KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

GIANT SCHNAUZER

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/04/2021

ORIGIN
Germany.

UTILISATION
Utility and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY
Originally the Giant Schnauzer was used in the region of Southern Germany to drive cattle. Around the turn of the century, determined breeders realised that he had outstanding working capabilities and particularly valuable traits in character. Since 1913, the breed has been registered in a stud book, and in 1925, the Giant Schnauzer was officially recognised as a working dog.

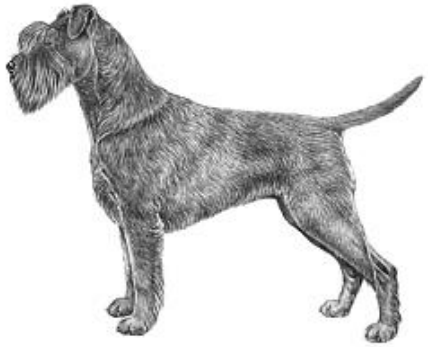

Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE
Large, powerful, stocky rather than slim. An enlarged, powerful image of the Schnauzer. An imperturbable dog, prepared for defence, whose appearance fills with respect.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS
- Square build in which height at the withers is nearly equal to the body length.
- The length of the head (measured from the tip of the nose to the occiput) corresponds to half the length of the topline (measured from the withers to the set on of the tail).

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT
Typical characteristics of this dog are his good-natured, even temperament, and his incorruptible loyalty towards his master. He has highly developed sense organs, intelligence, trainability, strength, endurance, speed, and resistance to weather and diseases. His inborn ability to bear strain and his self-assurance make him best suited for being a companion, sporting, utility, and working dog.

HEAD
Cranial Region:

Skull: Strong, long, without markedly protruding occiput. The head should be in keeping with the dog's force. The forehead is flat, without wrinkling and parallel to the bridge of nose.

Stop: Appears well-defined due to the brows.

Facial Region:

Nose: Well-developed nose leather with large nostrils, always black.

Muzzle: Ending in a blunt wedge. Bridge of nose straight.

Lips: Black, smooth, and tight-fitting to the jaws. Corners of lips closed.

Jaws and teeth: Strong upper and lower jaw. The complete scissor bite (42 pure white teeth, according to the dentition formula), is strongly developed and firmly closing. The chewing muscles are strongly developed but the cheeks must not interfere with the rectangular shape of the head (with the beard).

Eyes:

Medium-sized, oval, facing forward, dark, with lively expression. Eyelids close-fitting.

Ears:

Drop ears, set high, V-shaped, with inner edges lying close to the cheeks, evenly carried, turned forward towards temples. Folds parallel, should not be above the top of the skull.

NECK

The strong, muscular neck is nobly arched, blending smoothly into the withers. Strongly set on, slim, noble curved, corresponding to the dog's force. Throat skin tight-fitting without folds.

BODY

***Topline*:** Slightly sloping from withers towards rear.
***Withers*:** Forming the highest point in topline.
***Back*:** Strong, short, and taut.
***Loin*:** Short, strong, and deep. The distance from the last rib to the hip is short to make the dog appear compact.
***Croup*:** Slightly rounded, imperceptibly blending into tail set on.
***Chest*:** Moderately broad, oval in diameter, reaching to the elbows. The forechest is distinctly marked by the point of the sternum.
***Underline and belly*:** Flanks not too tucked-up, forming a well-curved line with the underside of the ribcage.

TAIL

[ed. Previously customarily docked.]
Natural; a sabre or sickle carriage is sought after.
[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Seen from the front, the front legs are strong, straight, and not close together. Seen from the side, the forearms are straight.
Shoulder: The shoulder blade lies close against the rib cage and is well-muscled on both sides of shoulder bone, protruding over the points of thoracic vertebrae. As sloping as possible and well laid back, forming an angle of approximately 50° to the horizontal.
Upper arm: Lying close to the body, strong, and well-muscled, forming an angle of 95º – 105º to the shoulder blade.
Elbow: Close-fitting, turning neither in nor out.
Forearm: Viewed from all sides, completely straight, strongly developed, and well-muscled.
Carpus (wrist): Strong, firm, barely standing out against the structure of the forearm.
Metacarpus (pastern): Seen from the front, vertical. Seen from the side, slightly sloping towards the ground, strong, and slightly springy.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Standing obliquely when seen from the side, standing parallel but not close together when seen from the rear.
Upper thigh: Moderately long, broad, and strongly muscled.
Stifle (knee): Turning neither in nor out.
Lower thigh: Long and strong, sinewy, running into a strong hock.
Hock joint: Very well angulated, strong, firm, turning neither in nor out.
Metatarsus (rear pastern): Short, vertical to ground.

