

# Schnauzer Immersion



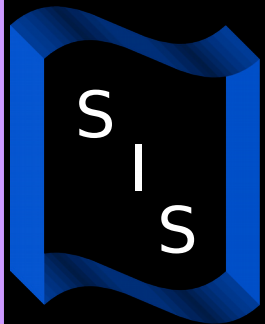
Catherine "Kate" McMillan  
Minuteman Miniature Schnauzers





# The Essence Of Type

"The Miniature Schnauzer is a robust, active dog of terrier type, resembling his larger cousin, the Standard Schnauzer in general appearance, and of an alert, active disposition.."  
Faults: Type – toyishness, ranginess or coarseness.



A squarely built dog modelled on his older cousin, the Standard Schnauzer.

- "working dog" front assembly, with flat sloping shoulders
- a long upper arm that sets front legs under the body.
- moderate forechest, deep and v-shaped.

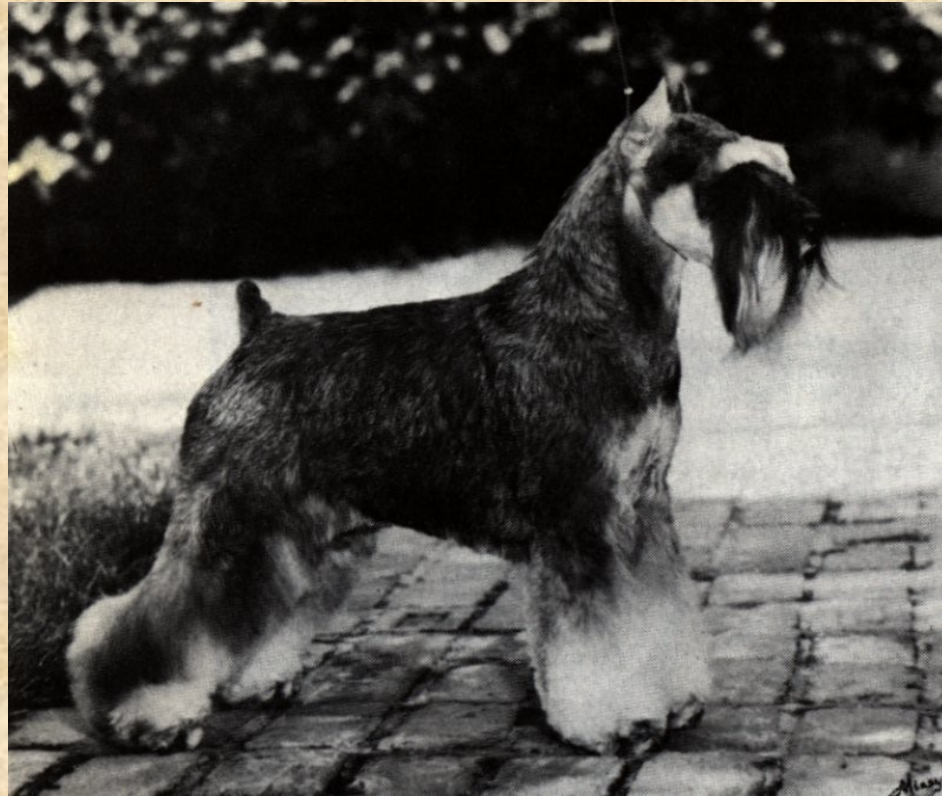


The distance from the ground to elbow should be approximately one half the height at the withers.

S  
|  
S



The topline should slope downwards slightly from withers to tail and retain an element of that slope on the move.



The ribs should also extend well back to create a short loin and deep body. A Schnauzer with a tuck-up lacks type.

S  
|  
S

The Miniature Schnauzer should never appear to be “flung forward” like an arrow shot from a bow, with his weight centred over the front.



The Mini Schnauzer “holds down the ground” with all four legs.

S  
I  
S



A short back is created when the neck is set on top of the body and the tail set (not just carried) high on the croup.



There should be plenty of dog in front of the withers and plenty of "butt" behind the tail.

S  
|  
S

Schnauzers must have a broad pelvis with well angulated, powerfully muscled rear legs and short hocks.



There is a natural tendency for adults (especially males) to stand with the rear legs somewhat wide.

S  
I  
S

Properly stripped, there is a true wire jacket with soft undercoat. (Note: most undercoat is removed during the show grooming process.) Blacks should not be forgiven softer coats.

Salt and pepper color should be created by clear color bands on the hair shaft. All shades from light to dark are acceptable as is some tan shading.





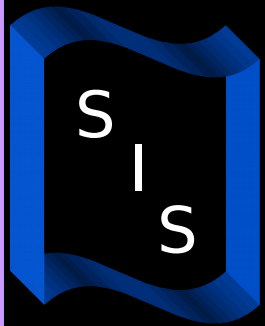
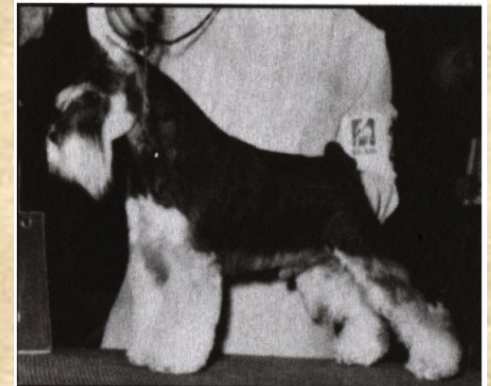
Salt and pepper colouring should be created by bands of grey, black, silver and/or tan on the hair shaft. All shades from light to dark are acceptable.

