

THE SCHNAUZERS

"The Schnauzers" (pronounced "snout sirs") reflects the fact that there are actually three breeds: the Standard Schnauzer, the smaller Miniature Schnauzer and the larger Giant Schnauzer. The Standard is so named because it was the first of the breeds, believed to have originated in the 1400s in the regions of Bavaria and Wurttemberg in southern Germany-central Europe; it was developed from the crossing of German Poodle, Grey Wolf Spitz and Wire Haired Terrier (German Pinscher), primarily as a ratter, droving and herding breed. The long established Schnauzer types of dogs are represented in art works as early as the late 1400s and in Stuttgart a statue of "The Nightwatchman and His Dog" dated 1620 depicts an easily identifiable Schnauzer.

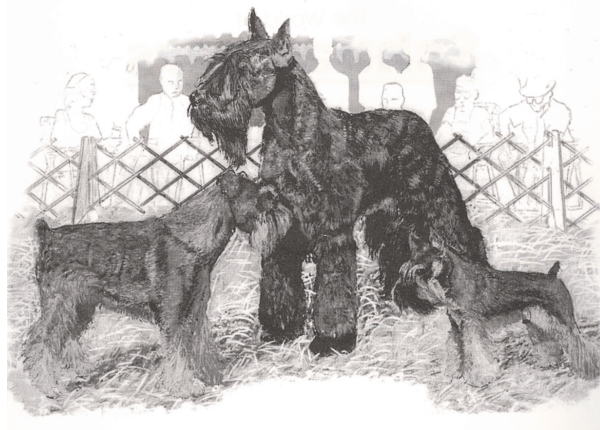
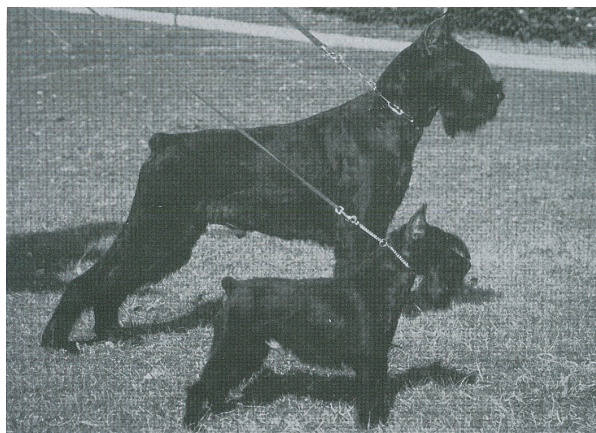


Illustration by Bob Groves



Malya Togo (Giant) and Ch Malya Poptor (Miniature). A rare photo which demonstrates that according to the Breed Standards, all Schnauzers have the same basic proportions, no matter what their size. Both photos courtesy 'The World of Schnauzers' Johan Gallant and Alpine Publications

Evolution (actually "development", as it was man-made, not natural) of the Pinscher-Schnauzer and sketches of the six closely interrelated breeds and of an ancestor which was pivotal to the development of Schnauzers (the Wire Haired Pinscher) will be found in this feature.

The breed was originally exhibited as the Wire Haired Pinscher and takes its name from the winner of the Wire Haired Pinscher class at the International Show at Hanover in 1879, named "Schnauzer". (Schnauzer meaning moustache or snout.) It is from this dog that the name of the breed came into existence.

From the original "standard size" the Miniature and Giant Schnauzers were developed. The aim was to produce exact replicas of the (Standard) Schnauzer in appearance and temperament but in smaller and larger sizes, ie., a sturdy, sensibly built and useful dog of great intelligence and reliability, loyal to its family but wary of strangers.



It is believed the Miniature was developed by crossing smaller Standard Schnauzers with Affenpinschers and the Giant by crossing the larger Standard Schnauzers with the Great Dane and possibly the Bouvier Des Flanders or with large coarse coated dogs known as Bavarian Wolfhounds. The Mini was developed principally for vermin hunting around the homesteads and the Giant principally for cattle herding and as guard dogs. The three sizes are still instinctive ratters and excellent watchdogs while being reliable, loyal family pets. In fact, the characteristic very short tails and cropped ears came about to avoid rat bites, which were not only painful, but could transfer rabies; in addition, the tails of the Standard and Giant were prone to injuries. The Schnauzer and Giant Schnauzer exhibit a formidable appearance to intruders and the Miniature vociferously warns of strangers.

IN AUSTRALIA

The Schnauzer was first introduced into Australia in 1934 by Mr A Hordern who imported three Standard Schnauzers. One litter was bred but breeding did not continue. In 1947 Patrick White and M Lascarus imported four Schnauzers – Ironsides of Erehwon, Blacknest Brevity, Blacknest Charity and Karen of Knells. The Schnauzer Club of NSW Inc has perpetual trophies named for two of these founding dogs to acknowledge their role in the breed's history. The first black Standard was imported in 1982 by Mrs B Stothard.

