

The MINIATURE SCHNAUZER



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Introduction

Welcome to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club's educational CD. This website is provided as a tool for both judges and owners of the breed. For judges, this will help you better understand Miniature Schnauzer type as defined in the Standard. For owners, this will help you understand your own breed better. And for breeders, it will give you a better understanding of the traits you want to perpetuate in your breeding program.

Judges: This is only one tool to assist in helping you understand this breed. Please be sure to avail yourself of other means of education. The AMSC has official Breed Mentors who will assist your learning. There are other resources available (see *Resources* above).

This CD is divided into 7 parts on the bar at the top of this screen.

Intro is this page.

History is the first part and discusses in some detail the history of the breed, including the origin of the colors. You need to understand where a breed comes from and what other breeds it's related to in order to be a better judge or breeder.

The Standard contains the AKC standard for judging the breed in conformation shows. There are links to each area so you can refer to certain parts quickly if there's a need.

Discussion is the meatiest part of this site. It contains a portion of the standard (in blue box) and discusses and explains further what that portion of the standard means. Within the Discussion section on

Temperament, there are lots of videos and photographs of Miniature Schnauzers doing much more than showing in conformation. Included is obedience, earthdog, agility, and tracking.

Judging includes techniques that judges can use when judging the breed in the conformation ring, such as sparring and measuring.

Quiz has a detailed quiz on the contents of this site. It is in 4 parts. You can keep your score and see if you improve over time.

References contains background information, including a number of additional good examples of the breed. There's also an extensive list of terms that are found in the standard, along with their definitions.

Enjoy!

The American Miniature Schnauzer Club

If you have any input about this CD, please email the American Miniature Schnauzer Club at education@amsc.us.

Special thanks to [Hilde Haakinson](#) for the web site design, Chris Levy for the content and diagrams, and the members of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club who donated their photographs and videos.



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Schnauzer History



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History and Function

The Miniature Schnauzer traces its origin back to the farm dog of Germany who functioned as a cart dog, herder, guard dog, ratter, and general purpose dog for the working family farm in Southern Germany. Artwork and tapestries depict a schnauzer-type dog as early as the fifteenth century.



The oldest book on dogs in the German language, in 1832 describes the "bentchur" as the dog was called; *"The dog has asnout covered with rough-haired whiskers.....His body is short, and his tail is usually docked. The topcoat is not too long but wiry..."*. The "bentchur" most likely was the beginning of the word "pinscher". However, in 1852, C.F.H. Weiss used the term "pinscher" when translating the English word "terrier", which led to much confusion later on in the century.

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The German Farmdog

These farm dogs came in both smooth and wire-haired coats, and ranged in size from 11-3/4" to 19-1/2" (18-36 pounds) as described in 1894 in *Les Races des Chien* by Count Henri van Bylandt.

The smaller ones were mostly used as rat catchers and the larger ones to herd pigs and cattle and to drive wild boar.



Fitzinger, in 1876 describes many types of pinschers, or in today's terms, the Affenpinscher (seiden pintsch), the Miniature Pinscher (kleinen pintsch), the Miniature Schnauzer (rauhem pintsch), the German Pinscher (glatten pintsch), and the Standard Schnauzer (grossen pintsch). He states that the grossen pintsch is a brisk, lively dog; he is courageous and besides killing rats, can be used to hunt foxes and badgers.

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The First Standard

The very first dog show was held in England in 1859 and the kennel club studbook was established in 1873. Continental shows began soon after, but consisted mostly of imported English dogs. German dogs were bred for function on the



farm, and it was not until 1876 that the first wirehaired pinscher was entered at a German dog show. Comments at the time noted how few of the characteristics of the breed really were consistent. In 1884 a standard was developed, and by 1890, a show in Stuttgart had an entry of nearly 100 smooth and wirehaired pinschers.

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1884 Breed Standard

Standard Schnauzer - Rauhaarige Pinscher

Text in red applies to Miniature Schnauzers today

Has an average weight of 3.5 to 10 kg. (8 to 22 English pounds) and beyond. He is light, sinewy, and elastic. He has a **harsh, wiry coat and carries his tail upward**. His attitude is **inquisitive** and audacious. He has a restless temperament, is **continuously vigilant** without making unnecessary noise, **full of courage without being quarrelsome** or rapacious. He is **attached to his master**, loves horses and has stamina on long tours. A **skilled ratcatcher and mouser** and, consequently, is in great demand as a stable dog. His **head is not too heavy, rather long. Flat skull slightly narrowing to the front**. Pronounced stop. The **bite is close fitting**. Ears are cropped. **The neck is of medium length, strong, well-arched, the skin fitting tightly at the throat**. His coat is as wiry as possible. On the snout are **moustaches, whiskers, and bushy eyebrows**.



Color: red-yellowish or gray-yellowish. His **feet and underline usually lighter or gray-white**.

Further also allowed blackish, metal-gray, or silver-gray.

Either unicolored or with yellow-brown marks on the eyes, the snout, and the legs. Also unicolored flaxen or gray-white or white with black spots.

Nose is always black; eye and nails are dark.

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Size Differentiation

In 1884, Jean Bungartz published a handbook on 56 different breeds, and mentions these 4 breeds:



Glatthaarige Pinscher
(Smooth-haired Pinscher)
now German Pinscher
(with a Miniature Pinscher)



Rauhhaarige Pinscher
(Wirehaired Pinscher)
now Standard Schnauzer



Rauhhaarige Zwergpinscher
(Wirehaired Dwarf Pinscher)
now Miniature Schnauzer



Glatthaarige Zwergpinscher
(Smooth-haired Dwarf Pinscher)
now Miniature Pinscher

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The Word "Schnauzer..."

The ones with whiskers and brows most likely inspired the owners of these dogs to nickname them "schnauze" (snout), and then "schnauzer".

The first time the word *Schnauzer* is mentioned in a book is in *Les Races des Chien* by Count Henri van Bylandt in 1894. He says that the smaller version of the wirehaired pinscher is called the Zwergschnauzer.



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The First Studbook

A pinscher club was formed in 1895, and after much research they published the first studbook in 1902. There were a total of 353 registrations, with birthdates going back to 1880. The breed counts were:



- 248 Standard Schnauzers
- 14 Miniature Schnauzers
- 8 German Pinschers
- 83 Miniature Pinschers

The oldest Miniature Schnauzer registered was a black bitch, Findel, whelped in October 1888.

In Germany, the club has been known as the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club since 1921. From 1924 to 1934, more than 10,000 schnauzers of both sizes were registered with the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club.

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The Small, Wirehaired Pinscher



The smooth-haired pinschers were immediately split by the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club into a standard variety (17½") and a toy variety (11" or less). The very first breed description for pinschers that was recognized by the German national kennel organization in the 1880's mentions a dwarflike variety of the wirehaired pinscher and links them together - "the miniature wirehaired pinscher or Affenpinscher".

However, from 1900 on, the small wirehaired pinschers were shown in two different classes - one for Affenpinschers and one for the smaller version of the wirehaired pinscher. In 1903, the studbook first registered Affenpinschers separately from the other wirehaired pinschers. By 1910 the separation was complete - the breeds were known as Affenpinschers and Miniature Schnauzers.

A new standard for Miniature Schnauzers was published in 1923 and makes it clear that the Miniature Schnauzer must be a smaller version of the Schnauzer.

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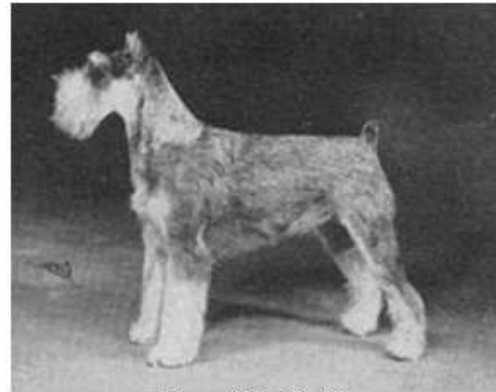


From Germany to the US

1904 - The first Standard Schnauzer registered by AKC

1924 - The first Miniature Schnauzers were imported from Germany by Marie Slattery (Marienhof Kennel).

1925 - The Wirehaired Pinscher Club of America was founded in 1925 for both Miniature and Standard Schnauzers which were considered the same breed.



Karen of Marienhof II

1926 - The breed was moved to the Terrier group and renamed Schnauzer.

1927 - The breed was split into 2 varieties, the Miniature and Standard.

1931 - Reclassified to a single breed.

1933 - Separated into two breeds. The AKC mandated that a breed club could only represent one breed and the Schnauzer Club of America split into the Standard Schnauzer Club of America and the American Miniature Schnauzer Club. Both breeds competed in the Terrier group.

1945 - Standard Schnauzer moved to the Working group.

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Color History in the Miniature Schnauzer

The colors of the original Miniature Schnauzers were the same as their larger relatives, and ranged from solid black to black & tan, red-yellow, gray-yellow, and salt-and-pepper. The breeders and judges preferred the salt-and-pepper, then the black, and the other colors fell out of favor.

Of the 14 Miniature Schnauzers in the first German stud book, 3 were black, 7 were yellow, 2 black and tan, and 2 pepper and salt.

In spite of all attempts to isolate the colors by only breeding of like color, occasionally Black & Silver pups would be born from Salt & Pepper parents. The original US Miniature Schnauzer standard in 1934 included "black and tan". The Black & Silver color was accepted by the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club in 1968, and in 1977 the color was recognized by FCI.

White has never been a color accepted by the American Miniature Schnauzer Club. However, in 1968 white Miniature Schnauzers were recognized by the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club and have since been accepted by FCI. In most FCI countries the colors may not be interbred.

1884 Schnauzer - Germany

Color: red-yellowish or gray-yellowish. His feet and underline usually lighter or gray-white. Further also allowed blackish, metal-gray, or silver-gray.

Either unicolored or with yellow-brown marks on the eyes, the snout, and the legs. Also unicolored flaxen or gray-white or white with black spots.

1907 Schnauzer - Germany

"All salt-and-pepper color shades or similar bristly equal color mixtures, and solid black". "Faults - all white, speckled, brindled, red, or bran colors".

The Miniature Schnauzer standard in the USA was approved in 1934 and has been revised three times since, in 1958, 1979, and 1991. The 1979 version made no changes to the color explanation, but the 1991 (current) version goes into more detail.

1934 Miniature Schnauzer - USA

"The color should be pepper and salt or similar equal mixtures, light or dark, and including the "red pepper", pure black, and black and tan. Faults are solid colors other than black, also very light, whitish, spotted or tiger colors, but a small white spot on the breast is not a fault."

1958 Miniature Schnauzer - USA

"The recognized colors are salt and pepper, black and silver, and solid black. The typical color is salt and pepper in shades of gray; tan shading is permissible. The salt and pepper mixture fades out to light gray or silver white in the eyebrows, whiskers, cheeks, under throat, across chest, under tail, leg furnishings, under body, and inside legs. The light under-body hair is not to rise higher on the sides of the body than the front elbows.

"The black and silver follows the same pattern as the salt and peppers. The entire salt-and-pepper section must be black.

"Black is the only solid color allowed. It must be a true black with no gray hairs and no brown tinge except where the whiskers may have become discolored. A small white spot on the chest is permitted."

1991 (current) Miniature Schnauzer - USA

"The recognized colors are salt and pepper, black and silver, and solid black. All colors have uniform skin pigmentation, i.e. no white or pink skin patches shall appear anywhere on the dog. "***Salt & Pepper*** - The typical salt and pepper color of the topcoat results from the combination of black and white banded hairs and solid black and white unbanded hairs, with the banded hairs predominating. Acceptable are all shades of salt and pepper, from the light to dark mixtures with tan shadings permissible in the banded or unbanded hair of the top. In salt and pepper dogs, the salt and pepper mixture fades out to light gray or silver white in the eyebrows, whiskers, cheeks, under throat, inside ears, across chest, under tail, leg furnishings, and inside hind legs. It may or may not also fade out on the underbody. However, if so, the lighter underbody hair is not to rise higher on the sides of the body than the front elbows. ***Black and Silver*** - The black and silver generally follows the same pattern as the salt and pepper. The entire salt and pepper section must be black. The black color in the topcoat of the black and silver is a true rich color with black undercoat. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge and the underbody should be dark. ***Black*** - Black is the only solid color allowed. Ideally, the black color in the topcoat is a true rich glossy color with the undercoat being less intense, a soft matting shade of black. This is natural and should not be penalized in any way. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge. The scissored and clipped areas have lighter shades of black. A small white spot on the chest is permitted, as is an occasional single white hair elsewhere on the body.

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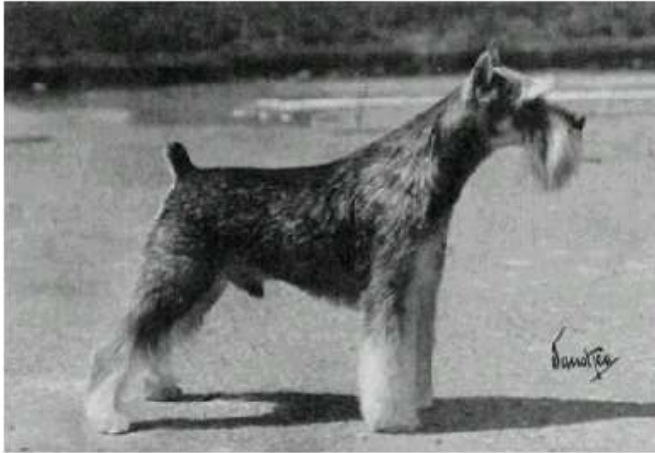
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Ch. Dorem Display



Ch. Dorem Display was whelped April 5, 1945 and died shortly before his fourteenth birthday in 1959. He had a more streamlined outline that made him competitive in the Terrier Group. He was the breed's first Best in Show winner and his Westminster record is unbeaten today.

