

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2026

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

House and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 183]

Around the turn of the century, a dwarf Schnauzer from the Frankfurt area went on his way, then still described as a rough-haired Zwergpinscher (Miniature Pinscher). Due to the different shapes, sizes, and types, and the muddle of harsh, soft, and silky coat textures, it was no easy task to evolve a small dog with the appearance and the characteristic qualities of his bigger brother, the Schnauzer.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Sturdily built, robust, sinewy, nearly square, (length of body equal to height at shoulders). Expression keen and attitude alert. Correct conformation is of more importance than colour or other purely 'beauty' points.

CHARACTERISTICS

Well-balanced, smart, stylish, and adaptable.

TEMPERAMENT

Alert, reliable, and intelligent. Primarily a companion dog.

HEAD

Head strong and of good length, narrowing from ears to eyes, and then gradually forward toward end of nose. Upper part of the head (occiput to the base of forehead) moderately broad between ears. Flat, creaseless forehead; well-muscled but not too strongly developed cheeks. Medium stop to accentuate prominent eyebrows. Powerful muzzle ending in a moderately blunt line, with bristly, stubby moustache and chin whiskers. Ridge of nose straight and running almost parallel to extension of forehead. Nose black with wide nostrils. Lips tight but not overlapping.

Eyes:

Medium-sized, dark, oval, set forward, with arched bushy eyebrows.

Ears:

Neat, V-shaped, set high and dropping forward to temple.

Mouth:

Jaws strong with perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Moderately long, strong, and slightly arched; skin close to throat; neck set cleanly on shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders flat and well-laid. Forelegs straight viewed from any angle. Muscles smooth and lithe rather than prominent; bone strong, straight, and carried well down to feet; elbows close to body and pointing directly backwards.

BODY

Chest moderately broad, deep, with visible strong breastbone reaching at least to height of elbow rising slightly backward to loins. Back strong and straight, slightly higher at shoulder than at hindquarters, with short, well-developed loins. Ribs well-sprung. Length of body equal to height from top of withers to ground.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs slanting and flat but strongly muscled. Hind legs (upper and lower thighs) at first vertical to the stifle; from stifle to hock, in line with the extension of the upper neck line; from hock, vertical to ground.

FEET

Short, round, cat-like, compact, with closely arched toes, dark nails, firm black pads, feet pointing forward.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

- **Docked:** Set on and carried high, customarily docked to three joints.
- **Undocked:** Set on and carried high, of moderate length to give general balance to the dog. Thick at root and tapering towards the tip, as straight as possible, carried jauntily.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, balanced, and vigorous, with good reach in forequarters and good driving power in hindquarters. Topline remains level in action.

COAT

Harsh, wiry, and short enough for smartness, dense undercoat. Clean on neck and shoulders, ears, and skull. Harsh hair on legs. Furnishings fairly thick but not silky.

COLOUR

- **Pepper and salt:** Shades range from dark iron grey to light grey. Hairs banded dark/light/dark. Dark facial mask to harmonise with corresponding coat colour
- **Pure black**
- **Black and silver:** Solid black with silver markings on eyebrows, muzzle, chest, forelegs below point of elbow, inside of hind legs below stifle joint, vent and under tail
- **White**

* Good pigmentation essential in all colours.

* Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 36cm (approx. 14").

Females: 33cm (approx. 13").

Too small, toyish-appearing dogs are not typical and undesirable.

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. 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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 183: ZWERGSCHNAUZER (MINIATURE SCHNAUZER)

FCI Classification: Group 2 – Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid breeds, Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs.

Section 2.1.2. Pinscher and Schnauzer Type.
Without working trial.