FEET

Forefeet:

Short and round, toes well-knit and arched (cat foot) with short dark nails and resistant pads.

Hind feet:

Toes short, arched, and well-knit. Nails short and black.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Flexible, elegant, agile, free, and ground-covering. The front legs swinging as far forward as possible, the hind legs, ground-covering and springy, provide the necessary drive. The front leg of one side and the hind leg on the other side move forward at the same time. The back, the ligaments, and the joints are firm.

SKIN

Tight-fitting over the whole body.

COAT

The coat should be wiry, harsh, and dense. It consists of a dense undercoat and a topcoat, not too short, lying close to the body. The topcoat is rough and sufficiently long to allow the checking of its texture; it is neither bristly nor wavy. Hair on the limbs tends to be less harsh. Coat short on forehead and ears. Typical characteristics are the beard on the muzzle – not too soft – and the bushy eyebrows that slightly shade the eyes.

COLOUR

- ***Pure black*** with black undercoat
- ***Pepper and salt:*** When breeding pepper and salt, the aim is a medium shading, with evenly distributed, well-pigmented, pepper colouring, and grey undercoat. The shades from dark iron grey to silver grey are all permitted. In all colour variations, there must be a dark mask, which should adapt harmoniously to the respective colour, emphasising the expression. Distinct light markings on head, chest, and limbs are undesirable.
- ***Black and silver:*** for the black and silver colour, the aim in breeding is a black topcoat with black undercoat, white markings over the eyes, on the cheeks, at the beard, at the throat, in two divided triangles at the front of the chest, on the front pasterns, on the feet, on the inside of the hind legs, and around the anus. The forehead, the neck, and the outer sides of the ears should be black like the topcoat.

SIZE

Height at withers:

60cm – 70cm (approx. 23½" – 27½").

Weight:

35kg – 47kg

N.B. *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

*** Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural with the exception of the World Dog Show (WDS) and FCI Section Shows, the latter restriction applying to all dogs born after 1 January 2025. At shows where this restriction does not apply, i.e. shows other than the WDS or FCI Section Shows, under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:
"*Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.*

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event."

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Head altogether too small or too short. Heavy or round skull. Wrinkles on forehead.
- Short, pointed, or narrow muzzle. Pincer bite. Strongly protruding cheeks or cheekbones.
- Light, too large or round eyes.
- Low set, too long or unevenly carried ears.
- Throatiness. Dewlap, narrow crest of neck.
- Too long, tucked-up or soft back. Roach back. Croup falling away.
- Tail set inclined towards head.
- Long feet.
- Pacing movement.
- Too short, too long, soft, wavy, shaggy, silky, white or spotted coat or other mixed colours. Brown undercoat.
- In pepper and salt: a black trace on the back or black saddle.
- In black and silver: not clearly separated triangles on the chest.
- Over- or undersize up to 2cm.

Severe faults:

- Clumsy or light build. Too low or too high on leg.
- Inverse sexual type (i.e., doggy bitch).
- Elbows turning out.
- Straight or open-hocked hind legs. Hocks turned inwards.
- In black and silver: patchy coat.
- Over- or undersize by more than 2cm but less than 4cm.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Malformation of any kind.
- Lack of breed type.

- Faulty mouth, such as over- or undershot or wry mouth.
- Severe faults in individual parts, such as faults in structure, coat and colour.
- Over- or undersize by more than 4cm.

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FCI Standard No 181: RIESENSCHNAUZER (GIANT SCHNAUZER)

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs
Section 1.1. Pinscher and Schnauzer type
With Working Trial

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (ARC)
Before submitting any application the following requirements must have been fulfilled:

1. Must be on the Kennel Union Breed Register.
2. Be positively identified by microchip.
3. Be over twenty-four (24) months of age.
4. Be a Kennel Union Breed (Conformation) Champion.
5. The registered name of the dog must contain an Affix (Kennel name)
6. The dog has been x-rayed for Hip Dysplasia aged twelve (12) months or older and been issued with acceptable documentation and been graded A1 to C2.
7. Obtained:
    a. An acceptable profile in the Dog Mentality Test.
    b. Or passed the Aptitude Test.
    c. Or obtained a qualification in either Breed Working Test.
    d. Or IPO1 or higher.

FEDCO 12.2016 Amendment to ARC, effective 01.04.2017