Virtually all champion Miniature Schnauzers finished in the USA since the early 1950's have between one and several hundred lines to Ch. Dorem Display.



Ch. Dorem Display winning the Terrier Group under judge John Marvin, handled by George Ward.

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The Official Standard of the MINIATURE SCHNAUZER

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Miniature Schnauzer is a robust, active dog of terrier type, resembling his larger cousin, the Standard Schnauzer, in general appearance, and of an alert, active disposition. Faults: Type - toyishness, ranginess or coarseness.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Size - From 12 to 14 inches. He is sturdily built, nearly square in proportion of body length to height with plenty of bone, and without any suggestion of toyishness. Disqualifications - dogs or bitches under 12 inches or over 14 inches.

HEAD

Eyes - Small, dark brown and deepset. They are oval in appearance and keen in expression. Faults: - Eyes light and/or large and prominent in appearance. Ears - When cropped, the ears are identical in shape and length with pointed tips. They are in balance with the head and not exaggerated in length. They are set high on the skull and carried perpendicularly at the inner edges, with as little bell as

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HEAD

Eyes - Small, dark brown and deepset. They are oval in appearance and keen in expression. Faults - Eyes light and/or large and prominent in appearance. Ears - When cropped, the ears are identical in shape and length with pointed tips. They are in balance with the head and not exaggerated in length. They are set high on the skull and carried perpendicularly at the inner edges, with as little bend as possible along the outer edges. When uncropped, the ears are small and V-shaped, folding close to the skull. Head - Strong and rectangular, its width diminishing slightly from ears to eyes, and again to the tip of the nose. The forehead is unwrinkled. The topkull is flat and fairly long. The forehead is parallel to the topkull, with a slight stop, and it is at least as long as the topkull. The muzzle is strong in proportion to the skull; it ends in a moderately blunt manner, with thick whiskers which accentuate the rectangular shape of the head. Faults - Head coarse and cheeky.

The teeth meet in a scissors bite. That is, the upper front teeth overlap the lower front teeth in such a manner that the inner surface of the upper incisors barely touch the outer surface of the lower incisors when the mouth is closed. Faults - Bite - undershot or overshot jaw. Level bite.

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NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck - Strong and well arched, blending into the shoulders, and with the skin fitting tightly at the throat. Body - Short and deep, with the brisket extending at least to the elbows. Ribs are well sprung and deep, extending well back to a short loin. The underbody does not present a tucked up appearance at the flank. The backline is straight; it declines slightly from the withers to the base of the tail. The withers form the highest point of the body. The overall length from chest to buttock appears to equal the height at the withers. Faults - Chest too broad or shallow in brisket, hollow or roach back, Tail - Set high and carried erect. It is docked only long enough to be clearly visible over the backbone of the body when the dog is in proper length of coat. A properly presented Miniature Schnauzer will have a docked tail as described; all others should be severely penalized. Fault - Tail set too low.

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FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs are straight and parallel when viewed from all sides. They have strong pasterns and good bone. They are separated by a fairly deep brisket which precludes a pinched front. The elbows are close, and the ribs spread gradually from the first rib so as to allow space for the elbows to move close to the body. Fault - Loose elbows. The sloping shoulders are muscled, yet flat and clean. They are well laid back, so that from the side the tips of the shoulder blades are in a nearly vertical line above the elbow. The tips of the blades are placed closely together. They slope forward and downward at an angulation which permits the maximum forward extension of the forelegs without binding or effort. Both the shoulder blades and upper arms are long, permitting depth of chest at the brisket. Feet - Short and round (cat feet) with thick, black pads. The toes are arched and compact.

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HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters have strong-muscled, slanting thighs. They are well bent at the stifles. There is sufficient angulation so that, in stance, the hocks extend beyond the tail. The hindquarters never appear overbuilt or higher than the shoulders. The rear pasterns are short and, in stance, perpendicular to the ground and, when viewed from the rear, are parallel to each other. Faults - Tickle hocks, cow hocks, open hocks or bowed hindquarters.

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COAT

Double, with hard, wiry, outer coat and close undercoat. The head, neck, ears, chest, tail, and body coat must be plucked. When in show condition, the body coat should be of sufficient length to determine texture. Close covering on neck, ears, and skull. Furnishings are fairly thick but not silky. Faults - Coat too soft or too smooth and slick in appearance.

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COLOR

Colors - salt and pepper, black and silver and solid black. All colors have uniform skin pigmentation, i.e. no white or pink skin patches shall appear anywhere on the dog, and the nose must be solid black. Salt and Pepper - The typical salt and pepper color of the topcoat results from the combination of black and white banded hairs and solid black and white unbanded hairs, with the banded hairs predominating. Acceptable are all shades of salt and pepper, from the light to dark mixtures with tan shadings permissible in the banded or unbanded hair of the top. In salt and pepper dogs, the salt and pepper mixture fades out to light gray or silver white in the eyebrows, whiskers, cheeks, under throat, inside ears, across chest, under tail, leg furnishings, and inside hind legs. It may or may not also fade out on the underbody. However, if so, the lighter underbody hair is not to rise higher on the sides of the body than the front elbows. Black and Silver - The black and silver generally follows the same pattern as the salt and pepper. The entire salt and pepper section must be black. The black color in the topcoat of the black and silver is a true rich color with black undercoat. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge and the underbody should be dark. Black - Black is the only solid color allowed. Ideally, the black color in the topcoat is a true rich glossy color with the undercoat being less intense, a soft-matte shade of black. This is natural and should not be penalized in any way. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge. The accented and stippled areas have lighter shades of black. A small white spot on the chest is permitted, as is an occasional single white hair elsewhere on the body.

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Disqualifications

Dogs not of an allowed color or white striping, patching, or spotting on the colored areas of the dog, except for the small white spot permitted on the chest of the black. The body coat color in salt and pepper and black and silver dogs fades out to light gray or silver white under the throat and across the chest. Between them there exists a natural body coat color. Any irregular or connecting blaze or white mark in this section is considered a white patch on the body, which is also a disqualification. Never any color other than solid black.

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GAIT

The trot is the gait at which movement is judged. When approaching, the forelegs, with elbows close to the body, move straight forward, neither too close nor too far apart. Going away, the hind legs are straight and travel in the same planes as the forelegs.

Note

It is generally accepted that when a full trot is achieved, the rear legs continue to move in the same planes as the forelegs, but a very slight inward inclination will occur. It begins at the point of the shoulder in front and at the hip joint in the rear. Viewed from the front or rear, the legs are straight from these points to the pads. The degree of inward inclination is almost imperceptible in a Miniature Schnauzer that has correct movement. It does not justify moving close, toeing in, crossing, or moving out at the elbows.

Viewed from the side, the forelegs have good reach, while the hind legs have strong drive, with good pickup of hocks. The feet turn neither inward nor outward. Faults - Single tracking, sidegaiting, paddling in front, or hackney action. Weak rear action.

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TEMPERAMENT

The typical Miniature Schnauzer is alert and spirited, yet obedient to command. He is friendly, intelligent and willing to please. He should never be overaggressive or timid.

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DISQUALIFICATIONS

Dogs or bitches under 12 inches or over 14 inches. Dogs not of an allowed color or white striping, patching, or spotting on the colored areas of the dog, except for the small white spot permitted on the chest of the black. The body coat color in salt and pepper and black and silver fades out to light gray or silver white under the throat and across the chest. Between them there exists a natural body coat color. Any irregular or connecting blaze or white mark in this section is considered a white patch on the body, which is also a disqualification. Never any color other than solid black.

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Approved January 25, 1961 - Effective February 27, 1992

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General Appearance

GENERAL APPEARANCE - The Miniature Schnauzer is a robust, active dog of terrier type, resembling his larger cousin, the Standard Schnauzer, in general appearance, and of an alert, active disposition. **Faults:** Type - toyishness, ranginess or coarseness.

Robust - with substance. The torso should be substantial from chest to buttocks, but not coarse or lumpy.

Active - this word is used twice in this paragraph (active dog, active disposition). It does not mean hyperactive, but he likes to play. He is not particularly dog aggressive and when he appears to be, it is most likely for show and not really serious.

Alert - Always on the ready, doesn't miss much.

Of terrier type, resembling.....the Standard Schnauzer - This phrase causes many misunderstandings for complete novices to experienced judges, and many breeders do not agree as to its intent. [Click here](#) for a detailed explanation of this phrase.

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“Resembling His Larger Cousin, the Standard Schnauzer”

Attributes They Have in Common



General

- Robust
- Active
- Height appears to equal length
- Eyebrows, mustache & whiskers
- Wire-coated

Body

- Brisket comes to elbows
- Short loin
- Slightly sloping topline
- Tail carried erect

Head

- Rectangular head
- Dark brown, oval eyes
- Skull flat, skin unwrinkled
- Muzzle & topline equal length
- Muzzle ends moderately bluntly
- Beard and eyebrows
- Scissors bite
- Slight stop
- Parallel planes
- Skin tight at throat
- Ears cropped or uncropped

Forequarters

- Muscled
- Shoulders flat & clean, well laid back
- Built for maximum forward extension
- Forelegs straight

Hindquarters

- Strongly muscled
- Well-bent stifles
- Rear pastern short, perpendicular to ground, parallel from rear
- Do not appear overbuilt or higher than the shoulders

Feet

- Small, round, compact, arched

Coat

- Double (harsh outer coat, close undercoat)
- Wiry
- Plucked
- Color
- Salt & Pepper (Pepper & Salt)
- Black

Gait

- Good reach
- Strong drive

Temperament

- Alert
- Spirited

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What are the Differences?



Standard Schnauzer

Heavy-set
Bristly mustache & whiskers
Wiry eyebrows
Skull moderately broad
Well-developed chewing muscles
Neck strong, moderate thickness
Breastbone discernible
Croup full and slightly rounded
Tail set moderately high
Coat as thick as possible
Furnishings of harsh texture
Tan shadings a fault
Black streak down the back is a fault
Resistance to weather



Miniature Schnauzer

Robust, not toyish
Thick whiskers
No mention
Topskull is flat and fairly long
No mention
Neck strong and well arched
No mention of breastbone
Backline is straight and declines from withers to tail
Tail set high and carried erect
No mention of thickness
Furnishings fairly thick, not silky
Tan shading permissible
No mention
No mention

The Miniature Schnauzer is a blend of terrier and schnauzer type. Any migration towards the above characteristics are going too far towards the Standard Schnauzer type.

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What is "of Terrier Type"?



A common set of Terrier characteristics cannot be identified because there are over 30 terrier breeds of all shapes and sizes in the world, so no one standard can be used to compare to the Miniature Schnauzer.

The function of many of the terriers was to dispatch wild animals that caused problems for the farmer, such as foxes, badgers, and polecats. The Miniature Schnauzer performed a similar task in Germany, but their techniques were different, which is one reason they vary in structure. The majority of the terriers were bred to go into the tunnels of their prey and either kill them there or chase them out for the hunter or hounds to kill.

The terriers most similar to the Miniature Schnauzer are those considered the "long-legged" terriers (e.g. Welsh Terrier, Fox Terrier, Lakeland Terrier). However, their front assembly reflects their need to go into tunnels in the earth. Those breeds have a shorter than normal upper arm (terrier front) that allows their chest size, not their upper arm length, to control the size of the tunnel they can navigate. [Click here](#) to see a diagram of a "normal" and a terrier front.

Other terriers not bred to "go to ground" such as the Kerry Blue Terrier and the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier have a front assembly more similar to the Miniature Schnauzer.

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Terrier Characteristics **in Common** with the Miniature Schnauzer



Terrier balance (from the Smooth Fox Terrier standard) - "the correct proportions.....It is the keystone of the terrier's anatomy. The chief points of consideration are the relative proportions of skull and foreface; head and back; height at withers and length of body from shoulder point to buttock - the ideal proportion being reached when the last two measurements are the same.

- Rectangular head
- Beard and eyebrows (in the wire-coated breeds)
- Keen expression
- Muzzle length = skull length
- Muzzle strong
- Skull long and flat, slight stop
- Scalp free from wrinkles
- Cheeks level and not full
- Eyes small, dark brown, deep set
- Shoulders long and sloping
- Wiry, stripped, double coat
- Square outline
- Forelegs straight
- Body short, strong
- Loin short
- High tail set
- Muscular thighs
- Feet small, round, compact
- Parallel movement

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Terrier Characteristics **Not in Common** with the Miniature Schnauzer



Earthdog Type Terrier

Temperament: Bold, gay, confident, lively, tip-toe of expectation, alert, quick of movement. A temperament that will allow the dog to fight, chase, or kill its quarry in the varmint's territory in absolute darkness.

Narrow chest and body - for maneuvering in a tunnel.

Terrier front - for maneuvering in a tunnel ([see a terrier front](#))

Tail docked long - used as a handle to pull the dog out of a tunnel

Built for speed and endurance - following a fox or a horse

Level topline



Miniature Schnauzer

Temperament: Alert and spirited, yet obedient to command. Friendly, intelligent, and willing to please. Temperament for an all-round farm and stable dog and ratter who does not go to ground.

Ribs well sprung, extending well back to short loin. Not tucked up.

Both the shoulder blades and **upper arms are long** - a working dog front.

Tail docked only long enough to be clearly visible over the backline.

Robust build.

Backline declines slightly from withers to tail.

