



## **Texture**

The coat is abundant, straight and slightly harsh to the touch. (Its harshness has been compared to that of a Flat Coated Retriever or Welsh Corgi). The softer undercoat is short and dense on the body, and is very dense around the neck, making the ruff stand out. Silky coats, body coats over three inches in length or very short harsh coats are equally incorrect.

## Color

The outer coat must be black. Any color other than natural black is a disqualification. The undercoat may be slightly lighter. During the shedding period the coat might take on a transitory reddish cast, which is to be penalized to the degree that it detracts from the overall black appearance. Graying due to age (seven years or older) or occasional white hairs should not be penalized.

## **Trimming**

As the Schipperke is a natural breed, only trimming of the whiskers and the hair between the pads of the feet is optional. Any other trimming must not be done. I am informed that too many liberties are being taken with the coat. The Standard is adamant in this regard.