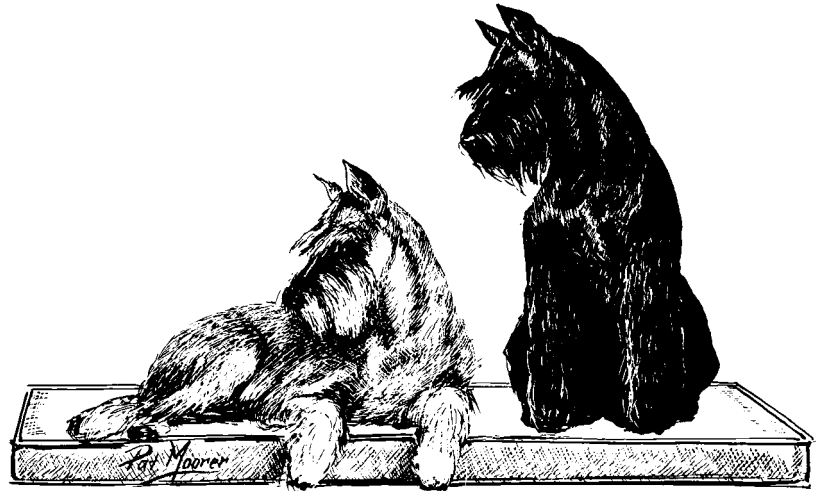


Congratulations on your new **Standard Schnauzer!**

The Standard Schnauzer Club of America congratulates you on your new puppy! We would like to help you enjoy your new family member to the fullest by providing you with some basic breed information as well as sources for further assistance.



Breed History

The Standard Schnauzer (SS) is the oldest (and original prototype) of the three Schnauzer breeds. Since the Middle Ages, dogs very like today's Standard Schnauzer performed household and farm duties in Germany: guarding the family and livestock, ridding the farmyard of vermin, and protecting their owners as they travelled to market. These rough-haired, medium-sized dogs were descended from early European herding and guardian breeds and were not related to the superficially similar terriers of Britain.

In the mid-19th century, German dog fanciers began to take an interest in this useful native breed. Crosses were made with gray Wolfspitz and black German Poodle to produce the distinctive salt and pepper and black colors. At this time, the medium-sized dogs were also being crossed with other breeds to develop the Miniature and, later, the Giant Schnauzer.

Wire-haired Pinschers, as the breed was originally known, were first exhibited in Germany in the 1870s. The official German breed standard of that era describes a dog remarkably similar to the Standard Schnauzer of today.

By the turn of the century, the breed was becoming universally known as the Schnauzer, a reference to the breed's hallmark—a muzzle (German: schnauze) sporting a bristly beard and moustache, as well as to an early show winner of that name.

The Breed in America

The first importation of the Standard Schnauzer to America was apparently around 1900, but it was not until after World War I that the breed was brought into the United States in any significant number. The Standard Schnauzer has never been a popular breed in the USA, which is one reason why most puppies are bred by serious fanciers whose primary goal is the preservation and improvement of the breed.



In 1925, the Schnauzer Club of America was formed, with the club being split in 1933 to form the Standard Schnauzer Club of America (SSCA) and the American Miniature Schnauzer Club. A written standard of perfection describing the ideal Standard Schnauzer was approved by the AKC in 1933. It has been revised several times in the intervening years to further clarify the picture of the ideal dog.

The objectives of the SSCA include: to define the AKC standard for the breed, to serve as a source of breed information for the public, to advance and protect the interests of the breed, to promote the SS as a show, performance and family dog, to encourage sportsmanship among owners and fanciers, and to promote the formation of regional clubs.

There are now eight regional Standard Schnauzer clubs throughout the country. These local clubs provide considerable help to new owners with grooming and training their puppy, and hold programs and events throughout the year of interest both to novice and experienced owners of the breed.