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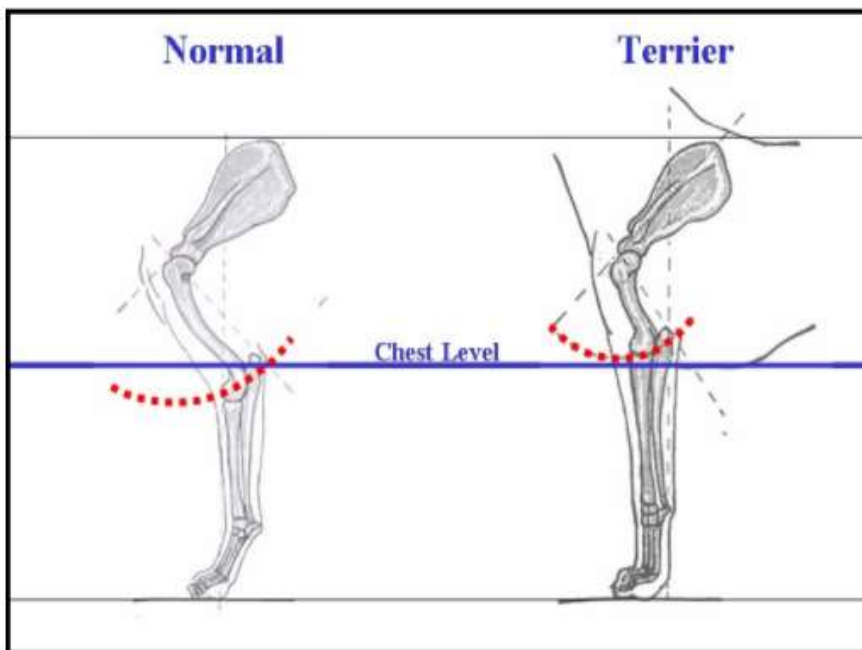


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Normal vs. Terrier Front



Normal Front

On a normal front, the upper arm length matches the length of the shoulder blade. When the dog moves its front legs, the lower end of the upper arm (the elbow) swings below the level of the chest.

Terrier Front

On a terrier front, the upper arm length is short so that when it swings through its arc moving the front legs, the lower end of the upper arm (the elbow) swings at the level of the chest.

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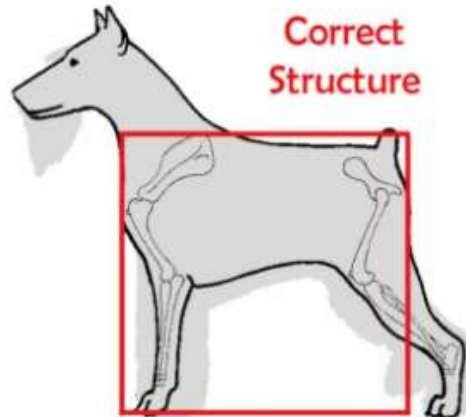
Size, Proportion, Substance

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE. Size - From 12 to 14 inches. He is sturdily built, nearly square in proportion of body length to height with plenty of bone, and without any suggestion of toyishness. **Disqualifications** - dogs or bitches under 12 inches or over 14 inches.

Size - there is no preference as to size within the 12 to 14 inches. Any Miniature Schnauzer in that height range should have equal consideration if it has all the other schnauzer characteristics, including length and fill of muzzle, good bone and body.

Proportion - He is nearly square or square. This does not mean the shorter backed the better.

Sturdily built, without any suggestion of toyishness. The Miniature Schnauzer is a lot of dog for his size, from the chest to the hindquarters.



Click image for video on the techniques of measuring a dog for being over 14"



Click image for video on the techniques for measuring a dog for being under 12"

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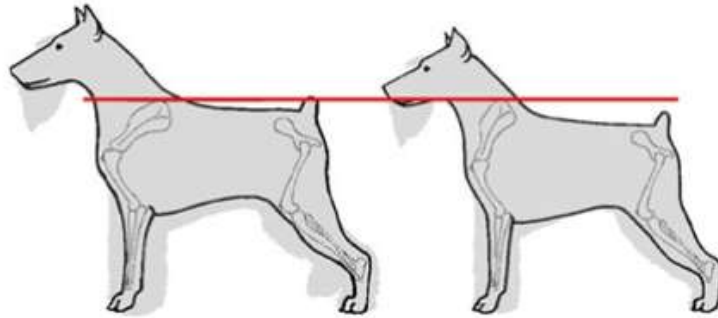
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How Height is Affected by Shoulder Placement



There is no mention in the standard of where the height measurement should take place. AKC rules say it should be "at the highest point over a dog's shoulder blades". If a dog has poor shoulder angulation, it is conceivable that the highest point over a dog's shoulder blades could reach quite a ways up the neck. That means that a dog with good shoulders can actually be an overall larger dog and still measure within the 12-14".

The above dogs are the same height, but because of the second dog's more vertical shoulder blades, it must be overall a smaller dog in order to measure the same height. The dogs with very poor layback of shoulder must also have much lower back height than those with good shoulders, since the well laid-back shoulders are more at a level of the back. In comparing two dogs of equal height, the one with better shoulder layback will look bigger. They are not measured at the back height, but the distance from the top of the shoulder blades to the ground.

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Measure, Don't Guess!

If in doubt about whether an animal is within the 12 to 14", measure the dog. Never put a good dog to the back of the line because you think it may be oversize. It makes the judge look foolish to the spectators, and you may have overlooked a good, insize dog because of an optical illusion.



Grooming and body proportion can also fool the eye into assuming an incorrect height for a dog. A cobby, well-boned dog may appear larger than one the same height, who is lankier and longer backed. Then again, if the lanky dog has little chest, he may appear large because of the length of his legs (the air under his body) in proportion to his body thickness.

Color can also make a difference in the appearance of size, as can the height of the dogs who happen to be competing that day. A dog that is top of the standard may look oversize if the other dogs competing are on the small side, or the converse, a small dog will look even smaller if his competition is all at the top of the standard (or more).

Don't trust your eyesight. Experienced breeders and judges may be able to tell on the exam table, but 1/4" accuracy is difficult to guess correctly. A 14 1/4" dog can measure in because of the **natural tendency for the dog to duck** just a little when the weight of the wicket rests on their shoulders and there's nothing a judge can do about that. But a word of caution - it is also possible to measure a 12 1/4" dog as undersize because they also have a tendency to shrink down under the weight of the wicket.

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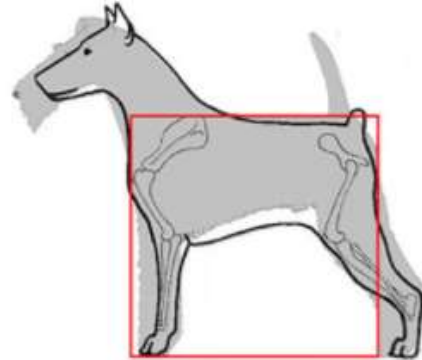
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Comparing the Proportions to the Wire Fox Terrier

The Miniature Schnauzer standard says "nearly square". The Wire Fox Terrier standard says the height at the withers should equal the length of the body from shoulder point to buttock. The Miniature Schnauzer standard says the overall length from the chest to the buttocks appears to equal the height at the withers.



The difference is in the size of the body and the structure.

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Head - Eyes

Eyes - Small, dark brown and deepset. They are oval in appearance and keen in expression. Faults: - Eyes light and/or large and prominent in appearance.

Eyes - If a Miniature Schnauzer has correct eyes, they will not be obvious on first examination for two reasons:

1. Their eyes should be small, dark brown, and deepset, not prominent. Especially if the dog has a dark mask (beard) around the eyes, they are difficult to distinguish.
2. The eyes are almost entirely covered from the top by their eyebrows. The only way you can get a good look at a Miniature Schnauzer's eyes (without moving the eyebrows) is to look directly at them straight on, or from the side.



Light and prominent eyes are easy to hide under long eyebrows. Be sure to check the eyes by tilting the dog's head up to you, or by lifting the eyebrows. Beards make great handles for maneuvering the head. You can take hold of the hair under the chin and tilt the head the way you want it.

Look at the previous page for examples of good eyes.

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Head - Ears, Cropped

Ears - When cropped, the ears are identical in shape and length with pointed tips. They are in balance with the head and not exaggerated in length. They are set high on the skull and carried perpendicularly at the inner edges, with as little bell as possible along the outer edges.



Ears, when cropped, are carried perpendicularly at the inner edges, however cropping is man-made. The ear crop can be an asset or liability depending on how well the crop was done, and to a lesser extent on the quality of the ear.

Although a poor ear crop takes away from the appearance of the Miniature Schnauzer, it should be considered as an artificial liability and judged as such. It is best to see the ears when they're on the ground rather than on the examining table. The dogs hold their ears very well when sparring. Look for ear carriage and placement on the ground, not on the table.

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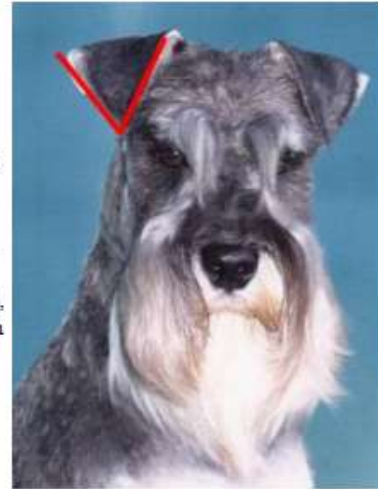


Head - Ears, Natural

Ears - When uncropped, the ears are small and V-shaped, folding close to the skull.

There is no preference for either cropped or uncropped ears, however the natural ear gives a softer look to the Miniature Schnauzer, and because it's not commonly seen in the show ring, make take some getting used to. Many Miniature Schnauzers, especially bitches, will not put their ears up for anyone, especially on the table, and certainly not for strangers, so an uncropped ear can be difficult to evaluate in the ring.

The standard doesn't mention it, but it is commonly accepted that the tip of the ear should come near the corner of the eye.



It's best to evaluate earset when being baited by the exhibitor. Most Miniature Schnauzers will not hold their ears perfectly when gaiting, and it's more noticeable when they have natural ears as shown in this video.

Click on the image to see a video of typical ear carriage when a dog with natural ears is gaiting.



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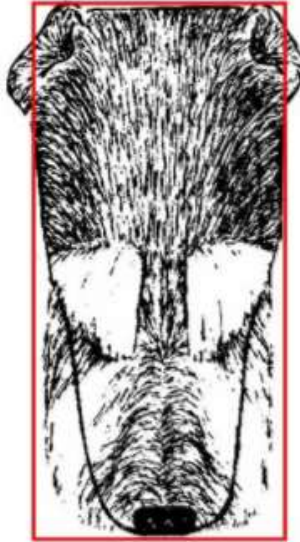
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Head - Skull



Head - Strong and rectangular, its width diminishing slightly from ears to eyes, and again to the tip of the nose. The forehead is unwrinkled. The topskull is flat and fairly long. The foreface is parallel to the topskull, with a slight stop, and it is at least as long as the topskull. The muzzle is strong in proportion to the skull; it ends in a moderately blunt manner, with thick whiskers which accentuate the rectangular shape of the head. Faults - Head coarse and cheeky.

For the head, the key words in the standard are *strong* and *rectangular*, and for the topskull, *flat* and *fairly long*. It is commonly accepted that the width of the skull should be slightly less than half the length of the head. There should be a strong topskull, but the sides of the skull should be clean and flat, without prominent cheekbones.

There should be a strong muzzle with plenty of fill under the eyes. The muzzle should be at least as long as the topskull, but not exaggerated.



When judging, always check for the strength and length of the muzzle. It is very easy to hide a weak muzzle under a beard and with clever grooming make the muzzle appear longer than it is.

This dog has a correct stop, with good fill under the eyes, and good parallel head planes. The black on the top of his muzzle is what makes the black mask on the beard (not required).



Grooming, especially bad grooming, can make a big difference in the look of the head. Make sure to feel what the dog has under all that hair. You should not be able to see the cheeks by looking at the head from the front.

A dog may look cheeky, when in fact the beard was trimmed too short on the sides of the face making the cheeks stand out. Then again, it may really be cheeky. **Getting your hands on the head of the dog is the best way to find out.**



All these dogs have excellent heads.



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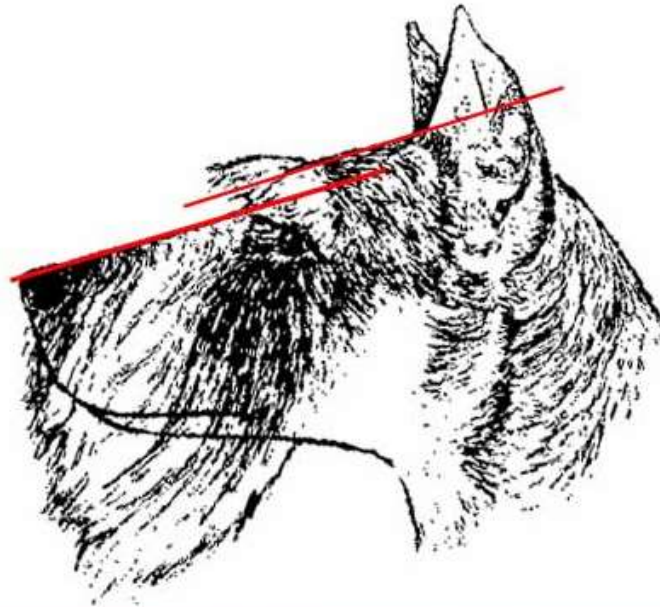
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Head - Profile

Headplanes are parallel, with a slight stop.





Most dogs in the ring today have parallel head planes, but rounded topskulls and more than a slight stop are problems occasionally seen. Good groomers can disguise too much stop. Be sure to feel the stop under the hair.