The breed however owes its early development primarily to Anthea Cunningham of Urangeline Kennels. In 1948 she imported from England Ch Dellaborde Mampe followed by Rodelia of Bishopston and Ch Dellaborde Ecstasy. The solid foundation of the breed in Australia can be traced to these three imports.

Miss Cunningham consolidated these early beginnings with the Swiss import Striegel von Mirako who had a dramatic impact on the breed, and from England a bitch Dondeau Wonderous, who produced the outstanding sons Ch Urangeline Diplomat and Ch Urangeline Toledo. (A son of Toledo Ch Silberbaard Rudolf UD won 4 BIS, including Specialty BISs in NSW and Victoria and multiple Group and in Show wins.)



Ch Silberbaard Rudolf UD

The Miniature Schnauzer was brought to Australia by Mrs I Rees of Casa Verde Kennels in the 1960s, Eng/Aust Ch Gosmore Wicket Keeper, who sired several champions.

A Wicket Keeper son was imported by Mrs C Cerini, Ch Deltone Deldario. At the first Breed Specialty show held in Australia, BOB (Ch Deltone Deldario) and Best Bitch (Ch Casa Verde Zipper) were Wicket Keeper offspring.

The first Giant Schnauzer (black) was brought to Australia by Mavis Hawkins in 1978 from England, Ch Odivane Vayaren Velvet CD followed by Ch Paris Garden Diablo CD in 1979. Two litters were bred producing Ch Vayaren Easter Daizee AOC and Ch Vayaren Verna CDX. Dereck and Cherry Shaw followed with the English imports Ch Temerine Murphy (P/S) and Odivane Pollyanna (Black).



Odivane Pollyanna

The other major achievement of Mrs Hawkins was to demonstrate the intelligence and trainability of the schnauzer of all sizes. She was the first to attain the title Australian Obedience Champion in NSW in all three sizes. This title was awarded for dogs attaining their Utility obedience title and Tracking Dog Excellent Title. Mrs Hawkins achieved this with the Miniature Delderland Sweet Su Fi AOC, the Schnauzer Ch Pejtal Honey Beetoo AOC and the Giant Ch Vayaren Easter Daizee AOC. This surely epitomises what the early developers of the breeds were striving to achieve – not just beauty but a reliable intelligent sensibly built dog.



BREED CHARACTERISTICS

The Schnauzer is a powerfully built, robust, sinewy, nearly square dog (length of body equal to height at shoulders). His temperament combines high spirits, reliability, strength, endurance and vigour. The breed is certainly one of the smartest and most eye-catching of all dogs but it takes time (or money) to keep him that way as the coat and furnishings do require care. Schnauzers have a harsh, wiry pepper and salt or black top coat, with the Miniature having an additional coat colour, black and silver; there is a soft, dense undercoat.

The dog's body coat is stripped two or three times a year (although if not being shown, the coat may be clipped). The head and general tidying up is advisable about every eight weeks. Schnauzers are distinguished by their long eye-brows, moustache and beard.

The Schnauzers are hardy, tough, one man or one family dogs. They like their human family to be together at all times. They are faithful but stubborn. They can be highly strung, although this is not common and usually reflects their high level of intelligence. He is often referred to as the "dog with the human brain" being inclined to rule you if allowed. Standards and Giants should therefore be handled firmly and obedience training is highly recommended, even just the basics and when this intelligence is diverted into the right channels it can reach extremely high levels; such training should avoid too much repetition or the dog will become bored.

All three breeds reserve a special corner of their heart for children. He is a guard dog with the heart of a lion and will differentiate between your friends and enemies. The Schnauzer is usually suspicious of strangers and will not go willingly with someone unknown to him. He is not a fighter but will give a good account of himself if provoked. The Schnauzer does not need a tremendous amount of exercise but will take as much as you can give him and still be ready for more. He will adore your car and is generally a very good traveler.

The Miniature only needs a small yard, but would love to go on daily walks. The Standards and Giants, being bigger dogs need more room, at least as big as a suburban back yard. A daily walk would burn off some excess energy and a swim would be even better.

The three breeds are long-lived, up to 16 years. The Standards and Giants are slow to mature and can therefore be quite a handful until normally in their prime at 2-3 years of age, whilst the Miniature will be mature by twelve months of age.

All these basic facts are summarised in the Table which appears elsewhere in this Breed Feature and the following pictures demonstrate the magnificent Miniatures and Standards currently winning the top prizes.

DEIDREE ANDERSON, Montkhan,
SYD WILLIAMS, Essanelle,
BOB HALES, Sanfteriesen,
Committee Members, Schnauzer Club of NSW

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