THE SCHIPPERKE CLUB OF AMERICA RESCUE & HEALTH FOUNDATION, INC.

Schipperke Outreach

October 2017

Special points of interest:

Embark Testing

The Foundation sponsored a seminar, at the 2017 National, The Nuts 'n Bolts of Genetics for Dog Breeders, Presented by Carol Beuchat, PhD, Scientific Director at the Institute of Canine Biology.

One of things Dr. Beuchat stressed was the importance of genetic testing for the future of our breed. She encouraged Schipperke owners and breeders to participate in the genetic testing that they utilize through Embark.

The Embark test screens for over 160 genetic conditions in 16 different areas, which we may or may not know, are present in our breed.

Since the Foundation is committed to protecting and furthering the health of Schipperkes, it was voted unanimously to sponsor 10 Embark tests for 10 Schipperkes from varying pedigrees, at a cost of $1,340.00, to help determine genetic issues which may be unknown to us as a breed.

It is the Foundation's hope that this testing will be a beneficial step to improving the health and longevity of our breed.

In order to help accomplish this mission, participants are required to sign a release allowing the Foundation to collect and share each dog's test results as they deem appropriate such as on their website, in the Newsletter, on Facebook or even to other scientific entities for further research.

Publishing all test results also presents the opportunity to educate others on the importance of genetic testing in Schipperkes.

Invitations to participate in this testing were extended to the following SCA members: Jill Arthur, Bonnie Baker, Dawn Bannister, Mary Cox, Deb Dellamonica, Susan Frey, Kathy Montgomery, Sherry Gill, Amy Halterman, Diane Harris, Kristen Henry, Ursula Hutton, Diane Johnson, Donna Kenly, Fran Keyes, Mary Kraus, Virginia Larioza, Beth Lilly, Tom Luke, Kathy Lytle, June Moore, Kristin Morrison, Barbara Murray, Kathy Navarrete, Krista Nuovo, Shirley Quillen, Ed Simanek, Lee Ann Stusnick, Karen Testa and Cathy Thistle plus Gabriella Hrypa who owns Loki, the dog you have seen on Facebook that has hemivertebrae, his normal sister, Willow, and Arlien Kennedy who owns Niki, who is also affected with hemivertebrae, congenital heart failure and Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia.

Of those contacted, the following have submitted their release forms and pedigrees: Dawn Bannister, Karen Testa, Diane Johnson, Gabriella Hrypa, Beth Lilly, Kristin Morrison, Barbara Murray, June Moore, Kathy Navarrete, Sherry Gill, Lee Ann Stusnick and Arlien Kennedy.

The Foundation's Health Committee, comprised of the 7 directors, Katharine Baptiste, Dawn Bannister, Donna Simmons and Gabriella Hrypa is in the process of choosing the dogs to be tested.

The swabs will be submitted to Embark and we will publish the results after all of the owners have been provided with the results.

We think that the pedigrees of the dogs submitted are a pretty good representation of most of the predominant lines in this country.

Report of the President

By Lee Ann Stusnick

Since its inception the Foundation has provided financial assistance for rescue amounting to $27,578. This was distributed to both other rescue organizations, as well as to individual rescuers in accordance with our established rescue assistance policy.

To date the Foundation has donated a total of $4,000 toward the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Program. AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers help to create a safe, temporary home-base for at least 50 pets immediately after a disaster is declared. The four trailers benefiting from $1,000 each were in Cecil County, MD, San Diego County, CA, Fort Worth, TX and Spalding County GA. In September the Foundation Board of Directors donated an additional $1,000 to the program to be used in hurricane Harvey and Irma relief.

Following is a brief summary of programs sponsored by the Foundation:

- 2008 - donated $3730 to the Canine Health Foundation sponsored Alopecia Red Coat Study
- 2009 - donated $2,500.00 to the Canine Health Foundation sponsored Association mapping study of Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease
- 2015 donated $533.32 toward CHF sponsored Hemangiosarcoma research
- 2008 National - sponsored a CERF clinic by veterinary ophthalmologist; patella exams by a veterinarian
- 2009 National - sponsored seminar “Epilepsy - the Disease and the Genes” by Liz Hansen, Project Coordinator for the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine. This seminar discussed epilepsy basics and current DNA research to find the mutations responsible for inherited epilepsy in Schipperkes and many other breeds, plus information on how breeders and owners can assist in the research and use the results when they are available.
- 2010 National - Foundation sponsored a free educational seminar on the subject of canine reproduction. The speaker was Dr. Greg Burns, Diplomate American College of Theriogenologists.
- 2011 National - Foundation supported a health clinic that included thyroid, cardiac, patella and eye testing. It also provided support of the Finnish Epilepsy Study - “The Identification of Epilepsy-Causing Mutations from the Associated Loci by Next-Generation Resequencing” by providing blood collection from not more than 40 normal dogs and any Epileptic dogs presented at the National Specialty in Wisconsin, including funds for supplies and shipping.
- 2014 National Specialty - Sponsored an eye clinic, including free exams for 16 Schipperkes belonging to 16 individuals.
- 2015 National Specialty - Eye exam, patella check and thyroid testing each got 25% support for every Schipperke. This provided an opportunity for every Schipperke owner to receive a CHIC designation for only $135 cost. There were 25 patella tests and 26 thyroid tests performed with the Schipperke owners being reimbursed $898.75. There were 30 Schips that received an eye exam, each receiving a $10 subsidy.
- 2016 National Specialty - Foundation sponsored an educational seminar by Pat Hastings entitled “A Glimpse at Structure in Action”. Thirty-eight individuals attended this very informative seminar. The feedback from attendees has been very positive. In addition the Foundation co-sponsored, with the SCA Breeder Education Committee, a seminar by Patti Strand, founder of NAIA. The topic was "Saving Purebreds - Challenges and Opportunities”.
- 2017 SCA National Specialty - Foundation presented a FREE seminar on “The Nuts 'n Bolts of Genetics for Dog Breeders”, presented by Carol Beuchat PhD, the Scientific Director Institute of the Institute of Canine Biology. Approximately 50 individuals took advantage of this educational opportunity.

The Foundation looks forward to continuing opportunities to support rescue, further the education of Schipperke owners and breeders, as well as supporting the good health of the Schipperkes.

The donation page can be found on our website at http://schipperkefoundation.org/donate/. You will be able to donate using a credit card or PayPal. If you prefer to write a check you can use the donation form included in this newsletter.

Our rescue fund is sufficient for the foreseeable future. You can help us in our health and education effort with a tax deductible donation to the health, education or general fund.

In Recent Light - Testing Schipperkes for MPSIIIb

What is MPSIIIb and why is it important for you to know about this disease that affects people and Schipperkes?

In Humans, MPSIIIb is known as Sanfilippo B which affects children who inherit a mutation of a gene, which in simple terms, does not allow them to produce enough of an enzyme used in the body to break down sugars. It is also known as Mucopolysaccharidosis and is considered a lysosomal storage disease. In children it leads to mental deterioration and loss of mobility.

It affects Schipperkes in a similar way which is what prompted the University of Pennsylvania to begin researching the disease with Schipperkes. In Schipperkes the disease onset is typically seen in young adulthood, but can begin with tremors, head tilt, balance issues and eventually complete deterioration of motor function, making eating and walking nearly impossible.

For years, breeders may have noticed abnormalities in some of their Schipperkes but had no idea what the root cause of the symptoms was. Since the disease has an adult onset and did not seem widespread, it was not easily recognized as a genetically inherited disease.

In 2003, Dr. Ellinwood gave a presentation at the Schipperke Club of America's National Specialty held in Dallas. There, Dr. Ellinwood discussed the disease and the importance of testing Schipperkes for the disease. This prompted most breeders to test their breeding stock.

Since 2003, the testing procedure has not changed through Upenn. Cheek swabs were the main sample source. Over the years, there have been a few dogs reported as "normal" that in actuality were carriers. This is not uncommon given the fact that the test was relatively new, the number of tests being run initially, and that cheek swabs were being used to run the tests.

In more recent years, some breeders thought they were moving forward with normal MPSIIIb dogs, when in fact they did have carriers. This was confirmed by retesting. Although producing carriers is not the end of the world, if the other half of the breeding pair is expected to be normal but turns out to be a carrier too, then affected Schipperkes are produced.