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Faulty Heads



Light eye, rounded skull



Cheeky, round eye, rounded topskull

Bumpy
Skull,
Cheeky



Rounded
Skull,
Snipey



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Head - Teeth and Bite

The teeth meet in a scissors bite. That is, the upper front teeth overlap the lower front teeth in such a manner that the inner surface of the upper incisors barely touch the outer surface of the lower incisors when the mouth is closed. Faults - Bite - Undershot or overshot jaw. Level bite.



These dogs' teeth are the correct scissors bite, and a good size. Note the 6 incisors between the canine teeth both top and bottom.

Miniature Schnauzers have some problems with small and uneven teeth and occasionally a bad bite.



Missing premolars are occasionally seen in Miniature Schnauzers. The standard does not call for full dentition, but it is something for breeders to consider when evaluating all of the dog so that it does not become a problem in the breed.

A bigger problem, but not from a judge's perspective is that many dogs have excessive tartar buildup and lose teeth to periodontal disease at an early age.



This dog's teeth are very strong, complete, and perfectly aligned. Note how the premolars offset each other from the top to bottom jaws. There is another premolar on the lower jaw not visible in this photograph, that is immediately behind the lower canine tooth.

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Neck

Neck - Strong and well arched, blending into the shoulders, and with the skin fitting tightly at the throat.

The neck is strong, not heavy and muscular, nor is it thin and weedy. It should blend smoothly into the shoulders.

Several factors contribute to why the neck blends smoothly into the shoulders. Factors that contribute to a good blend include shoulder layback, shoulder blade set on the ribcage, and proper arch of neck.

Grooming can contribute to the "appearance" of a good blend of neck and shoulders. More coat on or behind the withers or at the base of neck can cover up lumpiness, lack of smooth blend, and ewe necks. Be sure to check the length of the hair throughout the transition.



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Body

Body - Short and deep, with the brisket extending at least to the elbows. Ribs are well sprung and deep, extending well back to a short loin. Faults - Chest too broad or shallow in brisket.



Correct

Too Narrow

The dog on the left has good spring of rib, a slight indentation at the loin, and wide hips.

The dog to the right is too narrow in chest, loin, and hip. This may be a young dog, but it does not have the proper substance, and there's no way to tell at that time if they'll ever develop it.



Correct



Too Narrow



Pear-Shaped

Some dogs have a good spring of rib, but are too narrow in loin and in hip, forming a **pear-shaped appearance**.

It is important to have a short loin and long rib cage. A dog can be "nearly square in proportion of body length to height", yet still be too long in loin.

Judges should feel for depth of brisket, since it can easily be disguised by grooming. A dog could be groomed with a lot of extra chest hair to look like more depth of chest. On the other hand, a dog that is not stripped far enough onto the sides of the chest can look shallow even though it's not.

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Outline

The underbody does not present a tucked up appearance at the flank. The backline is straight; it declines slightly from the withers to the base of the tail. The withers form the highest point of the body. The overall length from chest to buttocks appears to equal the height at the withers. Fault - Hollow or roach back.



The underbody is only slightly tucked up, reflecting the amount of substance through the loin area.

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Tail

Tail - set high and carried erect. It is docked only long enough to be clearly visible over the backline of the body when the dog is in proper length of coat. A properly presented Miniature Schnauzer will have a docked tail as described; all others should be severely penalized. Fault: Tail set too low.

The tail carriage should be straight up (12 o'clock), and should come right off the end of the backline at that level (set on high). It is important to distinguish between the carriage and the set. The musculature and the dog's temperament contribute to the carriage, where the structure of the croup contributes to the set.

It is as incorrect for the dog to have a tail that angles towards the head (10 o'clock or "squirrel tail") as it is to be carried too low (2 o'clock).

Some dogs when sparring, will bring their tail toward the head, and this should not be penalized. In normal stance the tail should not angle towards the head.

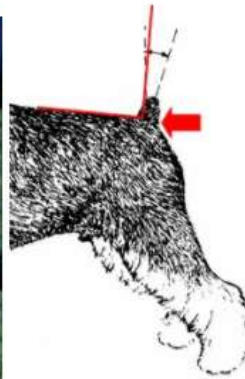
The length of a docked tail is manmade. If a tail is docked slightly too long or too short, it should not be cause for penalty.

The set of the tail is more important, but it **must** be docked. An undocked tail must be **severely penalized**



*** [Click here for information on undocked tails.](#)

Tailset and Carriage



Correct

Note the location of the anus (arrow) in relation to the backline of the dog.



Low tailset, good carriage

You can see daylight under the red line.

Low tailset, good carriage

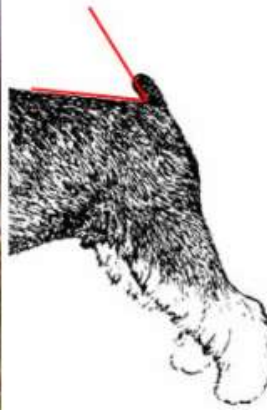
You can see daylight under the red line.



Low tailset covered with hair.

The daylight has been filled with hair. Note location of the anus (red arrow) in relation to the backline of the dog.

This dog has a low tailset and it's being pushed into a squirrel tail position.



Squirrel Tail

The tail angles forward from 12 o'clock.

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Undocked Tails



The AMSC membership recently voted to clarify its position concerning undocked tails on dogs being shown at AKC events and voted to make the following change to the Standard.

"Tail - set high and carried erect. It is docked only long enough to be clearly visible over the backline of the body when the dog is in proper length of coat. *A properly presented Miniature Schnauzer will have a docked tail as described; all others should be severely penalized.*"

Docked.... "it is part of 'type', a wholeness of appearance."

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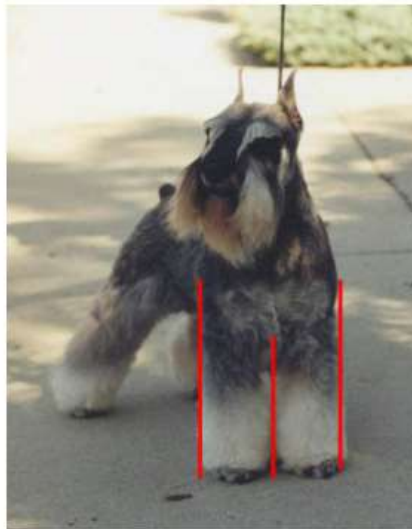
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Forequarters - Forelegs



FOREQUARTERS - Forelegs are straight and parallel when viewed from all sides. They have strong pasterns and good bone. They are separated by a fairly deep brisket which precludes a pinched front. The elbows are close, and the ribs spread gradually from the first rib so as to allow space for the elbows to move close to the body. Fault - Loose elbows.

Rib Spread

The part of the standard that describes the "rib spread" means that the lower portion of the chest between the elbows (from the first rib to just behind the elbows) is narrower than the lower portion of the chest behind the elbows. This is to allow room for "the elbows to move close to the body".

The cross section of the chest on the right shows the rib shape between the elbows (red), and the rib shape behind the elbows.



Legs

When judging, check for strength of bone, straightness of legs, and placement of the elbow in relation to the chest by grasping the leg through the furnishings.

Feet must point straight ahead. You can check this by noting what direction the nails are pointing.



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Forequarters - Shoulders



FOREQUARTERS - The sloping shoulders are muscled, yet flat and clean. They are well laid back, so that from the side the tips of the shoulder blades are in a nearly vertical line above the elbow. The tips of the blades are placed closely together. They slope forward and downward at an angulation which permits the maximum forward extension of the forelegs without binding or effort. Both the shoulder blades and upper arms are long, permitting depth of chest at the brisket.

This describes a good working dog forequarters structure. This description of the fore and hindquarters could apply to any one of a number of sporting, working, or herding breeds.

Changes in the Standard on the Shoulders

1934 - The Forequarters should have flat, strongly muscled, somewhat sloping shoulders, without the steep-set "terrier front".

1958 - The forequarters have flat, somewhat sloping shoulders and high withers.

1991 - The sloping shoulders are muscled, yet flat and clean. They are well laid back, so that from the side the tips of the shoulder blades are in a nearly vertical line above the elbow. The tips of the blades are placed closely together. They slope forward and downward at an angulation which permits the maximum forward extension of the forelegs without binding or effort. Both the shoulder blades and upper arms are long, permitting depth of chest at the brisket.

The wording was expanded in 1991 to emphasize that the Miniature and Standard have similar forequarters. Similar wording (in red) is in the Standard Schnauzer standard.

Standard Schnauzer: The **sloping shoulder blades** are strongly **muscled**, yet **flat** and **well laid back** so that the rounded upper ends **are in a nearly vertical line above the elbows**. They **slope well forward** to the point where they join the upper arm, forming as nearly as possible a right angle when seen from the side. Such an **angulation permits the maximum forward extension of the forelegs without binding or effort**.

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Forequarters - Feet

Feet - Short and round (cat feet) with thick, black pads. The toes are arched and compact.



When judging, it is important to check for the arch and shape of the toes by feeling under the furnishings.

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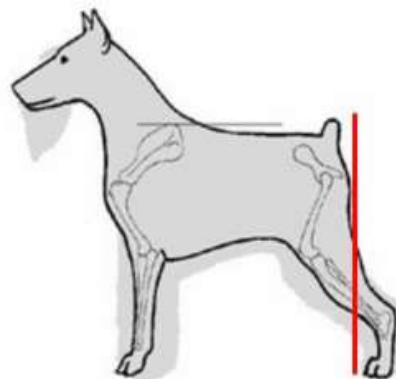
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Hindquarters

HINDQUARTERS - The hindquarters have strong-muscled, slanting thighs. They are well bent at the stifles. There is sufficient angulation so that, in stance, the hocks extend beyond the tail. The hindquarters never appear overbuilt or higher than the shoulders. The rear pasterns are short and, in stance, perpendicular to the ground and, when viewed from the rear, are parallel to each other. Faults - Sickie hocks, cow hocks, open hocks or bowed hindquarters.



Be sure to feel where the hocks actually are in the hair. The hair may make the dog appear overangulated. On the other hand if the dog doesn't have enough angulation, the hair may make it appear just right.

Evaluation of whether the hindquarters appear overbuilt or higher than the shoulders must be made during movement or when a dog is standing naturally, not when hand stacked.

The hindquarters have plenty of strength and muscle without being lumpy.

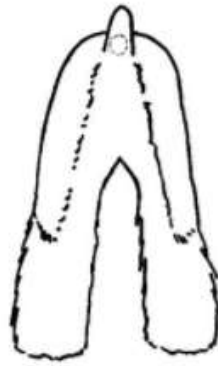
They should have a wide natural stance with good muscling of first and second thighs.



Top View

It is important that the dog's body be substantial all the way through the body to the hindquarters.

Good Rear

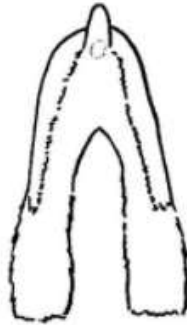


Well-developed rear. Plenty of substance.
Wide stance.



Click the image to see good, wide rear movement

Narrow Rear



Under-developed rear. Not enough substance.



Click the image to see movement with narrow
hindquarters

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Coat

COAT - Double, with hard, wiry, outer coat and close undercoat. The head, neck, ears, chest, tail, and body coat must be plucked. When in show condition, the body coat should be of sufficient length to determine texture. Close covering on neck, ears, and skull. Furnishings are fairly thick but not silky. Faults - Coat too soft or too smooth and slick in appearance.

You must feel good coats to appreciate the texture. Coats are harder the shorter they are and appear to soften slightly as they get longer. Push the hair backwards with your fingers to feel the texture.

In order for the coat to stay in show condition as long as possible, much of the undercoat is removed. You may have to check very carefully to find any, but there will usually be some on the back of the neck.

Stripping



Sectioned Coat

Rolled Coat

The Miniature Schnauzer's coat must be plucked for the show ring. Plucking (also called stripping) means that the long hair on the head, neck, ears, chest, tail, and body must be pulled out - all of it, the hard hair and the undercoat. There are two methods to do this; (1) pulling it out in sections all at once, and (2) once the dog's good coat is in, pulling out the longer hairs so that the hard coat is in several different lengths at one time. For more information on stripping techniques, see the American Miniature Schnauzer Club's Grooming Chart.

Stripping the dog's coat all at once means that the exhibitor cannot show the dog for about 10-11 weeks while the coat is growing in, then the dog is in show coat for a maximum of 8 weeks and then the coat must be stripped again. Because most of the dogs are stripped in sections, they can only be shown for approximately 8 weeks. Exhibitors will try to stretch this time as much as possible, so a judge may have dogs with very short coat and very long coat in the ring at once. As long as the coat is not "blown", where the outline of the dog is obscured by hair and the length of the hairs is so long that texture cannot be determined, the length is of no consequence.

Rolling a coat means pulling out a percentage of the coat all over the stripped areas of the body so that all the hairs on the dog are kept in several different lengths and when one length gets too long it is pulled out and the next longest coat is there underneath. This technique is more difficult, but allows the dog to be shown consistently.

Either method of stripping is equally acceptable and should be of no concern when judging. It is the hardness and texture of the coat that must be checked, along with the thickness of the coat (the amount of hard hairs). You should be able to feel the texture of each hair.

Poor Coat Quality



This coat is very soft. Sometimes hard coats can be wavy, but on this dog, the hairs are thin and soft.

Clipped Coat

When a coat is clipped, the harsher hair tips are cut off and the remaining coat becomes soft and uniformly gray. Below is a clipped coat.



