fluid examination, and MRI and EEG measurements. Average onset of the epilepsy among studied individuals occurred at the age of 39 months (range 14-66 months) and average duration of the seizure was 4.3 minutes (range 1-20 mins). Prevalent seizure type of the studied dogs was simple or complex focal seizure with secondary generalization.

"Based on the clinical studies we can say that the Schipperkes suffer from focal idiopathic epilepsy. In addition to clinically studied dogs, we need DNA samples from as many as possible epileptic Schipperkes and their healthy relatives. We collect mainly blood samples because those are the best possible source of DNA. Another option is buccal prints. However, the amount and quality of DNA from swab samples is much lower. Therefore we hope that at least the epileptic dogs would give a bit of BDTA blood.

"Phenotypic characterization of each affected dog will be conducted by the owner report. Therefore we have created an epilepsy questionnaire and we hope that the owners will fill this form and send it together with the blood sample. The questionnaire includes report of age of onset, seizure description, seizure frequency and response to possible treatments. The sample form and epilepsy questionnaire can be found from the research group's website www.kotirangentti.fi. If you have difficulties in finding the forms, contact research assistant, Mina Viru, email mina.viru@helsinki.fi.

"The overall aim of the study is to find out what gene(s) cause epilepsy in Schipperke breed. After the causative mutation has been identified it is possible to provide a DNA test to detect carriers, affected and healthy dogs. To be able to conduct these studies, we need blood samples from the affected dogs and their healthy siblings and parents as many as possible. The more samples we get, the faster we can proceed. All the dog names and owner information will be handled confidentially.

"This research is done in the Canine Genetics Group led by Professor Hanna Lohi in the University of Helsinki, Finland. Professor Lohi's lab has established a large dog DNA bank in Finland, which continues to serve as a major resource for various canine epilepsies and other genetic diseases. The epilepsy study is part of the EU funded LURK project, www.lurk.org.

"We wish an open and fruitful collaboration with all dog owners, breeders and friends, and welcome as many sample as you can contribute for the projects. Together we can now start to advance the healthiness of our breeds and make sure we have happy dogs in the future."

Some may recall that a lab in the US several years ago tried to focus on identifying the gene, taking for cheek swab (buccal) of healthy and affected animals, needing 12 different families of dogs in the breed to take the study forward. It foundered through lack of numbers of affected dogs from enough different families. When the lab decided to drop the study, the University of Missouri then said they would do the study, but those who had submitted samples were unable to get them back, and with the passage of years many valuable samples were lost.

The U of M is continuing with its study on epilepsy covering like the U of Helsinki and the AHT, all breeds of dog. I found the statement that 13 per cent of Schipps in Finland are affected to be quite alarming, but statistics can be taken quite a few different ways.

Our breed seems to have, according to the letter, a type of epilepsy that is idiopathic, which means of no known origin. I would welcome further information on the study to date and would request the club to follow this up when Mina visits, so that something can be printed in our next club newsletter in March 2009. This way whatever information is available, such as population size of the study in our breed, number of affected, age etc can go out to all the members, and not just those on the internet.

I have already asked the question if our country is being targeted for study due

to a 1.5m population of dogs, and a 1.5m population of people.

"It was a very wet and windy day and they have no under in all paddled around in inches of water and wind. Both won DCC final points and my Aus Ch Breyo Miss You Nights at Cobberio BOB. Both is the new Australian champion, owned by Leah and Zarrad pastored his mother for a Schip for junior handling. Leah the Schip-pal and is looking for a girlfriend for both in the UK she thinks more of a character than her Labrador. Both went onto group.

Thanks, Bridget, for your update.

MARY DEATS,
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Schnauzers

Standard

SUE HOOKER writes: "At the Thames Valley KCGB meeting, at Hill, Farnham, Surrey on Sunday Sept 21 from 1.30-4.30pm, James I a fascinating talk on animal communication. He is also an animal member welcome. More information from me at mshooker@bt.com 01253 702432."

At Birmingham there was an entry of 46, less six absent, for Ken W BOB went to Ann and Andy Beaf's Ch Mercedesian Perish Line and Hazel's Kishin Kato.

Chandren Chapman's Hugg's The Boss at Niskand and Caroline John Roback's Ch Rufousness Feet Sains won the RCCs with BP Kallou's Bark WY A Yengene.

On to Richmond, no CCs this time. Karen Bradbury-Hill selected Colin Swenden's Ch Kharatec William Deller Baby, the only champion and BOB. BO was Hilary Lockyer's H West Of Fox.