There is a large margin of error that can come from relying on cheek swabs vs. blood sampling. Most people do not realize that in order to collect an appropriate DNA sample with a cheek swab, the following procedures must be adhered to:

- The dog must not have contact with any other dogs or animals for at least 3 hours prior to collection.
- The dog must not have consumed food, water (from a bowl used by other dogs) or treats 3 hours prior to collection.
- Ideally the dog should be isolated in a freshly cleaned crate with no access to toys or bedding.
- The owner must properly wash hands before any sample collection.
- The owner must not touch any other dogs or animals during the swab collection procedure.
- The collection swab must be placed directly in the provided sleeve, labelled and allowed to dry before being sealed.

For these reasons, blood sampling is considered the "Gold Standard" for DNA testing but most labs try to make testing user friendly and offer cheek swab testing.

In an attempt to further improve the breed as a whole, The Schipperke Club of America Rescue and Health Foundation, Inc. has been in contact with the University of Pennsylvania to offer discounted testing for Schipperkes.

Samples submitted for discounted MPSIIIb testing must meet criteria outlined by Upenn. The owner must agree to the terms before submitting a sample and samples must be sent to one person appointed by The SCA Rescue and Health Foundation. This is to ensure that the paperwork is in order and the criteria are met. Samples will then be sent directly to UPenn for testing.

The dogs being tested must have a microchip which is verified by a veterinarian. This can be done at the time when the veterinarian collects the blood sample. For more information about procedure or to inquire about having your dog included, please contact Kristin Morrison at fullmoonSchipperkes@gmail.com.

The following agreement has been put forth and agreed upon by both UPenn and The Schipperke Club of America Rescue and Health Foundation, Inc.:

The Foundation will sponsor 40 MPS-IIIb blood tests with Upenn at $25 each. The individual will pay $25 and UPenn will waive $25 of the $75 total fee per test.

If there are more than 40 dogs to be tested, only the first 40 will be subsidized by the Foundation and UPenn.

After the first 40 tests, UPenn will still apply the $25 discount as long as they are all submitted together, thereby costing each participant $50. This would require that participants submit to the following agreed upon criteria:

- Any tests that are being done as retests, as part of verification, should be after 2014.
- Owners should also consider DNA marker profiling offered by AKC or UC Davis to assure correct parentage.
- EDTA blood samples must be by microchip verification and properly label each sample including the microchip to avoid sample mix-up. *Verification must be done by a veterinarian.*
- All samples should be registered together on PennGen and sent together and we must inform UPenn ahead of the submission.
- Owners must sign a release/waiver allowing all results to be copied to the Foundation for use on their website or any other related materials for research and/or educational purposes.

The Foundation will sign up participants starting with one dog per household for the first two weeks beginning November 15, 2017. After such time, the initial participants will be allowed to sign up additional dogs of varied pedigrees until the limit of 40 is met.

Once our sign-ups are complete participants will be contacted with testing instructions and deadlines.

The waiver must be included with their sample submissions.

AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailers Roll Out Help For Pets

To date the Foundation Directors have donated a total of $4,000 toward the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Program.

Raleigh, NC - AKC Pet Disaster Relief, a national program spearheaded by AKC Reunite and dedicated to keeping pets and their owners safe in the aftermath of tornadoes, floods, wildfires and other natural or civil disasters, donated its first-ever trailer in the state of Maryland.

AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers help to create a safe, temporary home-base for at least 50 pets immediately after a disaster is declared. Co-location shelters, where people can evacuate with their pets, as well as emergency animal shelters for displaced animals can be created. The trailers house and deliver essential supplies such as fans, lighting and generators; cleaning supplies; maintenance items; and animal care items including crates and carries, microchips and a scanner as well as bowls, collars and leashes.

The purchase of the trailer for Cecil County Department of Emergency Services was made possible by $22,000 in donations and grants from Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club, Cecil County DES, the English Setter Association of America, ***The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc.,*** the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club and AKC Reunite.

The second AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer we have helped sponsor is in San Diego, California for the **San Diego Department of Animal Services** in February 2015. The following Club logos are featured on this trailer: Del Sur Kennel Club, Bahia Sur Kennel Club of Chula Vista, Inc., Hidden Valley Obedience Club, Cabrillo Kennel Club, ***The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc.,*** Silver Bay Kennel Club of San Diego, Obedience Club of San Diego County, Inc., Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, and the English Springer Spaniel Foundation.