Rescue

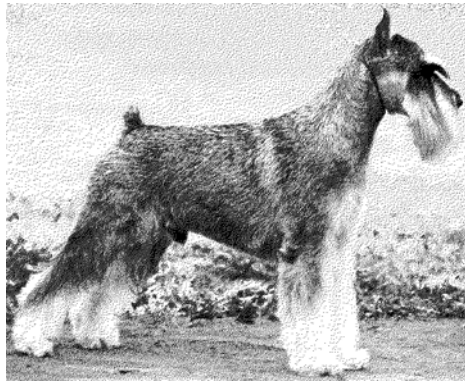
The SSCA and regional clubs also have Rescue programs for lost, homeless or unwanted SS. Details can be found on the SSCA Web site: www.standardschnauzer.org

Today's Standard Schnauzer

Today's Standard Schnauzer is a medium-sized working breed in the schnauzer/pinscher canine family. It is not a terrier and was not developed to "go to ground." Standard Schnauzers are characterized by a robust, square, athletic build, a dense, wiry, harsh coat of black or pepper and salt and an energetic, intelligent temperament. Standard Schnauzers are sociable, alert, affectionate, protective and reliable in nature, with a good sense of humor. They are generally healthy, sturdy and long-lived with few hereditary illnesses. SSCA-listed breeders check their stock for hip dysplasia, and most also screen for eye defects and other hereditary problems.

The breed is of true medium size, with males between 18-20" high at the shoulder, weighing 40-45 lbs, while females are between 17-19" high, weighing 35-40 pounds.

The Standard Schnauzer is not the breed for those who want a slow, placid dog or one that can be "fed and forgotten" for they insist on being part of the family activities and develop best when treated in



this manner. They are outstanding companions known for their devotion and love of their family, and are not "one person dogs" but instead become a true family member. SS are particularly good with children, being playful and tolerant. At the same time, they are alert to any intruder which might threaten their home and family.

Standards are very intelligent and can be strong-willed. Owners must be prepared to train their new puppy from the beginning. Early Kindergarten Puppy Training and later, regular obedience classes, is the best approach.

The SSCA strongly recommends that dogs not used for breeding or those with inheritable problems be spayed or neutered. This avoids accidental breedings and reduces undesirable behaviors such as "marking," as well as possible diseases of the reproductive system. Neutered animals can compete in all AKC events except conformation shows.

Many Standard Schnauzers participate in conformation and performance events (obedience, rally, agility, tracking, and herding) where their trainability, alertness and enthusiasm serve them well. Starting in January 2007, Standard Schnauzers began competing in AKC herding test and trial events. A number of Standards now serve as Therapy Dogs, as Service Dogs for the physically-challenged, Search-and-Rescue Dogs or as drug or bomb-detection dogs.

Grooming

Every dog, no matter what breed, needs basic grooming—nails clipped, ears and teeth cleaned, coat brushed. Standard Schnauzers, however, require more grooming, as do all coated breeds. Beard and leg hair must be brushed often enough to prevent the formation of mats. Generally, a Standard's top coat is "stripped" about twice a year (loose, dead hair plucked out to allow regrowth of new harsh hair) – and this type of grooming is required if you plan to show your dog. House pets may be machine clipped, a quicker process but one which negatively affects coat texture and color. A properly groomed Standard will have minimal shedding of hair.

Getting Help

The initial source of information on the breed in general and your dog in particular should be your puppy's breeder. The SSCA requires its breeders to provide new owners with information on health, feeding and other aspects of puppy care. If you run into a problem, please do not hesitate to call your puppy's breeder and ask for help or advice. Responsible breeders want their puppies to make a smooth adjustment to their new home and will make every effort to assist new owners.

The SSCA and the local breed clubs are also excellent sources of help. The SSCA sells several books and videos relating to the breed. It also publishes both a breed magazine and a newsletter three times a year. Its Web site provides extensive information on the breed as well as links to other breed sites.

Local clubs also have regular activities, shows, publications and programs devoted to the Standard Schnauzer. Contact information for each can be obtained from the AKC or the SSCA web sites.

Below is a list of regional clubs and their locations:

- Greater Pittsburgh SS Club—Pittsburgh PA
- Heartland SS Club—Minneapolis, MN
- Knickerbocker SS Club—New York City
- Minuteman SS Club—Boston MA
- Potomac Valley SS Club—Washington DC
- Prairieland SS Club—Chicago, IL
- SS Club of Northern California—San Francisco, CA
- SS Club of Southern California—Los Angeles, CA

Bibliography

- *The Standard Schnauzer Illustrated* (guide to the breed standard; *Standard Schnauzer Grooming Guide* (booklet) and *Standard Schnauzer Grooming Tape* (video); *SSCA Sourcebooks I, III, IV and V* (breed history); *The Standard Schnauzer* (CD-ROM); *The Standard Schnauzer at a Glimpse: A Pocket Guide* (brochure).

All of the above are available from SSCA and can be ordered from its Web site: www.standardschnauzer.org

- *Standard Schnauzer Breed Standard Video*—Available from the AKC at their Web site: www.akc.org

Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.

www.standardschnauzer.org