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COLOR - Allowed colors: salt and pepper, black and silver and solid black. All colors have uniform skin pigmentation, i.e. no white or pink skin patches shall appear anywhere on the dog and the nose must be solid black.

Disqualifications - Dogs not of an allowed color or white striping, patching, or spotting on the colored areas of the dog, except for the small white spot permitted on the chest of the black. The body coat color in salt and pepper and black and silver dogs fades out to light gray or silver white under the throat and across the chest. Between them there exists a natural body coat color. Any irregular or connecting blaze or white mark in this section is considered a white patch on the body, which is also a disqualification.

Disqualifications - Nose any color other than solid black.

There are only 3 color patterns in the Miniature Schnauzer. **Any other colors must be disqualified**, as well as any dog with white on the normally colored areas of the dog or a dog without a solid black nose.

Among the pet population, "breeders" are now coming up with "lilacs" and "livers" in addition to parti-colors, mreles, and solid whites. The standard was revised to assure that these colors would be disqualifications.

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Salt and Pepper - The typical salt and pepper color of the topcoat results from the combination of black and white banded hairs and solid black and white unbanded hairs, with the banded hairs predominating. Acceptable are all shades of salt and pepper, from the light to dark mixtures with tan shadings permissible in the banded or unbanded hair of the top.



When the hair is plucked out, the new hair comes in much stronger, thicker, and coarser. As the hair shaft grows, the hair turns thinner and becomes a shade of grey. If you shave the hairs off at this point, the overall look of the dog is one shade of grey and soft and smooth. This is called a clipped coat and is not allowed in the show ring. It is very apparent if a dog has had it's body coat clipped - you can see how the ends of the hairs have been cut by the clippers and the coat is gray and soft.

If a dog comes in the ring in a clipped coat, **it should be excused for lack of merit.** [Click here to see a clipped coat.](#)

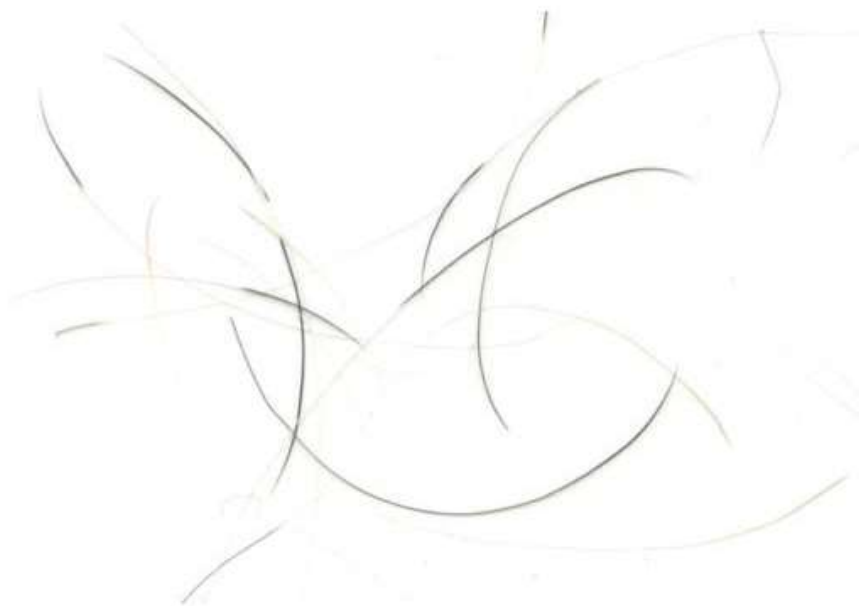
Salt & Pepper Hairs



Above you can see the different colored hairs, below you can see the banding on the hairs.



Below, see how there are a combination of black hairs, white hairs, and banded hairs. The banded hairs are black tipped, then white, then get thinner and turn a gray color.



Salt & Pepper

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The Range of Salt & Pepper Coloring



Many dogs have an acceptable light-colored shoulder "stripe".



The dark stripe down the back is permissible in the Miniature Schnauzer (but not in the Standard Schnauzer).



These photos show acceptable tan shading.



Incorrect Salt & Pepper Coloring



The standard says the banded hairs in the coat predominate over the solid white hairs and solid black hairs. The banding is not predominant on the above dog.

A good rule of thumb is that if you can't tell at first glance whether it's a Salt and Pepper or Black and Silver, it's not correct.

The Wide Variety of Salt & Pepper

There can be a wide variety of acceptable coats. Below is a collage of acceptable Salt and Pepper coats ranging from dark to light. Please look at each picture carefully to appreciate the color variations.





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Colored Areas of the Salt & Pepper Miniature Schnauzer

In salt and pepper dogs, the salt and pepper mixture fades out to light gray or silver white in the eyebrows, whiskers, cheeks, under throat, inside ears, across chest, under tail, leg furnishings, and inside hind legs. It may or may not also fade out on the underbody. However, if so, the lighter underbody hair is not to rise higher on the sides of the body than the front elbows.

inside ears
eyebrows
whiskers
across chest
leg furnishings



cheeks
throat

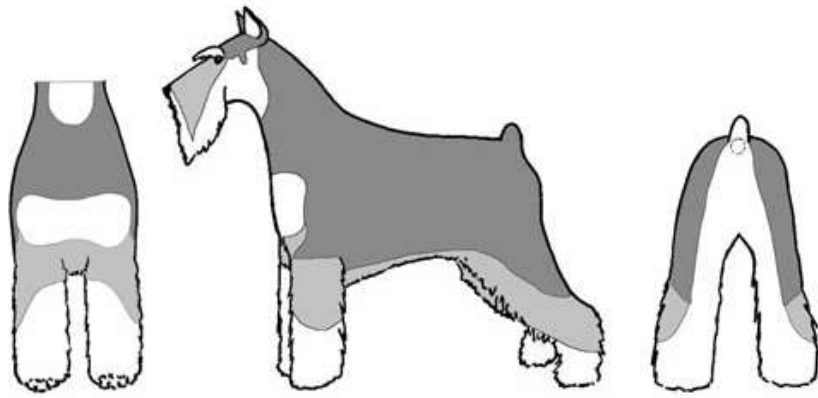
under tail

inside hind legs



Color Pattern in the Salt & Pepper

The dark gray areas on this diagram must be colored any shade of Salt & Pepper from light to dark. If there is a white patch in any of this area, the dog must be **disqualified**. The medium gray areas are usually light to dark gray on most Salt & Pepper dogs, but may also be silver white.



Furnishings

Any amount of dark color is allowed as an overlay on the furnishings. The dog on the left has no dark color in the furnishings. The dog on the right has extensive coloring in the furnishings. Either is acceptable, along with any amount of color between these two.



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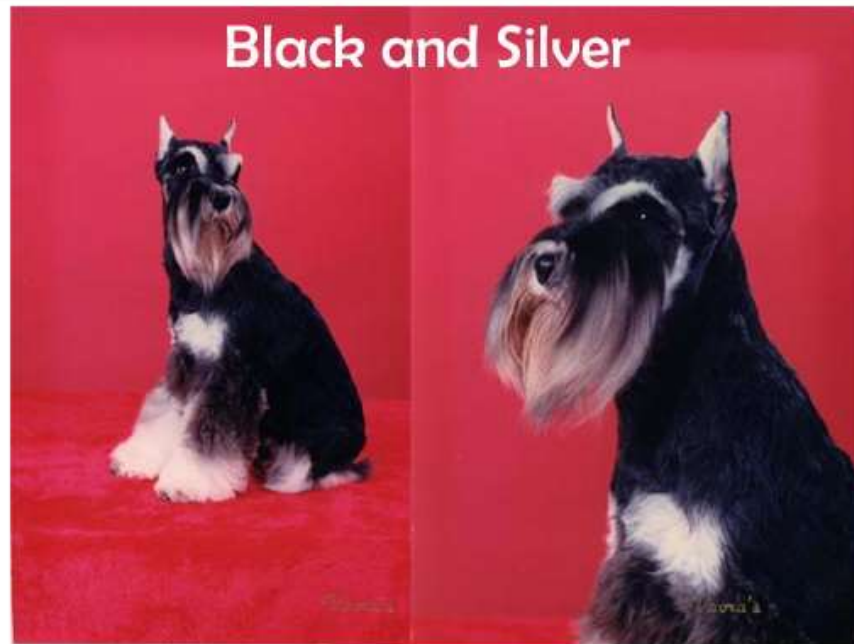
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Black and Silver - The black and silver generally follows the same pattern as the salt and pepper. The entire salt and pepper section must be black. The black color in the topcoat of the black and silver is a true rich color with black undercoat. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge and the underbody should be dark.



The white or silver areas of the dog must be the same as in the Salt & Pepper color, but with the Black & Silver, there are no banded hairs - all the hairs on the stripped areas of the dog are solid black. Occasionally there will be a few banded hairs above the hock joint, but that is the only place. There will also be an occasional white hair in the black coat.

Notice on this dog how shiny the stripped coat is compared to the softer color of the belly and furnishings.

Good Coloring



The hair on the chest, both from the side and from the front, is dark, with the dark hair extending down the sides of both front and rear legs.

Incorrect Coloring



This dog's chest hair is silver, not dark, and the silver extends too far up the legs indicating a light-colored undercoat.

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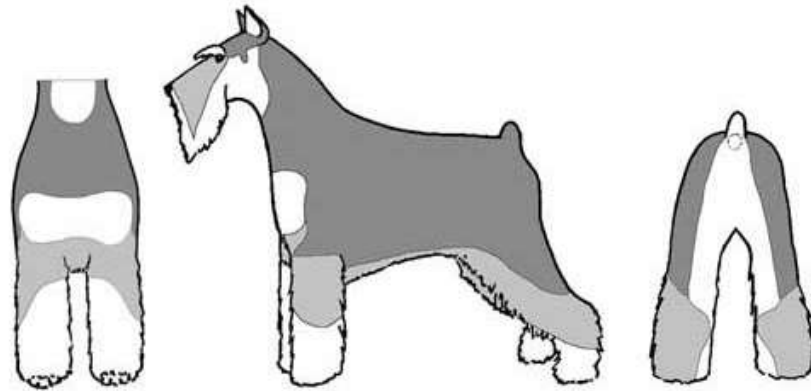
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Color Pattern in the Black & Silver

On the dark gray areas of this diagram, the stripped portions must be black, and the non-stripped portion (chest hair) dark. If there is a white patch in any of this area, the dog must be **disqualified**. If the dog has a proper dark undercoat, the lighter gray areas will also be black or a very dark grey, but not silver.

An interesting note about a marker for the Black and Silver gene. Most dogs who are Black and Silver or carry the Black & Silver gene have a band of white hair just behind the top of the nose. This is acceptable for both Black & Silver and Salt & Peppers. You can see this in the pictures on this and the previous page.



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Black - Black is the only solid color allowed. Ideally, the black color in the topcoat is a true rich glossy color with the undercoat being less intense, a soft matting shade of black. This is natural and should not be penalized in any way. The stripped portion is free from any fading or brown tinge. The scissored and clipped areas have lighter shades of black. A small white spot on the chest is permitted, as is an occasional single white hair elsewhere on the body.



The top coat (stripped coat) is a shiny, glossy black and the body undercoat is a softer, duller or muted color of black. The scissored and clipped areas (ears, cheeks, throat, buttocks, furnishings) will be a softer, duller, muted color but should still be in the shades of black, particularly at the roots of the hair shaft. Sometimes you will see the tips of the beards banded with a few white hairs. This is acceptable as are occasional white hairs throughout the stripped body coat.

The same areas that are stripped on Salt & Peppers or Black & Silvers are also stripped on Blacks, but additional areas may be stripped on the Blacks in order to retain the dark black color. Those areas include the buttocks, cheeks, throat, beard, belly hair and even the leg furnishings.



The throat, blending of neck hair into throat, leg furnishings, buttocks, and the top of the skull seem to be more prone to a dilution of the black color. Many times complete stripping of these areas will not totally eliminate gray or charcoal colored hair from showing through. Repeated scissoring will cause these areas (as in the Salt & Pepper and Black & Silver) to lighten considerably. Complete stripping of the leg hair will darken the hair. However, the cycle begins over again as the hair is scissored to keep it neat.

Note the contrast in the photos between the shiny black stripped coat, and the softer colored furnishings that absorb the light – the “softer, matting shade of black” asked for in the standard.



This dog's furnishings and beard have a brown tinge. This much is not desirable, but a little is to be expected on a black dog.

There should never be any brown tinge on the stripped areas of the coat, however there may be a slight brown tinge that appears on the beard and on the leg furnishings that is oxidation caused by elements of the weather, diet, mineral contents, etc.. **This is a normal situation and should not be cause for any penalty.**

Sometimes deviations from the desired color in the clipped and scissored areas (e.g. belly hair, leg furnishings, beard, etc.) appear as brown, faded or gray. In weighing the seriousness of the deviation, it should be in proportion to the extent of the deviation.

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More on Blacks

Heads

The expression of the Black Miniature Schnauzer tends to be different than the other two colors, because of the lack of color variation and the absorption of light. This is a beautiful headstudy of an excellent Black bitch.



The solid color gives the black Miniature Schnauzer an entirely different expression. Both of these dogs have beautiful heads.



Only the Outline....

Judging the Blacks is more difficult than the other colors because the black color absorbs light and what's left is just the outline. It's especially difficult to see the dogs indoors in poor light, and they tend to fade from view especially compared to their Salt & Pepper competitors. It's important to be sure they don't fade from your consideration because of that.