The third AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer we have helped fund is in Fort Worth, Texas for the **City of Fort Worth Animal Control**. The following Club logos are featured on this trailer: Fort Worth Kennel Club *(main contributor),* Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Golden Retriever Club, Dallas-Fort Worth Dachshund Club, Inc., North Texas Doberman Rescue, Dalmatian Club of North Texas, Texas Tri City Obedience Club, Inc., ***The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc.***, Heart of Texas Akita Club, Basset Hound Club of America Foundation, Inc., Doberman Pinscher Club of Dallas, and the Nolan River Kennel Club.

This trailer is currently in use helping Hurricane Harvey victims.

AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailers *(cont. from page 3)*

The fourth trailer we helped sponsor was for the **Spalding County Animal Shelter** in Georgia which was delivered in September 2017. The following Club logos are featured on this trailer: Griffin Georgia Kennel Club, Dog Judges Association of America, ***The Schipperke Club of America Rescue and Health Foundation, Inc.***, American Whippet Club and the American Shetland Sheepdog Association Foundation.

DNA Testing

The Road to Health in the Future

by Shirley Quillen

The CHIC DNA Repository is co-sponsored by the OFA and AKC Canine Health Information Center. It collects and stores canine DNA samples with corresponding pedigree and health information in order to aid in future research and testing aimed at reducing inherited diseases in dogs. CHIC DNA Bank - http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html

The SCA Rescue & Health Foundation website eventually will have a list of available health screening tests with explanations of why they are important. A suggested schedule of testing specifically for Schipperkes, information to encourage breeders to use health screenings, and how to register the results on the open database provided by CHIC will be included.

The Health and Genetics Committee is working on a proposal to help owners of dogs affected with Epilepsy, LCP, Cushing's, Diabetes Mellitus, Cancers, Autoimmune Thyroiditis, and Progressive Retinal Atrophy participate in the DNA storage program. Criterion for financial help with this is being considered.

Choosing the Right Veterinarian for Your Dog

Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer of AKC

Bringing home a new dog or puppy is an exciting adventure. It's also important to make sure that your pup will be under the right care in their early years and as they get older. Similar to humans and doctors, dogs need a veterinarian that is qualified, reputable and with whom you can form a positive working relationship. Depending on your dog's breed or health conditions, it's important to pick a veterinarian that is well-versed in their needs. Below are some suggestions for finding the right veterinarian for your dog:

Ask Breeders, Friends and Family for Recommendations

Ask breeders, groomers, family, and friends for suggestions. Breeders are usually well connected with your breed and may be able to provide useful guidance as you search for the right veterinarian for your dog.

Reach out to Veterinary Clinics in Your Area

Often, simply calling up veterinarian clinics in your neighborhood can help you have a better understanding of what they offer. Make sure to ask about their specialties, the procedures they regularly perform, how long they have been around, and how many veterinarians and technicians are on staff. It's also important to ask about their normal business hours and their emergency care procedure in the event that you need their assistance after hours.

Compare and contrast medical fees

Medical fees may vary by clinic. The lowest fee may not always be the best choice. Keep in mind that if a clinic's fees seem really low, you should proceed with caution. They may not be taking all the steps necessary to provide proper care for your dog. The highest fee clinics may not be better than some of the others. But, those clinics may offer a greater level of customer service, offer a wider variety of specialty services, or have extended hours. Most veterinary clinics are happy to explain their services and fees. By asking questions, you can be clearer in not only the differences in cost, but also the differences in equipment, range of care, customer service and more.

What is parainfluenza?

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

Before we delve into parainfluenza, we need to clear up confusion. The canine parainfluenza virus is separate from the canine influenza viruses. Therefore, the parainfluenza vaccine will not provide protection against the canine influenza viruses H3N2 and H3N8, nor will canine influenza vaccines protect against canine parainfluenza. However, for clarification, canine influenza virus infection often resembles canine infectious tracheobronchitis ("kennel cough"), which is caused by one or more bacterial or viral infections, including Bordetella bronchiseptica, adenovirus-2 and canine parainfluenza virus.

