

## The Type & Character of the Miniature Schnauzer

On appearance alone, the Miniature Schnauzer deserves the popularity he enjoys. It is however, his lively, inquisitive character which launched him into the top ten ranking among all breeds in recent years. The Miniature Schnauzer is big enough to really be a dog, and small enough to share your comfortable chair. Most people will select this breed for its total livability. A good one is by nature alert, friendly, intelligent, vigorous and, most important, long-lived.

The Miniature Schnauzer is of terrier outline with the same beauty of balance and with the typical style and spirit. But in all other respects, this breed has a distinct individuality from the other members of the Terrier Group. The combination of cropped ears and short tail is most unusual. Also the grey salt and pepper colour is found in the Schnauzer family alone.

Minatures have the same spirit and showmanship of most terriers, but are much more responsive to the owners' wishes and are noted for great intelligence. They do demand human companionship and have great devotion. Schnauzers were originally very much a one-man dog, resenting strangers, but this tendency has practically been bred out in the Miniature.

Miniature Schnauzers have great stamina and, in fact, **will show no signs of illness until they are quite sick**, and then they are fighters and will not give up.

The responsiveness and intelligence of Miniature Schnauzers makes them ideal for obedience work, enhanced by the fact that they love to please their owners. The Official Standard of the Miniature Schnauzer includes these comments regarding temperament:

"The typical Miniature Schnauzer is alert and spirited, yet obedient to command. He is friendly, intelligent and willing to please."

The Schnauzer's intelligence expresses itself in many ways. One look into his face is to sense his ever-active mind and fun loving personality. The learning capacity of the Miniature Schnauzer is proverbial, an limited only by the patience of the teacher. The breed's performance on all levels of obedience is exceptional, and ranks among the highest numbers of dogs that achieve obedience titles. Schnauzers learn quickly as a rule, and in time can be taught almost anything a dog is capable of learning. The only requirements are firmness, repetition, patience and, above all, **kindness**.

Although Miniature Schnauzers are quick to adapt, they love a routine. The typical companion takes pride in knowing, practically before you do, what your next move will be. They have good memories and will recognize friends or former owners after a long period.