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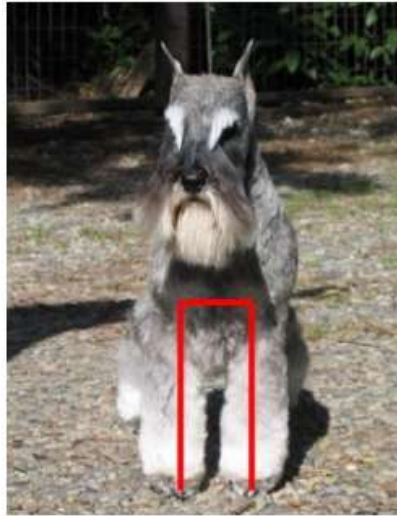
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Gait - Down & Back

GAIT - The trot is the gait at which movement is judged. When approaching, the forelegs, with elbows close to the body, move straight forward, neither too close nor too far apart. Going away, the hind legs are straight and travel in the same planes as the forelegs.

Note - It is generally accepted that when a full trot is achieved, the rear legs continue to move in the same planes as the forelegs, but a very slight inward inclination will occur. It begins at the point of the shoulder in front and at the hip joint in the rear. Viewed from the front or rear, the legs are straight from these points to the pads. The degree of inward inclination is almost imperceptible in a Miniature Schnauzer that has correct movement. It does not justify moving close, toeing in, crossing, or moving out at the elbows.

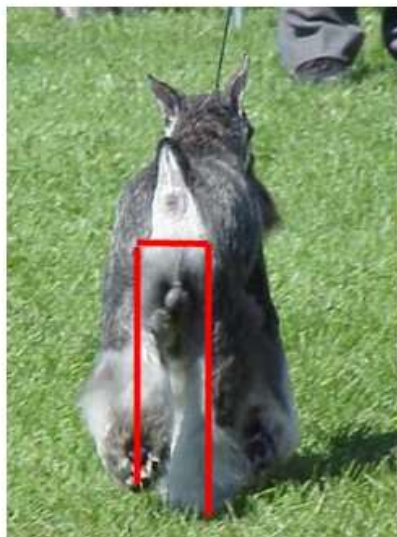


The Miniature Schnauzer double-tracks when moving - that is the front and rear legs stay parallel with each other. Only at greater speeds will the feet tend to converge. This does not mean that wider is better - the front legs should be parallel with each other and the back legs should be parallel to each other.

The appearance of the down-and-back movement is very subject to the artistry and expertise of the groomer. An inexperienced groomer may make the dog look out at the elbows or open or cow-hocked. It is also possible to make a cow-hocked or out-at-the-elbows dog look normal.

When examining the dog on the table, it helps to note the hair length on the legs, especially at the elbows and the hocks, so that you know what you're seeing when they move.

From the rear, look at the location of the pads and their distance apart, not the distance between the hair of each leg.



Video of Gait - Down & Back



Click on the image above to see a video of a good rear.



Click on the image above to see a video of a good front.

Rear Movement with a Dark Overlay

The Black & Silvers and Salt & Peppers can have a black or dark overlay on the hock (rear pastern) that makes it appear that the dog is moving cow-hocked. It is important to look at the pads when the dog is moving away and see how far apart the pads are and how straight they are. The two still photos are of dogs with varying amounts of the overlay. The one on the right will have a tendency to look cowhocked when it moves, but the one on the left will not.



Less Overlay



More Overlay



The video at left is a good example of the illusion that a black overlay creates. This bitch has very good rear movement, but note that on first glance she appears cow hocked.

Gait
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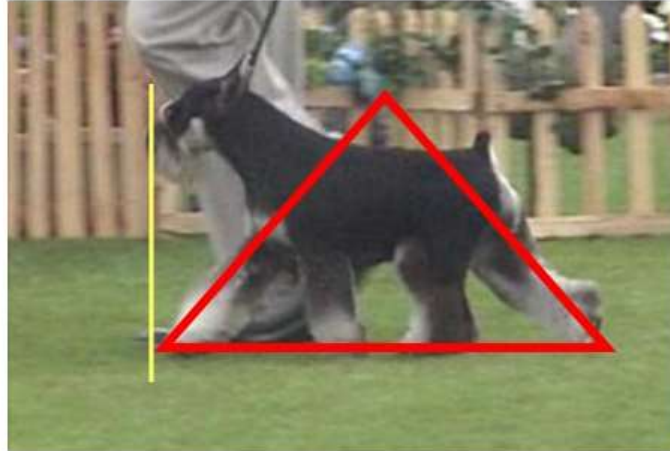
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Gait - Side Movement

Viewed from the side, the forelegs have good reach, while the hind legs have strong drive, with good pickup of hocks. The feet turn neither inward nor outward. Faults - Single tracking, sidegaiting, padding in front, or hackney action. Weak rear action.



A correct moving schnauzer will have the same outline when moving as when standing still, including the sloping topline.

On a dog with good reach and drive, the front leg extends straight out at approximately a 45 degree angle with the toes extending to a vertical line drawn down from the tip of the nose. The rear leg is 45 degrees the opposite direction.

Many Miniature Schnauzer groomers leave extra hair at the hock joint to show more angulation when standing, than the dog actually has. This effect makes the dog look sickle-hocked when moving from the side. Please check the length of the hair at the hock joint before watching the dog move from the side and take that grooming item into account when judging the side movement. This dog has good drive, but has the extra hair at the hock joint. On the other hand, there are sickle-hocked Miniature Schnauzers, and you must learn to distinguish between the grooming and the movement. If you're not sure what is meant by sickle-hocked, refer to a textbook on dog movement.



Good Movement



All of these dogs have good side movement. Click on the image to see the video.

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Temperament

TEMPERAMENT - The typical Miniature Schnauzer is alert and spirited, yet obedient to command. He is friendly, intelligent and willing to please. He should never be overaggressive or timid.

The Miniature Schnauzer makes a happy, loving companion and wonderful pet for any type of situation. They love children when raised with them, and are also content with an active or a sedate family. The most important thing in their lives are their people and food in that order (mostly).



See Schnauzers (pictures and video) in their other lives

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Obedience Trials test a dog's ability to perform a prescribed set of exercises. The best part of watching a trial is to see the close bond that has developed between the dog and handler. Their total concentration on the task at hand gives way to the sheer delight of accomplishment that can be seen on the faces of both - and in the wag of a tail.

Obedience trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of a dog as a companion to man. The basic objective of obedience trials is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of others.



Obedience Videos

Click on one of the images to see a video.



Heel off Lead
Drop on Recall



Hand Signals



Recall

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Miniature Schnauzers do very well in the agility ring. Agility is the ultimate game for you and your dog and one of the most exciting canine sports for spectators. In agility, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course. The course has jumps, tunnels, weave poles, and other obstacles. The dog and handler strive to have a "clean run" with the fastest time at a particular jump height.

Agility strengthens the bond between dogs and handlers, it is extremely fun, and it provides vigorous exercise for both! Agility began in England in 1978. Agility is now the fastest growing dog sport in the United States.



Video of Agility Runs



Click on the image to see the video of a full run.

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Even though Miniature Schnauzers were not bred to go after game underground, they are allowed to compete with the other terriers in earthdog trials. Earthdog Tests are a non-competitive program beginning with a basic introduction to den work and quarry, and progressing through gradual steps that require the dog to demonstrate that it is capable of being trained to follow game to ground and work its quarry.

These timed tests are designed to help evaluate a dog's natural abilities, using a pass/fail scoring system. The AKC requires two passing scores in Junior Earthdog, three in Senior Earthdog, and four in Master Earthdog. The dog must be capable of getting through a 9" x 9" wooden liner, which is buried underground, over a scent trail which leads to caged rats at the end.

The den for the Junior Earthdog Test provides a tunnel approximately 30 feet in length, with three 90 degree turns. The dog has thirty seconds in which to reach the quarry, and then he must work it for one full minute. Working the quarry is defined as digging, barking, growling, lunging, or biting at the quarry. At the end of 60 seconds, the top of the liner is removed and the dog is lifted out of the tunnel.

The Senior and Master get progressively more difficult with more skills needed.





Earthdog Videos

The dog is to run to the tunnel, go through it, then bark at the quarry at the end of the tunnel. In these videos, the trap door for retrieving the dog is opened so that you can see the dog working. In actual earthdog trials, the dog works in the dark.



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The purpose of a tracking test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind.

Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, noncompetitive outdoor sport. Tracking tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved.

Miniature Schnauzers do very well in tracking. By clicking on the image above, you can follow Chrissy on a track. She is following a human scent laid down by someone walking through the grass. She is not just randomly looking for objects. The objects are left as the person lays the track.

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Disqualifications

DISQUALIFICATIONS -

Dogs or bitches under 12 inches or over 14 inches.

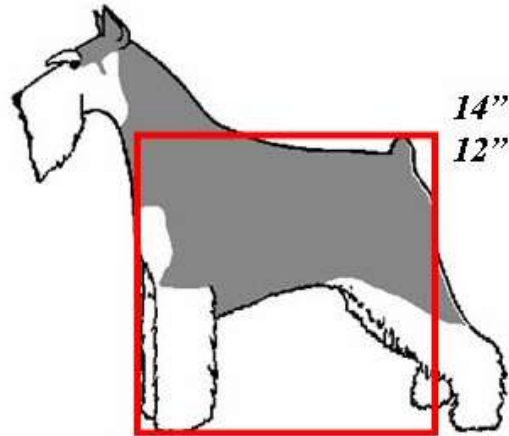
Dogs not of an allowed color or white striping, patching, or spotting on the colored areas of the dog, except for the small white spot permitted on the chest of the black. The body coat color in salt and pepper and black and silver fades out to light gray or silver white under the throat and across the chest. Between them there exists a natural body coat color. Any irregular or connecting blaze or white mark in this section is considered a white patch on the body, which is also a disqualification.

Nose any color other than solid black.

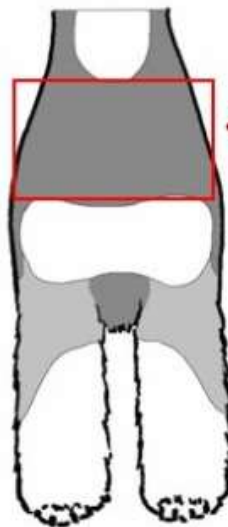
There are 4 disqualifications in the Miniature Schnauzer:

1. Height
2. White on the colored areas of the dog (except a small white spot the chest of a black)
3. Dogs not of an allowed color
4. Nose is not solid black

This diagram may help you remember the first two.



White patch on the forechest



There must be no solid white areas within the red square above.

This dog has a white patch in the area that must be colored.



White patches can occur on other places on the body. This dog has a white patch on his back and a blaze up his forehead.



Acceptable Markings:

Do not confuse very light tan shadings on the shoulder and neck in the salt & pepper coat as white markings.

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Click on the above image to see a demonstration of going over a dog.

The Miniature Schnauzer should be examined on the table, but judged on the ground. You can check earset on the table, but ear carriage on the ground, tailset on the table, and tail carriage on the ground.

Miniature Schnauzer exhibitors are masterful groomers, and it is up to the judge to find where corrections have been made before the dog gaits.

Check the color of the hairs for proper ratio of banded hairs (on Salt & Peppers). The best quality hair will be along the topline. Pushing the hair backwards will tell you how harsh the hair is.

While examining the dog, look at the dog from on top to make sure of proper width of body throughout, with a slight indentation at the loins. Check for muscling of both upper and lower thighs.

Don't be afraid to mess up the hair to see a particular feature of the dog. The exhibitor will fix it before moving their dog.

Script from the Video:

Approach the dog from the front and look at the expression and proper proportion of the head. Check the earset. Lift the eyebrows to check for the color of the eyes. Check the bite, the amount of stop, and the strength of the muzzle.

Go over the shoulders and the forequarters. Check for bone strength and the return of upper arm. Check the feet for size and arch of toes. Check the shoulder layback. Check the quality of the hair.

Check the tailset. Check for muscling of the hindquarters, presence of both testicles, and the location of the hocks in the furnishings.

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How to Measure



Click image for video on the techniques of measuring a dog for being over 14"

Measuring for Oversize

Inform the exhibitor that you are going to measure their dog when you have the dog on the exam table. Ask your steward to call for the wicket to be brought to your ring. Usually you will have the dog wait on the exam table until the wicket arrives, but if it takes very long you can have the exhibitor wait off to the side of the ring while you continue to examine the rest of the dogs in that class. When the wicket arrives at your ring, have the exhibitor place the dog on the table.

Ask the exhibitor to set up their dog in a natural stance with front legs and hocks perpendicular to the ground. Be sure that the dog is in the middle of the exam table so both legs of the wicket will be on the table.

If the dog has a lot of coat, you may part the coat to make sure you are measuring the dog's actual height. The actual location of the measuring point will vary greatly depending on the dog's shoulder layback.

The dog measures in if both legs of the wicket touch the table. The judge must mark in their book that the dog was measured and whether it was "in" or "out".

See Chapter 14 of the the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* for additional information on measuring.



Click image for video on the techniques for measuring a dog for being under 12"

Measuring for Undersize

The procedure is the same up to the point of placing the wicket on the dog. If the dog is in size, at least one leg of the wicket will not touch the table.

It is not unusual for dogs to shrink a little when they feel the wicket on their shoulders. In this case especially, rest the wicket very lightly on the shoulders and quickly examine both legs of the wicket to assure at least one is off the table. If the wicket is resting on the highest point of the shoulders and the legs just touch the table, the dog is in size (12"). If the legs touch the table and are not resting on the highest point of the shoulders, the dog is under 12". Quickly check both wicket legs and whether the top touches the shoulders and declare the dog "in" or "out".

The 12" measurement is more difficult than the 14".