DHPP or DA2PP are the common acronyms for the combination multivalent canine vaccine for canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis (adenovirus -2), canine parvovirus and canine parainfluenza. We notice that the last "P" – parainfluenza – is often an afterthought. Indeed, Dr. John Ellis calls it "the forgotten virus". Discovered in the 1960's, the vaccine against the canine parainfluenza virus was developed in the 1970's. Since then, research on the virus and vaccine efficacy has mostly petered out over the last 25 years.

Parainfluenza Virus

Parainfluenza affects many mammals such as pigs, dogs, monkeys, and even humans. In humans, it could lead to the commonly known condition called "croup". According to the Centers for Disease Control, a human parainfluenza vaccine does not exist. [Note: no data supports parainfluenza transmission from dogs to humans. Cats can shed canine parainfluenza and do not develop signs of the disease.]

In and of itself, canine parainfluenza produces mild to moderate upper respiratory disease or no discernable clinical disease. We know this because of research conducted in the late 1960's, early 1970's, and early 1990's. However, these studies used parainfluenza isolates that had been passaged in vitro through the tissue culture cells of other species, which can lead to attenuation of virulence. In normal terms: the scientists relied on petri dishes and test tubes to replicate the cells with other animal cells as a harvesting ground. Thus, the parainfluenza samples used to infect the dogs may not have had the same in vivo effect or even have survived in a more natural, realistic environment. Regardless, it is safe to say that natural infection of parainfluenza alone is self-limiting and fairly restricted to the upper respiratory tract.

But, when parainfluenza virus is combined with a bacterium such as Bordetella and several other potential viral pathogens, kennel cough could result. So, the attempt to pin down canine parainfluenza to specific respiratory lesions is difficult within the kennel cough complex. To do so, scientists would need to examine dogs that died of the disease. Since most dogs recover from kennel cough, the availability of appropriate specimens is basically nil. Based on what we know, canine tracheobronchitis lesions were similar to those found in other species with parainfluenza infections. Kennel cough is a quagmire. So, the conclusion "parainfluenza lesions were resultant" would be a misnomer without proper testing. In conclusion, we do not know its exact impact upon the complex.

What is parainfluenza *(continued from page 6)*

Active and Passive Immunity of Parainfluenza

One of the things I and others often talk about is the timing of vaccines. I recommend giving parvovirus and distemper to puppies at 9-10 weeks and 14-16 weeks of age. Then, just a single monovalent parvovirus vaccination at 18 weeks. The reason why is that as maternal antibodies – passed to puppies in colostrum – have become depleted, we need to bolster the system against these two virulent canine viral diseases. Here is the interesting item though about parainfluenza: no published data exists on parainfluenza passive immunity in mothers or puppies. Many veterinarians give a blanket DHPP/DA2PP vaccination without full knowledge if the mother-to-puppy exchange even occurred. If it does occur, we certainly do not know how long the maternal parainfluenza antibodies last.

Active immunity is imparted by vaccine, natural exposure or both. Vaccinated active immunity to parainfluenza has been shown to be between two-three years. A study conducted in the mid-2000's examined dogs over the age of two that had been vaccinated 1-4 years prior. 98% had virus neutralizing titers or responded greatly to a revaccination. The administration and frequency of vaccinations prior to the titer test study are unknown.

Vaccine Efficacy

As mentioned above, the canine parainfluenza vaccine was developed in the late 1970's. The first form of the parainfluenza vaccine was modified live and was to be administered parenterally (injected). The results of the efficacy study demonstrated 20 vaccinated dogs had no clinical disease after challenge (virus passaged in dog kidney cells). Contrarily, three of the five unvaccinated control dogs presented with mild kennel cough.

During the early 1980's, the canine parainfluenza vaccine was combined with the Bordetella vaccine. This newer vaccine was administered intranasally. The efficacy study was performed on 8 to 16 week- old mixed breed puppies given one vaccination. 18 days after vaccination, the group was challenged with parainfluenza (virus passaged in green monkey kidney cells) via aerosol. All vaccinated dogs demonstrated resistance to the virus. On day 21, they were challenged again via aerosol with Bordetella bacteria. None of the dogs presented signs of kennel cough. However, nine out of ten control unvaccinated dogs developed clinical symptoms.

The results sound perfectly fine, right? Again, one problem lies with how the researchers are developing the canine parainfluenza virus challenge solution or aerosol because of potential attenuation of virulence.

