

GIANT SCHNAUZER

Group: Working

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Giant Schnauzer should resemble, as nearly as possible, in general appearance, a larger and more powerful version of the Standard Schnauzer, on the whole a bold and valiant figure of a dog. Robust, strongly built, nearly square in proportion of body length to height at withers, active, sturdy, and well-muscled. The Giant has a temperament, which combines spirit and alertness with intelligence and reliability. Composed, watchful, courageous, easily trained, deeply loyal to family, playful, amiable in repose, and a commanding figure when aroused. The sound, reliable temperament, rugged build, and dense weather-resistant wiry coat make for one of the most useful, powerful, and enduring working breeds

SIZE:

Male 25 ½ to 27 ½ inches; Females 23 ½ to 25 ½ inches at withers. Medium range most desirable. Size alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness, and temperament. It should be noted that too small dogs generally lack the power and too large dogs, the agility and maneuverability, desired in the working dog. Sturdy, in proportion to body length and height.

COAT:

Hard, wiry, very dense; composed of a soft undercoat and a harsh outer coat, which, when seen against the grain, stands slightly off the back, lying neither smooth nor flat. Coarse hair on top of head; harsh beard and eyebrows—the Schnauzer characteristic.

COLOR:

Salt and pepper, wherein the hairs of the coat are banded with shades of black, gray and silver; black and silver, the same as Salt and Silver except that the salt and pepper area is completely black; black if the dog is entirely black with no gray hairs and no brown tinge. A small white patch on the chest is acceptable on the black. Parti-colored; White ***Disqualifications: Albinism,***

HEAD:

Rectangular, strong, elongated, narrowing slightly from the ears to the eyes, and again from the eyes to the tip of the nose. The total length of the head is about one-half the length of the back (withers to set on of tail). The head should be a match for the substance of the dog and also be more feminine for a female and masculine for a male.

Skull: (Occiput to Stop) Moderately broad between the ears; occiput not too prominent. Top of skull flat; skin unwrinkled; Cheeks flat but have well-developed chewing muscles; there is no roundness to the cheeks to disturb the rectangular appearance of the head (with beard)..

Muzzle: Strong and well-filled under the eyes; both parallel and equal in length to the top skull; ending in a moderately blunt wedge.

Bite: Full complement of sound white teeth meet in a scissors bite. Lips are tight and not overlapping; black in color. ***Disqualification: Overshot or undershot.***

Nose: Large, black and full.

Eyes: Medium sized, dark brown, and deep set. They are oval in appearance and keen in expression with lids fitting tightly. Vision should not be impaired nor eyes hidden by too long eyebrows.

Ears: When cropped, they should be identical in shape and length with pointed tips. They are in balance with the head and are not exaggerated in length. They are set high on the skull and carried perpendicularly at the inner edges with as little bell as possible along the other edges. When uncropped, the ears are V-shaped button ears of medium length and thickness, set high and carried rather high and close to the head.

NECK:

Strong and well arched, of moderate length, blending cleanly into the shoulders; skin fits tightly at the throat; should be balanced with the dog's height and weight.

BODY:

Compact, substantial, short-coupled, and strong, with great power and agility. The height at the highest point of the withers equals the body length from breastbone to point of rump. The loin section is well developed, as short as possible for compact build. The topline is short, straight, strong, and firm.

FOREQUARTERS:

The forequarters have flat, somewhat sloping shoulders and high withers. Forelegs are straight and vertical when viewed from all sides with strong pasterns and good bone. They are separated by a fairly deep brisket which eliminates a pinched front. The elbows are set close to the body and point directly backwards. The chest is medium in width with ribs well sprung but with no tendency toward a barrel chest; a cross section of the chest will be oval in shape, deep through the brisket, descending at least to the elbows and ascending gradually toward the rear with the belly moderately drawn up. The ribs spread gradually from the first rib so as to allow space for the elbows to move close to the body. The shoulder blades slope and are strongly muscled, yet flat. They are well laid back so that from the side the rounded upper ends are in a nearly vertical line above the elbows. They slope well forward to the point where they join the upper arm, forming as nearly as possible a right angle. Such angulation permits the maximum forward extension of the forelegs without binding or effort. Both shoulder blades and upper arm are long, permitting depth of chest at the brisket.

HINDQUARTERS:

Strongly muscled, in balance with the forequarters; upper thighs are slanting and well bent at the stifles, with the second thighs approximately parallel to an extension of the upper neckline. The legs from the hock joint to the feet are short, perpendicular to the ground while the dog is standing naturally, and from the rear parallel to each other. The hindquarters do not appear over-built or higher than the shoulders. Croup is full and slightly rounded.

Feet: Well-arched, compact and catlike, turning neither in nor out, with thick tough pads and dark nails. Dewclaws should be removed.

Tail: Set moderately high and carried high in excitement. It should be docked to the second or not more than the third joint (approximately one and one-half to about three inches long at maturity) if it is docked.

MOVEMENT:

Gait should be judged at a trot and should be free, balanced, and vigorous, with good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters. Rear and front legs are thrown neither in nor out. At a fast trot, the proper gait is a single track with all four feet converging under the dog's mid line. The back should remain strong, firm, and flat.

TEMPERAMENT:

Spirited and alert with intelligence and reliability. Composed, watchful, courageous, easily trained, deeply loyal to family, playful, amiable at rest, but a commanding figure when aroused.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.