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[Sparring](#)



The purpose for sparring, and the only reason the Miniature Schnauzer should be sparred, is to give the dogs a chance to show off for other dogs and in doing so, make themselves look really nice. This can work very well for dogs who have not wanted to hold themselves together in the individual exam, and can be used as an aid in determining placement of dogs of similar quality.

Both dogs and bitches may be expected to spar. Sometimes bitches or puppies may not spar effectively, but adult males should be willing to spar, to posture with other males. It is part of their temperament to think they are better than any other dog. Sparring does not mean trying to fight with the other dog(s) in the ring.



Technique

When sparring any terrier, never bring more than 3 out into the center of the ring. Instruct the handlers to let the dogs look at each other, but not get too close. If one of the dogs gets overaggressive, make sure the handlers separate the dogs. Be firm with the handlers and don't let one take advantage of another. Never leave the dogs together for very long - time will work against you - the dogs will either get bored or will lose their cool and try to take on another dog.

What the judge gets out of sparring the dogs is a look at how the dog holds himself without help of the handler. Sometimes a gawky puppy can look wonderful when he tenses himself up to show off to another dog, or an inexperienced handler makes the dog look bad and this is a chance for the dog to do it on his own. If you do have an inexperienced handler in the ring, keep an extra eye on them during the sparring that they're either not being taken advantage of (e.g. covered up by another dog) or that they're not endangering their or others' dogs by not having their dog under control.

The best time to spar is when the judge has gone over the dogs and is deciding between 2 or 3 for the top placements. Sparring two dogs of similar quality can help the judge decide which one should be placed over the other.

Sparring is a technique not to be used by judges inexperienced with the procedure. Please be cautious, and do it for the right reasons.

As a handler, remember it is not a contest to see who has the most aggressive dog. Some of the best dogs at sparring can do it several feet away from the closest dog. And it's a beautiful sight.

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Quiz

This quiz will test your knowledge of the standard and information presented on this CD. There are 4 parts to the quiz covering different parts of the standard.

Each part of the quiz is scored independently and is calculated at the end of each question. You have the option of seeing all the questions in one part at the same time, or only one at a time.

How the Quiz is Scored

On each question, one "wrong try" is recorded for each time you make a guess, until you hit the correct answer. Thus for Question 1, if you hit a wrong answer once, then a right answer, you have one wrong try. You also lose points for checking an answer which turns out to be wrong. Once you get the correct answer for any given question, a score for that question is calculated and stored; that score is based on the number of possible wrong answers and the number of wrong tries. The score overall is calculated by totalling the scores for all the questions that have been answered so far, and turning the result into a percentage.

Once you get a multiple-choice question right, you're at liberty to hit all the wrong answers without any tries being recorded, so that you can investigate other answers without penalty. This can be the source of some confusion; if you get a right answer first time on any question, no more tries are recorded for that question, and therefore no "marks" appear when you click on an answer; however, the correct feedback is shown.

Your final score includes all penalties previously incurred.
Here's an example:

- a) There are five items. You make your selections, and check your answer.
- b) One of your items is wrong, so you incur one penalty point for a Check with a wrong answer.
- c) You correct your mistake, and check again. Your final score is:

5 correct out of 5, minus one penalty point for your incorrect check, which is $4 / 5 \Rightarrow 80\%$.

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Part 1, General

Show all questions

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What are the two different styles that the Miniature Schnauzer is to look similar to?

- a. Affenpinscher
- b. Terrier
- c. Toy
- d. Giant Schnauzer
- e. Standard Schnauzer

Check

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Part 2, Head

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What color are the eyes?

- A. brown
- B. dark brown
- C. black
- D. hazel

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Part 3, Body and Structure

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The body is

- A. short and thick
- B. moderate and thick
- C. moderate in length
- D. short and deep

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Part 4, Coat and Color

Show all questions

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The coat is

- A. double
- B. double and wavy
- C. single on the legs
- D. none of the above

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Answers to All Quiz Questions

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
1. b and e	1. b	1. d	1. a
2. c	2. a	2. c	2. a
3. yes to both	3. d	3. d	3. d
4. c	4. c	4. a	4. b
5. c	5. c	5. d	5. d
6. d	6. d	6. d	6. a
7. a	7. b	7. d	7. a
8. c	8. b	8. b	8. d
9. d	9. c	9. c	9. b
10. b	10. a	10. d	10. d
11. b	11. d	11. c	11. c
12. c	12. a	12. d	12. all
	13. d	13. b	13. d
	14. c	14. d	14. c

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Gallery of Good Dogs

Use the following two pages to help set your vision of the ideal Miniature Schnauzer. There are two pages of good Miniature Schnauzers, one for dogs and one for bitches. The standard is the same, but bitches are more feminine. Your ideal should vary slightly between the sexes.

The pictures in this section are excellent examples of good Miniature Schnauzers who are no longer being shown. Only the best pictures were used in order for you to set your "eye" for the ideal dogs in the breed. Many other good dogs appear elsewhere in this site, and some are duplicated here because the picture is worth repeating.



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Gallery of Good Bitches



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Terms and Definitions

Click on the letter at the beginning of a letter group to go to that group of letters. In other words, if you're looking for the definition of "outer coat", find the word, then click on the letter "O".

A	Alert	Head	Silky (furnishings)
B	Backline	Height	Single tracking
	Banded hairs	High on the skull	Skull
	Base of tail	Hindquarters	Slanting (thighs)
	Bell (cropped ears)	Hollow back	Sloping (shoulders)
	Binding (front movement)	I	Solid White
	Bitch	Intense	Spirited
	Body	J	Stifle
	Body coat	K	Stop
	Body length	Keen	Stripped
	Bowed hindquarters	L	Strong drive
	Brisket	Level bite	Sturdily (built)
	Brown tinge	Loin	Substance
	Butterfly	Long (upper arm)	I
	Buttocks	M	Tail
C	Carried erect (tail)	Maximum forward extension	Tail set
	Cat feet	Movement	Tail carriage
	Cheeky (head)	Moving close	Temperament
	Chest	Muzzle	Texture (coat)
	Clean (shoulders)	N	Thick (furnishings)
	Clipped	Neck	Thighs
	Close (undercoat)	O	Throat
	Closely together (blades)	Obedient	Timid
	Coarse (head)	Open hocks	Toeing in
	Coarseness	Out at the elbows	Too low (tail set)
	Coat	Outer coat	Too smooth and slick (coat)
	Cow hocks	Oval	Too soft (coat)
	Cropped	Overaggressive	Topcoat
	Crossing (over)	Overbuilt (hindquarters)	Topline
D	Deep (body)	Overshot jaw	Topskull
	Deep (ribs)	P	Toyishness
	Disqualification	Padding in front	Travel in the same planes
	Docked (tail)	Parallel	Trot
	Dog	Pastern	Tucked up (flank)
	Double (coat)	Perpendicularly	U
E	Ear	Pickup of hocks	Unbanded hairs
	Elbows	Pinched front	Uncropped
	Eyebrows	Plucked	Underbody
F	Feet	Point of shoulder	Undercoat
	Flank	Proportion	Undershot jaw
	Flat (shoulders)	Q	Uniform skin pigmentation
	Forechest	R	Upper arm
	Foreface	Ranginess	V
	Forehead	Reach	W
	Forelegs	Rear pastern	Weak rear action
	Forequarters	Ribs	Well laid back (shoulders)
	Furnishings	Roach back	Well-arched neck
G	Gait	Robust	Well-bent (stifle)
	Good bone	S	Well-sprung (ribs)
	Good reach	Scissored	Whiskers
H	Hackney action	Scissors bite	Wiry (coat)
	Hard (coat)	Set high (tail)	Withers
		Short (body)	X
		Short (loin)	Y
		Short (rear pastern)	Z
		Shoulder blade	
		Shoulders	
		Sickle hocks	
		Sidegaiting	

Definitions

Term	Definition
Alert	Watchful; vigilant; ready; brisk, lively. (Webster) Back to top
Backline	That portion of the entire topline of a dog, beginning at the rear end of the withers and ending at the tail. (Spira) Back to top
Banded hairs	A type of hair evident only in the hard, wiry, outer coat. As the hair grows out it changes color so that the hair itself is multi-colored, usually starting with a black tip and changing to white and then to gray. Back to top
Base of tail	The beginning of the final portion of the spine that is composed of caudal or coccygeal vertebrae where the tail joins the sacral region near the end of the croup. (Spira) Back to top

Bell (cropped ears)	The outer portion (the side), near the base, of the ear after being cropped. Back to top
Binding (front movement)	The interference of the chest with the movement of the shoulder and upper arm. Back to top
Bitch	A female of the canine species. (Spira) Back to top
Body	The anatomical section between the fore- and hindquarters. It consists of the chest in front and the abdomen at the rear. The body's upper portion is made up of the thoracic and lumbar sections of the spine. Below, it is enclosed by the sternum and muscular abdominal floor. (Spira) Back to top
Body coat	The coat growing on the areas of the body that is stripped. Back to top
Body length	The distance from the prosternum (anterior portion of the breadbone) to the posterior portion of the pelvic girdle. (AKC) Back to top
Bowed hindquarters	Hocks that turn out, causing the feet to toe in. (Barrel hocks) (AKC) Back to top
Brisket	Mostly taken as a synonym for breastbone or sternum. (Spira) Back to top
Brown tinge	A brownish color to black hair, usually caused by oxidation. Back to top
Butterfly	In the Salt & Pepper and Black & Silver Miniature Schnauzers, the normally light-colored area of the forechest above the front legs. Back to top
Buttocks	The muscular area surrounding the ischiatic tubers of the pelvis. Above, the buttocks merge into the croup, whilst below they blend with the upper thigh region. (AMSC note: Used for measuring the length of the body.) (Spira) Back to top
Carried erect (tail)	Carried upwards, perpendicular to the backline of the dog. Back to top
Cat feet	Round, compact foot with well-arched toes, tightly bunched or close-cupped, the two center toes being only slightly longer than those on the outside or inside. The impression left by such a foot is round, in contrast to oval. (Spira) Back to top
Cheeky (head)	Dogs with bulging, bumpy, or overdeveloped cheek muscles, at time in concert with coarse bone. (Spira) Back to top
Chest	The part of the body or trunk that is enclosed by the ribs; the thoracic cavity. (AKC) Back to top
Clean (shoulders)	Not prominent shoulders. Used to describe a set of shoulder blades sufficiently well covered with muscle on their outer surfaces as well as over the withers region to hide all bony prominences and yet not appear bulging. (Spira) Back to top
Clipped	Hair that is cut off with electric clipping shears is said to have been "clipped". Back to top
Close (undercoat)	A short undercoat, held tight to the body. Back to top
Closely together (blades)	The distance between the tips of the shoulder blades. Back to top
Coarse (head)	Usually a head broader than the ideal, its outline spoiled by excessive lumpy bone and/or muscle. (Spira) Back to top
Coarseness	Applied to overall construction, and especially bone, head and/or muscle properties, meaning lack of refinement, heavier, plainer, larger or clumsier physique than desirable. (Spira) Back to top
Coat	The hairy outer covering of the skin. (Spira) Back to top
Cow hocks	Hocks turning in, accompanied by toeing out of the rear feet. (AKC) Back to top
Cropped	The surgical removal of a portion of the ear cartilage. The origin of ear cropping dates back to problems encountered by owners of working dogs in Europe in early times. Ear cropping was carried out ...to prevent or at least to minimize injuries caused by fighting natural enemies preying upon flocks and herds and/or harsh working conditions. (Spira) Back to top
Crossing (over)	An abnormality of gait, seen in either fore- or hindquarter movement and at times, in both, in which the feet, when extended, cross over in front of one another as well as over an imaginary center line drawn under the body. (Spira) Back to top
Deep (body)	A lot of distance between the top and bottom (vertically) of the chest and loin (throughout the body). Back to top
Deep (ribs)	Depth of (ribs) chest is measured from the withers to the lowest point of the sternum. A deep chest refers to one that descends at least to the point of the elbow. (Spira) Back to top
Disqualification	An undesirable feature of a dog that makes it ineligible for any further competition under the standard for its breed. (AKC) Back to top
Docked (tail)	A tail from which a portion has been removed, usually by surgical means, at four to five days of age. (Spira) Back to top

