

# The Miniature Schnauzer



## Pronunciation

Miniature Schnow-zer

## Description

The Miniature Schnauzer is a small, squarely-proportioned dog with a long head, bushy beard, moustache and eyebrows. The thick, prominent eyebrows and long moustache are often trimmed to accentuate the dog's square cut shape. The front legs are very straight. The tail is usually docked. The oval eyes are dark coloured and the v shaped ears fold forward. He has a long head, strong muzzle, a well developed black nose and a scissor bite. Coat colours include salt & pepper, black and black & silver.

## Is this the breed for me

Active, alert, affectionate companions, who double as watchdogs and a well bred, trained Mini barks to warn but not for recreation. They are house dogs who love outdoors. They need to be part of the family and are usually found at your feet if a lap is not available. Lively, intelligent and a streak of curiosity that could be called just plain nosey. They don't shed, don't have a doggy odour, but do need regular brushing. A Miniature Schnauzer will not be as mellow as a Basset Hound and will have lots more bounce than a Saint Bernard. He will greet stranger animals with an initial feisty bluff, but gets along well with his friends, can be great with well behaved children, but are not willing to be hurt by rough handling, child or adult.

## Temperament

Very perky and bright eyed. Loving and intelligent. Energetic, affectionate, and obedient. Playful, happy and alert and like children. The Miniature Schnauzer demands time and companionship from its owner. It can be feisty and fairly dog aggressive putting on a show of superiority without intending to fight. This can be fairly dangerous for the Miniature Schnauzer, who will challenge even large dogs, sometimes bringing more trouble on himself than he really wanted. Socialize this breed well with other dogs while still a pup. If properly introduced, the Miniature Schnauzer will get along with another dog, but will not accept every dog that comes its way. Since the temperament of this breed can be variable select from calm parents. They make great companions, and family pets. Schnauzers bark when something gets its attention but not a yappy bark and it is not as annoying as one thinks. Most of the time the dogs bark sounds like it is talking to you. They are good guard dogs and great mousers. They are excellent watchdogs are great to travel with. Some can be reserved with strangers but most love everyone.

### **Height, Weight**

Height: 12 - 14 inches dogs and bitches

Weight: 5-9 kgs

### **Health Problems**

This is usually a healthy breed although some are prone to suffer from kidney stones, liver disease and diabetes and also hereditary eye problems such as cataracts and PRA. Do not overfeed as they tend to put on weight easily.

### **Living Conditions**

The Miniature Schnauzer is a good dog for apartment life and small yards.

### **Exercise**

These are energetic little dogs enjoying long, brisk daily walks and play session off the lead.

### **Life Expectancy**

About 13 -15 years showing no signs of age until quite old.

### **Grooming**

The wiry coat is reasonably easy to look after, but unless it is combed or brushed every 3-4 days it will become matted. Clip out any knots. Clip every 10 weeks or so in summer and 12 weeks in winter. Trim around eyes and ears and clean whiskers after eating. Clean and pluck ears regularly and cut nails every 2 weeks. This breed sheds no hair and is great for allergy sufferers.

### **Origin**

The Miniature Schnauzer is reportedly a result of crossing the Standard Schnauzer, the Affenpinscher and perhaps a Poodle. It is originally a German breed named after the German word for muzzle. The Mini excels at killing vermin but today it is mostly a popular and esteemed companion. Some of the Schnauzer's talents include hunting, tracking, watch dogging, competitive obedience, and performing tricks.