

Standard Schnauzers

Background

The Standard Schnauzer is the oldest of the three schnauzer breeds and has been documented as far back as the 1400s. Schnauzers were first called wirehaired pinschers. A cross with gray wolves and Black German Poodles gave them their distinctive salt and pepper, wiry coat. Later the dogs were named Schnauzer after the German word for muzzle.

Standard Schnauzers were popular in Germany and used as ratters, guard dogs, and traveling companions to the market. In 1979 the breed saw its first entrance into a show. The German and European communities were quite taken with Schnauzers after that and the breed became well known at showing events. In America they were much slower to catch on. Even today the Standard Schnauzer is seen less frequently than the miniature or giant.

Schnauzers saw action during World War I and II. Today they're sometimes used by police departments.

Sizing up

- Weight: 30 to 50 lbs.
- Height: 17.5 to 19.5 inches
- Coat: Hard, wiry
- Color: Salt and pepper or solid black
- Life expectancy: 13 to 15 years

What's the Standard Schnauzer like?

The Standard Schnauzer is the smallest working class dog, but a working dog nonetheless. She would like to have jobs to do or tasks to perform and as a former farm dog she would do very well in open spaces. She's intelligent and takes well to training but would prefer non repetitive tasks. Her working nature gives her plenty of energy to burn so if you live in an apartment it's important that you walk her vigorously each day.

Schnauzers are not always trusting of strangers. In fact you're likely to hear a low growl when somebody new comes to the door. If you're looking for a guard dog you might encourage this behavior but if not you'll need to socialize the Schnauzer early and often.

Standard Schnauzers love and need to be with their

families. They're a child friendly dog and can't get enough of playtime. Schnauzers are always entertaining and never lazy.

They require regular and potentially professional grooming.

Health

Conditions to watch for in the Schnauzer include the following:

- [Hip dysplasia](#)
- [Cataracts](#)
- Retinal dysplasia
- Pulmonic stenosis
- [Hyperthyroidism](#)
- Hemophilia
- Bladder stones
- Mitral Valve Disease

Takeaway Points

- Standard Schnauzers are excellent family companions.
- Standard Schnauzers are rare in America and an excellent choice if you're looking for a unique breed.
- Standard Schnauzers are impressive show dogs and capable working dogs.
- Standard Schnauzers are natural watchdogs.
- Standard Schnauzers like to spend time indoors and out.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.