

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Miniature Schnauzer (Utility Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

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 & SKULL

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 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 spring. Length to body equal to height from top of withers to ground.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs slanting and flat but strongly muscled. Hindlegs (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. Furnishing 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 brisket, forelegs below point of elbow inside of hindlegs below stifle joint, vent and under tail.

White

Good pigmentation essential in all colours.

SIZE

Ideal height: Dogs: 36cm (14in) Bitches: 33cm (13in) Too small, toyish appearing dogs are not typical and undesirable.

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 on the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

**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. (Fedco 12/2017 Amended DR/Feb 2018)*



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Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 31/03/2016