Field trials have also been conducted.

In 1979, Packard et al. published a study in which 52 dogs were given the parenteral parainfluenza vaccine approximately two weeks but no longer than one year prior to kenneling. 144 dogs – that were also placed in the kennel – were not vaccinated. 33 of the 144 unvaccinated dogs developed coughs whereas one 2 out of the 52 vaccinates presented with coughs.

A field study conducted a little bit later evaluated the intranasal parainfluenza/Bordetella vaccine. 5,300 "puppy mill" puppies were brought to a central facility before being sent to pet stores. The incidence of kennel cough went from 40% based on historical findings to 8%. Of course, this study's flaw was not having a control group, and complete reliance on historical and possibly misleading or even inaccurate findings.

In another trial involving a large breeding facility, 1,873 puppies were used. 929 received the combination of parainfluenza/Bordetella and the remaining 944 received the placebo. 174 of the vaccinated puppies presented symptoms of kennel cough and 205 of the unvaccinated puppies did too. The limitation of this trial was that the puppies were then immediately placed together. The results were skewed because of presumed shedding of the vaccine components and cross-immunization.

A trial was finally conducted during the 2000's at an animal shelter. Incoming dogs were evaluated and deemed free of respiratory disease. On a rotating daily basis, the dogs would receive a placebo, a parainfluenza/Bordetella combination, or an adenovirus-2/parainfluenza/Bordetella combination. After a month-long post-vaccination period, the incidence of kennel cough was reduced by 20-24% compared to the placebo group. One positive attribute was that the facility was clean and no circulating respiratory disease was present at the time of the study.

While we can say definitively that the incidence of kennel cough was reduced across canine populations, we can also say definitively that we do not know how much of an influence canine parainfluenza virus has on the kennel cough complex. We can also say that these findings coupled with extensive clinical experience indicates that kennel cough complex vaccines are not 100% efficacious.

It is definitely time for a reevaluation of the efficacy and need for canine parainfluenza vaccine.

It is important to emphasize that boarding facilities, shelters, and doggie daycares should not rely on vaccination alone as an indication of protection from the kennel cough complex (or the other clinically important infectious diseases). They must be vigilant in maintaining proper cleanliness, ventilation, humidity levels and an isolation area for any dog who might be at risk to develop kennel cough.

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11561 Salinaz Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92843
Ellis, John A., and G. Steven Krakowka. "A Review of Canine Parainfluenza Virus Infection in Dogs." Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 240.3 (2012): 273-84.

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Therapy Dogs for the Autistic

Therapy Dogs for Autistic People

To an autistic child, the world is often filled with loud distractions, bright lights, disorienting stimuli, and uncontrollable nervous impulses. These days, more and more autistic children are facing this challenging world with a loving, specially trained companion by their side: their therapy dog.

Though a relatively new area, therapy dogs for autistic people are being trained and used in many areas of the country, and the list of organizations that promote their use is growing.

How therapy dogs help autistic children

If you've ever watched a service dog help a person with a physical disability, it shouldn't come as a surprise that canine companions can also be trained to help people with autism. Here are some of the ways these dogs make life better and more manageable for children with autism:

Calming the child. Autistic children are subject to wild and random-seeming emotional outbursts. Therapy dogs that have bonded with autistic children have been shown to help keep them calmer. The dog must be trained to remain calm and supportive during the child's tantrum - and the child must understand that the dog is there for him to pet and hug. This may not be viable for all autistic children-dog partnerships, but it has been demonstrated to work in some cases.

Reducing repetitive motion. Many autistic children exhibit repetitive movements and behaviors, such as rocking back and forth. In some cases these mannerisms can become very forceful and last for prolonged periods of time. With a loyal - and well-trained - therapy dog to hug, some autistic children spend less time exhibiting repetitive movements. Therapy dogs have even been trained to recognize the onset of these episodes and interrupt the child.

Keeping the child from wandering off. Families with autistic children know that they must be ever vigilant because of their child's tendency to wander off. Therapy dogs are trained to keep these children from straying by circling them and barking to alert family members.

Being a soul mate. Dogs have earned their "best friend" status because of their uncanny ability to understand their master's emotional wants and needs. It appears that therapy dogs can also form this type of deep emotional bond with autistic children-a bond that transcends the ability of the child to express himself verbally.

