

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 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Watchdog and companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Originally, the Schnauzer was used in the region of Southern Germany as a stable dog, as he felt particularly at home in the company of horses. He eagerly watched out for all rodents in order to kill them in a flash. This, very early, got him the appellation of "Rattler" (ratter). When the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club was founded in 1895, he was entered under the name "Rough-haired Pinscher".

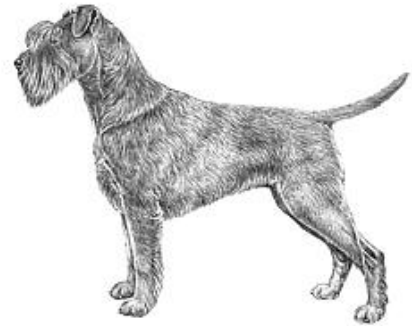


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium-sized, strong, stocky, rather than slim, rough-haired.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Square build, in which the 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 are his lively temperament, coupled with placid composure. Typical are his good nature, his playfulness, and his proverbial devotion to his master. He loves children, is incorruptible, alert, yet not noisy. Highly developed sense organs, intelligence, trainability, fearlessness, endurance, and resistance to weather and diseases provide the Schnauzer with all the requirements to be an outstanding family, guard, and companion dog, also endowed with the qualities of a 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, nobly 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 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 the shoulder bone, protruding over the points of the 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 95° – 105° 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, strong, and sinewy, running into a strong hock.

Hock joint: Very well angulated, strong, firm, turning neither in nor out.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Short, vertical to the 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 of 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. The 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, which 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.

SIZE

Height at withers: 45cm – 50cm (approx. 18" – 19½").

Weight: 14kg – 20kg

***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.

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. Strongly protruding cheeks or cheekbones.
- Short, pointed, or narrow muzzle. Pincer bite.
- 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 a black saddle.
- Over- or undersize up to 1cm.

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 turning inwards.
- Over- or undersize by more than 1cm but less than 3cm.

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 3cm.

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FCI Standard No 182: SCHNAUZER

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoïd type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 1. Pinscher and Schnauzer type
Without Working Trial