RBD went to Jack Whitefield's Safford Office Boy and RBE to F Dixon's Andia Dance The Nite Away BP was Hilary's H Just Wickard.
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Scottish Terriers

ONE OF our newer exhibitors Susan Smeyers has spent some time surgery. I am pleased to hear she is now at home recovering albeit it is not very mobile. I am sure a cheery and moist help brighten her.

At Richmond Angela Beeton judged our breed without CCs. BO Huggler' bornbred three-year-old Turnaway Buccover (Kilgusker for Sains Miss Muller of T). BO was Pam Poggen's Newbred 14-month-old Enough (Ch Al Shook up at T on Raglan Roman Empress at T).

I hear the weather was awful with heavy rain making the ground so

MS

Sealyham Terriers

"WE SHOULD have stayed in bed" seems to have been the comment from exhibitors at Richmond. I had been forewarned by some local had been there on the Friday that the ground was not in a good the recent weather. So, armed with my waterproof shoes and gaiters I set off.

On leaving home the weather was quite pleasant and dry. As one got showground some ominous clouds started to gather. Just before I reached showground I had to endure a very slow traffic jam. It took the best hour to do the last few miles – and I was not late in getting there.

Getting on to the show site I could see what a dreadful mess it is. Normally being a member you get priority parking but on this day to the farthest part of the showground from our benching I parked at the top of the hill I moved down with my trolley. At the bottom but at the entrance into the show it was three to four feet deep everyone had to go through. The walking areas of the showground really are a mess.

I eventually made my way to tent 1 to find that some of the feet were beached there and the rest had been put in tent 2. There no legs in the benching – it didn't even follow on numerically in tent areas of the benching that had huge puddles in front of them as far as were all over the place. I looked as if many had been so lucky I managed to find two benches together without too much of them.

The rain was on for most of the day intermittently heavy which worsened to the tent were a quagmire. Even some of the indoor rings do to water collecting in them. As no time did I see anyone putting shipping down to make getting around easier and safer for the exhibitors. Judging was delayed by half an hour, so we didn't get into our ring after 1pm. Our judge Jennifer Bledge had made to long journey down through some torrential weather. This was her second time award breed, she had an entry of 22 dogs with amazingly just one absent.

pointing now we have the full set of CCs back – we had almost this in with just the single CC on offer.
Elizabeth Morgan's Ch Zabadan Gypsy Girl (Ch Dancer Northern Z'Valentine Girl) won her sixth CC and second BOB. Morgan's from journey from up north to win this all-important fourth CC with N Daze at Sunnyview (3 Chief Daze on N Sun Set Kid).

RCC was Junbo Frost's recently crowned Junibuster Goddess, by Anderson as Junbo is incapacitated. Carly Thomas came out to take Consolation for Giltach. Both RCC winners were the same way bred I set down. There were no puppies entered to no BP.
Jennifer told me her J Gosip of Bismondal had been eye tested a clear which is good for the breed. I think that makes three fine class.

After judging it was the awful trek across the showground to do the back. Julia Poyes and I pulled our trolleys each with just two dogs empty outdoor ring. This was bad enough. When we got to the walkway worse that earlier that morning, just thick mud.
We made our way eventually to the exit which still had no materials anyone going through. I got part way up the hill and left my trolley and my car. Cars and vans were being pulled out of the car parks by tracks.
I think Richmond committee had ample time to lay straw or other access easier and safer for all the exhibitors. Come on, Richmond – go better than that.

Richmond holds the semi-finals for the junior handlers under the UK Association. In charge is Liz Cartledge and she always ensures there good time. She also knows most of them which I think is very important. She handled in the six to 11-year-old class and won a water Adria Jont Talpausti (Brenda Jones' granddaughter) won the 13 to 18-year Michael Cost. We may be a minority breed but our JPs put as up out to you both for the final which will be in November.

On the six list is Junbo Frost who was at the show on crutches – aged in the awful conditions I do not know Junbo had a padlock due in her foot but now seems on the mend. Brenda Jones was sporting nose and limping around. I gather she had a fall at home and did herself especially to her ankle. Hopefully she has got it sorted out.
A few more judges from the Kennel Gazette for 2009 are Julia May Terrier, Shirley Watson MCC (Pup) and Ross Dorothy Melford STC.

We have 13 sets of CCs allocated for '11.
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Setters

English

CONGRATULATIONS to the organisers of Richmond on judging it despite the appalling conditions. It was obvious before the show that so