

## = Miniature Schnauzer =

The Miniature Schnauzer is a breed of small dog of the Schnauzer type that originated in Germany in the mid 19th to late 19th century . Miniature Schnauzers developed from crosses between the Standard Schnauzer and one or more smaller breeds such as the Poodle and Affenpinscher , as farmers bred a small dog that was an efficient ratting dog . They are described as " spunky " but aloof dogs , with good guarding tendencies without some guard dogs ' predisposition to bite . Miniature Schnauzers are recognized in three colors internationally : solid black , black and silver , and a color known as ' salt and pepper ' . There is a controversial fourth color variant in Miniature Schnauzers , pure white , which is not recognized universally .

The breed remains one of the most popular worldwide , primarily for its temperament and relatively small size . As of 2013 it is the 17th most popular breed in the U.S.

## = = History = =

The earliest records surrounding development of the Standard Schnauzer in Germany come from the late 19th century . They were originally bred to be medium sized farm dogs in Germany , equally suited to ratting , herding , and guarding property . As time passed , farmers bred the Standard Schnauzer into a smaller , more compact size for ratting by combining it with the Affenpinscher and Miniature Poodle . The first recorded Miniature Schnauzer appeared in 1888 , and the first exhibition was held in 1899 .

The AKC accepted registration of the new breed in 1926 , two years after Miniature Schnauzers were introduced to the United States . They were originally known as Wirehaired Pinschers . International Kennel Club classifications vary ; in the United Kingdom and Australia they fall within the Utility Group , while in Canada they are in the Working Group . In the AKC the Miniature Schnauzer is classed with the terriers . It was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1948 and also classed as a terrier . The start of the modern Miniature Schnauzer is generally considered to begin with Ch . Dorem Display , the first Miniature Schnauzer to win Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show . He was born 5 April 1945 and lived to be nearly fourteen . Almost every living Miniature Schnauzer in America can trace its lineage back to Dorem Display .

Miniature Schnauzers were the 11th most popular breed in the U.S in 2008 , falling to 17th most popular in 2013 .

## = = Description = =

## = = = Appearance = = =

Miniature Schnauzers have a very square shaped build , measuring 13 to 14 inches ( 33 to 36 cm ) tall and weighing 10 to 15 pounds ( 4 .5 to 6 .8 kg ) for females and 11 to 18 pounds ( 5 .0 to 8 .2 kg ) for males . They have a double coat , with wiry exterior fur and a soft undercoat . In show trim , the coat is kept short on the body , but the fur on the ears , legs , belly , and face is retained . Recognized coat colors are black , salt and pepper , black and silver , and pure white .

Miniature Schnauzers are often described as non moultng dogs , and while this is not entirely true , their shedding is minimal and generally unnoticeable . They are characterized by a rectangular head with bushy beard , mustache and eyebrows ; teeth that meet in a " scissor bite " ; oval and dark colored eyes ; and v shaped , natural forward folding ears ( when cropped , the ears point straight upward and come to a sharp point ) . Their tails are naturally thin and short , and may be docked ( where permitted ) . They will also have very straight , rigid front legs , and feet that are short and round ( so called " cat feet " ) with thick , black pads .

Docking of tails and cropping of ears has become a controversial practice , especially for non working dogs , and is now illegal or restricted in a number of countries worldwide .

### == North American white Schnauzer controversy ==

The white Schnauzer is one of four color varieties of the Miniature Schnauzer currently recognized by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale . However , they are not accepted for conformation showing by the American Kennel Club and Canadian Kennel Club . The controversy rests on the disputed origins of the white variation : whether it was contained within the genes of the originally recognized breed , or whether it was the result of subsequent modifications . Since the other two Schnauzer types have never been available in a white variation , and the original German standard never included white as an acceptable color , the AMSC chooses not to recognize white .

### == Temperament ==

The American Kennel Club breed standard describes temperament as " alert and spirited , yet obedient to command ... friendly , intelligent and willing to please ... never overaggressive or timid . " Usually easy to train , they tend to be excellent watchdogs with a good territorial instinct , but more inclined toward barking than biting . They are often aloof with strangers until the owners of the home welcome the guest , upon which they are typically very friendly to them .

They are highly playful dogs , and , if not given the outlet required for their energy , they can become bored and invent their own " fun " . Miniature Schnauzers can compete in dog agility trials , obedience , showmanship , flyball , and tracking . Schnauzers have a high prey drive , which means they may attack other small pets such as birds , snakes , and rodents . Many will also attack cats , but this may be curbed with training , or if the dog is raised with cats .

### == Health and grooming ==

A UK Kennel Club survey puts the median lifespan of Miniature Schnauzers at a little over 12 years . About 20 % lived to > 15 years . While generally a healthy breed , Miniature Schnauzers may suffer health problems associated with high fat levels . Such problems include hyperlipidemia , which may increase the possibility of pancreatitis , though either may form independently . Other issues which may affect this breed are diabetes , bladder stones and eye problems . Feeding the dog low- or non @-@ fatty and unsweetened foods may help avoid these problems . Miniature Schnauzers are also prone to comedone syndrome , a condition that produces pus filled bumps , usually on their backs , which can be treated with a variety of methods . Miniature Schnauzers should have their ears dried after swimming due to a risk of infection , especially those with uncropped ears ; ear examinations should be part of the regular annual check up . Miniature Schnauzers are also prone to von Willebrand disease ( vWD ) . vWD in dogs is an inherited bleeding disorder that occurs due to qualitative or quantitative deficiency of von Willebrand factor ( vWF ) , a multimeric protein that is required for platelet adhesion .

Schnauzers have a specific groom cut that is standard among the Schnauzer breed . Schnauzers require regular grooming , either by stripping ( mostly seen in show dogs ) , or by clipping ( a short @-@ cut usually reserved for family pets ) . Stripping removes the loose , dead coat ; it may be done by hand , called finger stripping , or plucking , or with a stripping knife ; either way , it is a laborious process . Many Miniature Schnauzers who are family pets have regular grooming appointments to have their hair clipped ; clipping , using a mechanical clippers ( or shaver ) , produces a soft , silky , skin @-@ close trim . Whether stripped or clipped , the coat is close at the body , and falls into a fringe @-@ like foundation on its undercarriage , called furnishings , which can be left to grow , but must be combed regularly . All Schnauzers , whether they are Miniatures , Standards , or Giants , often sport a beard , created by allowing the hair around their noses to grow out . Left unclipped or unstripped , the body hair will grow two to four inches , and will often tangle into mats and curls .