Which dogs are best for autistic children?

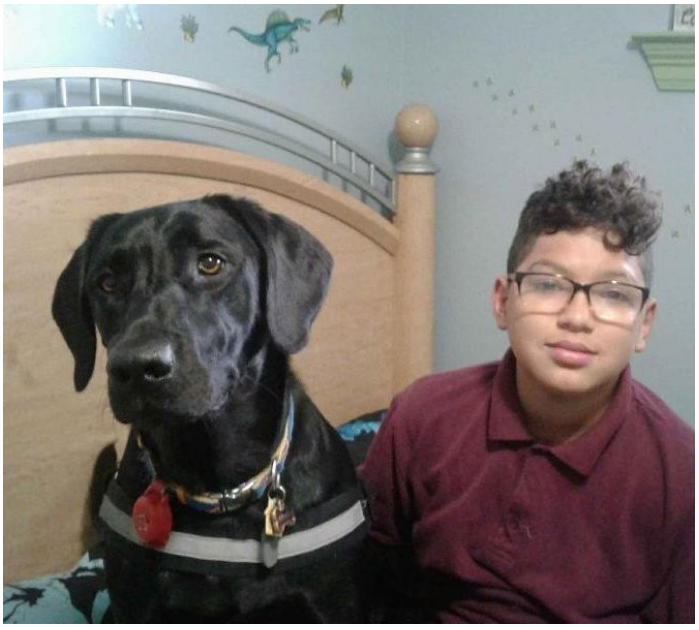
The art of training these therapy dogs is still relatively new. As a result, organizations and trainers around the country have developed differing training programs and philosophies.

The North Star Foundation in Connecticut, for example, prefers to train puppies as therapy dogs for autistic children. They believe that puppies should be used "in order to facilitate the strongest bond possible, and to insure the dog's training matches the child's needs."

Do some breeds make better therapy dogs for people with autism? Not according to Dr. Francois Martin, who has studied using animals to help children with neurological disorders express their emotions. According to Dr. Martin, "What I want is a dog who is very forgiving, people-oriented, and if a person is behaving strangely, the dog will look at the therapist and say, "That kid is behaving strangely, but it's all right with me."

Where to get help

There are a growing number of organizations that train and provide therapy dogs for autistic children. These include Oregon-based Autism Service Dogs of America (ASDA), www.autismservicedogsofamerica.com. The Psychiatric Service Dog Society (www.psychdog.org) is a nonprofit organization in Virginia that is dedicated to "responsible Psychiatric Service Dog education, advocacy, research and training facilitation." Located in Storrs, Connecticut, The North Star Foundation (www.northstardogs.com) trains and places therapy puppies with autistic children and their families.



DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount enclosed: $ _____

Before you check one of the funds below, please be aware that most of our funds are earmarked for rescue. We need donations to the other two funds or a general contribution much more than rescue, but the choice is always yours.

- ❑ General Contribution
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Health & Genetics
- ❑ Rescue

Mail this form along with your check, made out to **The SCA Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc.** to:

Karen Ward

9112 Madeline Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646

or

Donate using PayPal at http://schipperkefoundation.org/donate/

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The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc. has received an exemption as a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code. As a result, your gifts and/or donations for education, health research and rescue now qualify as Tax Deductible Donations. We are appreciative of any gifts and support you can provide in order to continue our programs and research.

Checks MUST be made out to
The SCA Rescue & Health Foundation, Inc.

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Schip toward the future!

We understand that Rescue is near and dear to most people's hearts, however the donations we need right now are needed most for *Health and Education*. Or even better would be if you earmarked your donation for the *General Fund* so it could be used where needed, such as health clinics and seminars at the SCA National Specialties.

Mission Statement

The Schipperke Club of America Rescue & Health Foundation was founded for the benefit of all Schipperkes. As an organization granted IRS designation as a not for profit corporation under 501(c)(3), it may accept tax deductible donations and distribute them to:

- advance Schipperke health and genetics
- support health research projects of importance to the breed
- promote education of owners, breeders and potential owners
- provide financial help to rescued Schipperkes through approved rescue organizations.

Donations needed for Health, Education & General Fund.
To donate using PayPal go to: http://schipperkefoudation.org/donate/