Dog	A male dog; also collectively to designate both male and female. (AKC) Back to top
Double (coat)	An outer coat resistant to weather and protective against brush and brambles, together with an inner coat of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing. (AKC) Back to top
Ear	The auditory organ consisting of three regions: inner ear, middle ear, and the pinna (or leather), which is supported by cartilage and which affects the expression of all breeds. (AKC) Back to top
Elbows	The joint in the front leg where upper arm (humerus) meets the forearm (radius/ulna). (AKC) Back to top
Eyebrows	The skin and hair above the eyes, covering the projecting superciliary ridges or supraorbital processes of the skull's frontal bones. (Spira) Back to top
Feet	The digits or toes, each consisting of three bones (phalanges) and a toenail or claw. The ventral surface is cushioned by pads of connective tissue. (AKC) Back to top
Flank	The side of the body between the last rib and the hip. (AKC) Back to top
Flat (shoulders)	Shoulders that are not bulging. Back to top
Forechest	A part of the chest assembly in front of the forelegs. (AKC) Back to top
Foreface	That portion of the skull in front of the brain case; also referred to as the muzzle. (Spira) Back to top
Forehead	The area on the top of the skull between the ears and from stop to occiput. Back to top
Forelegs	The front legs from the elbows to the feet. Back to top
Forequarters	The combined front assembly from its uppermost component, the shoulder blade, right down to the feet. (Spira) Back to top
Furnishings	The desirable abundance of coat at the extremities of some breeds. (AMSC note: the hair on the forelegs and hindlegs.) (Spira) Back to top
Gait	The pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed, each pattern distinguished by a particular rhythm or footfall. (AKC) Back to top
Good bone	The thickness of the leg bones. Not thin bones, nor heavy bone. Back to top
Good reach	A reference to the distance covered with each stride, i.e., a dog said to have plenty of reach is one with maximal stride length. (Spira) Back to top
Hackney action	A high lifting of the front feet accompanied by flexing of the wrist like that of a hackney horse. (AKC) Back to top
Hard (coat)	A coarse outer coat. The hairs should resist when being brushed backwards or bent. Back to top
Head	The frontmost part of the canine skeleton, joining at its base to the first cervical vertebra. The term 'head' is generally taken to include all the structures surrounding and incorporated within the bony framework of the skull. (Spira) Back to top
Height	Correctly measured as the distance from the withers to the ground when the animal is standing normally. (Spira) Back to top
High on the skull	High set ears: the origin of which is near the top of the skull, or at least above eye level. (Spira) Back to top
Hindquarters	The rear assembly of the dog (pelvis, thighs, hocks, pasterns and rear feet). (AKC) Back to top
Hollow back	A back that sags or is concave to some degree along its entire length. (Spira) Back to top
Intense	existing in a high degree; very strong. (Webster) Back to top
Keen	Sharp, cutting, piercing, penetrating. (Webster) Back to top
Level bite	When the front teeth (incisors) of the upper and lower jaws meet exactly edge to edge; pincher bite. (AKC) Back to top
Loin	The lumbar area, extending from the end of the rib cage to the start of the pelvis. (Spira) Back to top
Long (upper arm)	A condition where the length of the humerus (upper arm) from point of shoulder to elbow approximates the length of the shoulder blade (scapula) from point of shoulder to tip of blade. Back to top
Maximum forward extension	See Good Reach . Back to top
Movement	See Gait . Back to top
Moving close	From the rear, moving with the rear pasterns parallel but too close together. Back to top

Muzzle	That portion of the skull in front of the brain case, comprising the forward portions of both upper and lower jaws. (Spira) Back to top
Neck	That section of the body between the head and shoulder region, beginning at the nape and ending at the neck/shoulder junction or 'blend-in'. (Spira) Back to top
Obedient	Submissive to authority; yielding willingly to commands, orders or injunctions; performing what is required, or abstaining from that which is forbidden. (Webster) Back to top
Open hocks	Hocks that turn out, causing the feet to toe in. Also called barrel hocks. (AKC) Back to top
Out at the elbows	Under normal circumstances, a dog's elbows, when standing naturally, are in relatively close proximity to the adjoining chest wall, i.e., well held in, but not so tightly as to restrict movement. An animal in which one or both elbows drift some distance away from the chest wall is referred to as 'out in elbow or elbows'. (Spira) Back to top
Outer coat	In a double-coated dog, the longer, harsher coat as opposed to the short, dense, undercoat. Also known as topcoat. Back to top
Oval	An elliptical eyelid aperture appreciably longer than high, with contours and corners gently rounded rather than angular. (Spira) Back to top
Overaggressive	Too aggressive towards other dogs or people, uncontrollable. Back to top
Overbuilt (hindquarters)	An excess of muscle or fat over the croup and upper thighs so that the hindquarters appear higher than the withers. Back to top
Overshot jaw	A receding, often weakly constructed lower jaw. In this form of bite the lower incisors are situated some distance behind their upper counterparts; hence no physical contact takes place between their outer surfaces and the inner ones of the upper incisors. (Spira) Back to top
Padding in front	A gaiting fault, so named for its similarity to the swing and dip of a canoeist's paddle. Pinching in at the elbows and shoulder joints causes the front legs to swing forward in a stiff outward arc. (AKC) Back to top
Parallel	Extending in the same direction and at the same distance apart at every point so as never to meet. (Webster) Back to top
Pastern	The metacarpus, i.e., the region between the carpus (wrist) above, and the digits (foot) below. (Spira) Back to top
Perpendicularly	Exactly upright; vertical; straight up or down. (Webster) Back to top
Pickup of hocks	At a trot, the distance the hock joint moves in moving the rear pastern and driving the body forward. Back to top
Pinched front	Also known as narrow front. Usually taken as a front in which the forearms, when seen head on, stand closer to one another than desirable. (Spira) Back to top
Plucked	Pulling the hair out of the hair follicle rather than cutting it off with scissors or clippers. This causes the new hairs to come in harsh and coarse which better protects the dog. Also called 'stripped'. Back to top
Point of shoulder	A joint in the forequarters formed by the articulation of the shoulder blade (scapula) and upper arm (humerus). Back to top
Proportion	The comparative relation between parts or things with respect to size, amount, quantity. A harmonious relationship between parts of things; balance or symmetry. (Webster) Back to top
Ranginess	Tall, long in body, often lightly-framed and high on leg. (Spira) Back to top
Reach	A reference to the distance covered with each stride, i.e., a dog said to have plenty of reach or lots of reach is one with maximal stride length. (Spira) Back to top
Rear pastern	That section between the hock joint above and the foot below. Often incorrectly termed the 'hock'. (Spira) Back to top
Ribs	The series of flat, narrow, elongated bones forming the chest wall. (Spira) Back to top
Roach back	A back that is arched or convex to some degree and/or extent along the back, but does not include the loin area. (Spira) Back to top
Robust	Having or exhibiting sound health or great strength; strong; vigorous; also, strongly built, sturdy, muscular. (Webster) Back to top
Scissored	A portion of the dog's coat that has been cut using scissors. Back to top
Scissors bite	A bite in which the outer surfaces of the lower incisor teeth engage with the inner surfaces of the upper incisors when the mouth is shut. (Spira) Back to top
Set high (tail)	A tail set on at a level with the topline, i.e. without a marked drop of croup. (Spira) Back to top

Short (body)	Appearing short in total body length from prosternum to point of buttocks, due to a short loin and in comparison to the overall depth of the body and length of leg. Back to top
Short (loin)	The portion of the body from the last rib cage to the frontal point of the pelvis appearing to be a small portion of the total length of the body. Back to top
Short (rear pastern)	Rear pasterns constructed and angulated in such a manner that the distance from point of hock to ground is correct for the breed. Also known as 'well let down hocks'. (Spira) Back to top
Shoulder blade	A relatively large, flat, triangular bone, its highest part, the base, lying just a short distance below the levels of the first and second thoracic vertebral spines. (Spira) Back to top
Shoulders	The top section of the fore leg, extending from the withers above, to the elbow, including the upper arm. (Spira) Back to top
Sickle hocks	The inability to straighten the hock joint on the backward reach of the hind leg. Hocks that cannot be perpendicular to the ground when the dog is standing. (AKC) Back to top
Sidegaiting	When a dog moves with his body at an angle to the line of travel. Also referred to as sidewinding or crabbing. (AKC) Back to top
Silky (furnishings)	Furnishings that don't have a much body and lay flat. Back to top
Single tracking	In normal canine movement, irrespective of breed (but more readily observed in the taller varieties) the tendency is for the legs to incline more and more under the body as the speed increases. Eventually, the paws, as seen by their imprints, come to travel in a single line. (Spira) Back to top
Skull	The bony components of the head, including the brain case (also called topskull) and foreface. (Spira) Back to top
Slanting (thighs)	Correctly sloping thighs of a good length for efficient movement. Back to top
Sloping (shoulders)	Also known as 'well laid back shoulders'. A reference to shoulder blades, the longitudinal axes of which form an angle of approximately 45 ° with the horizontal and which, in consequence thereof, angulate at around 90 ° with their respective upper arms. (Spira) Back to top
Solid White	A coat or patch of coat with only all-white hairs. Back to top
Spirited	Full of spirit; lively; vigorous; energetic; animated. (Webster) Back to top
Stifle	A joint in the hind leg, formed by the articulation of upper and lower thighs. Also known as the knee joint. (Spira) Back to top
Stop	A depression or step down in the topline of the head, situated almost centrally between the eyes, at the junction of the frontal bones of the skull with those of the upper jaw. (Spira) Back to top
Stripped	Pulling the hair out of the hair follicle rather than cutting it off with scissors or clippers. This causes the new hairs to come in harsh and coarse which better protects the dog. Also called 'plucked'. Back to top
Strong drive	Used to describe hindquarter propulsion. Dogs with powerful rear action are sometimes referred to as having 'plenty of drive'. (Spira) Back to top
Sturdily (built)	In a sturdy manner. Strong; vigorous; stout; hardy. (Webster) Back to top
Substance	Used in reference to bone, particularly leg bone, i.e., a dog with heavy substance is one well-developed in bone size, strength, and density as related to overall structure and strength. (Spira) Back to top
Tail	The tail is the final portion of the spine, composed of caudal or coccygeal vertebrae. (Spira) Back to top
Tail set	How the base of the tail sets on the rump; level tail set (level with the back), low tail set (goose rump; dip at base of tail). (Brown & Gilbert) Back to top
Tail carriage	The manner of tail deportment, it can be gay, dropped, horizontal, etc., according to the requirements of individual breed standards. (Spira) Back to top
Temperament	Frame of mind; disposition; nature. (Webster) Back to top
Texture (coat)	The harshness or softness of the coat. Back to top
Thick (furnishings)	Thick furnishings will stand out away from the legs. Back to top
Thighs	The anatomical region between the hip joint and the stifle below. The lower thigh is the muscular region between stifle and hock joints. (Spira) Back to top
Throat	The under portion of the neck, i.e., the opposite side to the crest, especially near the head junction. (Spira) Back to top

Timid	Easily frightened; lacking self-confidence; shy; timorous. (Webster) Back to top
Toeing in	Forefeet rotated in towards each other and the center line instead of being in direct continuation with the line of the pastern. It may take place when standing, moving or both. It may affect only the feet or involve the pastern also. (Spira) Back to top
Too low (tail set)	A tail arising from a sloping croup and/or from a point lower than the topline. (Spira) Back to top
Too smooth and slick (coat)	Like a smooth Dachshund. Back to top
Too soft (coat)	Very little texture to the coat. Each hair can be bend easily, and is not protective. Back to top
Topcoat	In a double-coated dog, the longer, harsher coat as opposed to the short, dense, undercoat. Also known as outer coat. Back to top
Topline	Normally taken as a dog's entire upper outline seen in profile, starting at the ears and ending at the tail. (Spira) Back to top
Topskull	The roof of the brain case of the skull. Also known as crown. (Spira) Back to top
Toyishness	Fine-boned, without substance. Back to top
Travel in the same planes	When the front leg and rear leg on the same side follow each other so that front and rear footprints on each side of the dog are the same distance from the centerline of travel. In other words, the front legs, when parallel, must be the same distance apart as the rear legs when parallel. Back to top
Trot	A two-time gait, but of diagonal sequence, i.e. the right front foot and the left hind foot are on the ground at one time, while the left front foot and right rear foot are in the air. (Spira) Back to top
Tucked up (flank)	The appearance produced by the abdomen's underline as it sweeps upwards into the flank and/or hindquarters region. (Spira) (AMSC: the Miniature Schnauzer does not have a tucked up flank.) Back to top
Unbanded hairs	Composed of hairs of all one color - one uniform color per hair shaft. Back to top
Uncropped	A dog whose ears have not been cropped. Back to top
Underbody	The underline or bottom line; the line formed from behind the elbows along the brisket and belly or abdominal floor to the hindquarters; lower line of brisket and loin. (Brown & Gilbert) Back to top
Undercoat	In a double-coated dog, the short, soft, dense hairs that act as insulation. Back to top
Undershot jaw	An underjaw appreciably longer than the upper one resulting in a bite which the lower incisors erupt well in front of those in the upper jaw. (Spira) (AMSC note: in this context it also means a reverse scissors bite - one in which the lower jaw is somewhat longer than the upper one, causing the lower incisors to be positioned slightly in front of their upper counterparts.) Back to top
Uniform skin pigmentation	In the Miniature Schnauzer, some color to the skin, without patches of pink skin (where white hair would grow). Back to top
Upper arm	The humerus or that area from the point of shoulder to the elbow. Back to top
Weak rear action	On moving away, the muscles do not control the rear legs adequately and the hock joint or rear pastern tends to wobble. Back to top
Well laid back (shoulders)	A reference to shoulder blades, the longitudinal axes of which form an angle of approximately 45 ° with the horizontal and which, in consequence thereof, angulate at around 90 ° with their respective upper arms. (Spira) Back to top
Well-arched neck	A reference to well-developed neck muscles, particularly those responsible for the arch or crest on top. (Spira) Back to top
Well-bent (stifle)	Also known as well-angulated hindquarters. The angle formed by the longitudinal axes of the thigh bone (femur) and the lower thigh bones (tibia/fibula). The angle smaller the angle, the more well-bent. (Spira) Back to top
Well-sprung (ribs)	A reference to the shape of ribs after their emergency from their articulation with the thoracic vertebrae. Spring of rib has direct influence upon chest capacity. A dog with correct rib curvature and development is said to be 'well sprung'. (Spira) Back to top
Whiskers	The usually harsh, thick, and longish hair arising from the chin, from the sides of the face, or from a combination of both. Also known as 'beard'. (Spira) Back to top
Wiry (coat)	A harsh coat, where each individual hair shaft is thick and tough. In the Miniature Schnauzer, when running the hand with the direction of the coat, the individual hairs can be felt. Back to top

Withers Anatomically, the region or union between the upper portion of the shoulder blade on the one hand and the spinous processes of the first and second thoracic vertebrae on the other. Topographically, the withers are located just behind the base of the neck at the neck/back junction; a significant area, as a dog's height is measured from this location. (Spira) [Back to top](#)

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