Black comes in several shades, and shouldn't be forgiven evidence of dying. The black pigment of the scissored furnishings is not typically as intense as the stripped wire of the body coat.

The black and silver has a black body coat with "tanpoints" in a silver shade.

There should be a black overlay on  
The front and rear legs.

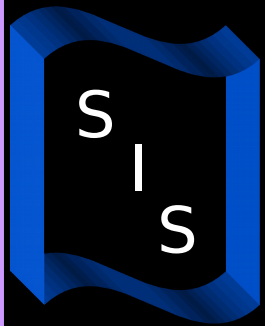
(Incorrect at top, vs correct overlay)



The head is proudly carried on a strong, well-arched neck, and resembles a slightly tapering wedge with clean lines and parallel planes.



Without a small, dark, almond-shaped eye, correct expression is impossible.







Boys should be boys.

Girls should be girls.







Movement is free and easy, with full reach and strong drive behind, with good pick up of hocks.



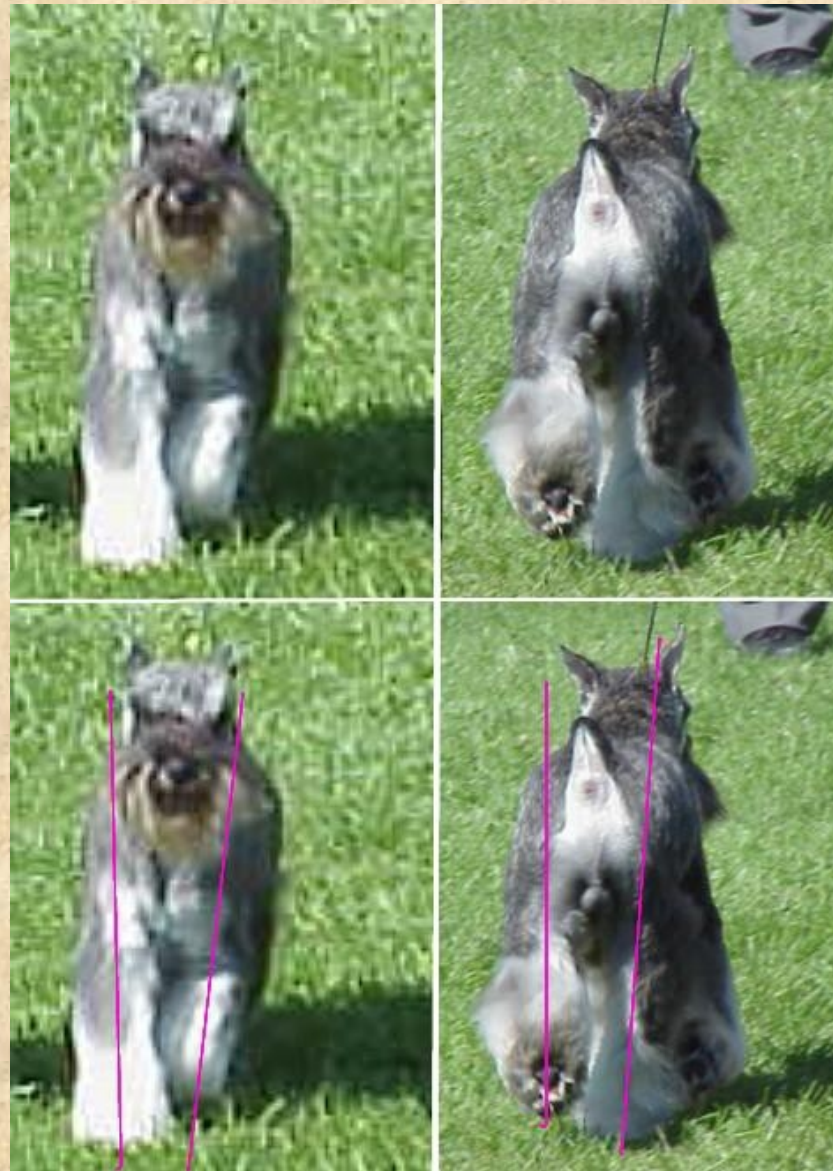




Coming and going  
in nearly parallel  
planes.

Slight convergence  
is to be expected as  
speed increases.

The dog should  
“show pad’ going away.



## In a nutshell -

The details that stamp a Miniature Schnauzer with the essence of breed type - a correct head and alert expression; short, sloping topline; working dog front; a deep, well-sprung ribcage; powerful rear; working dog movement - all of it contained within a square framework and wrapped in a properly worked wire coat.

By remembering the details, the critical elements of correct type, we can prevent being taken in by the sound but generic "show dog" or misled by the low on leg, barrel chested, fat headed pretender. At all times, breeders and judges must remember that while good basic conformation may make an animal a good dog, only the individuals who exhibit the important elements of correct type may be considered good Schnauzers.







**Basic Anatomy**

**The Breed Standard**

**Basics of Movement**

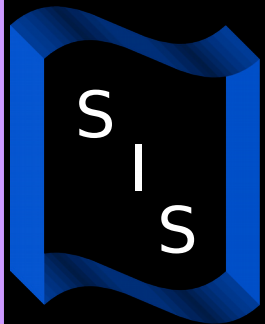
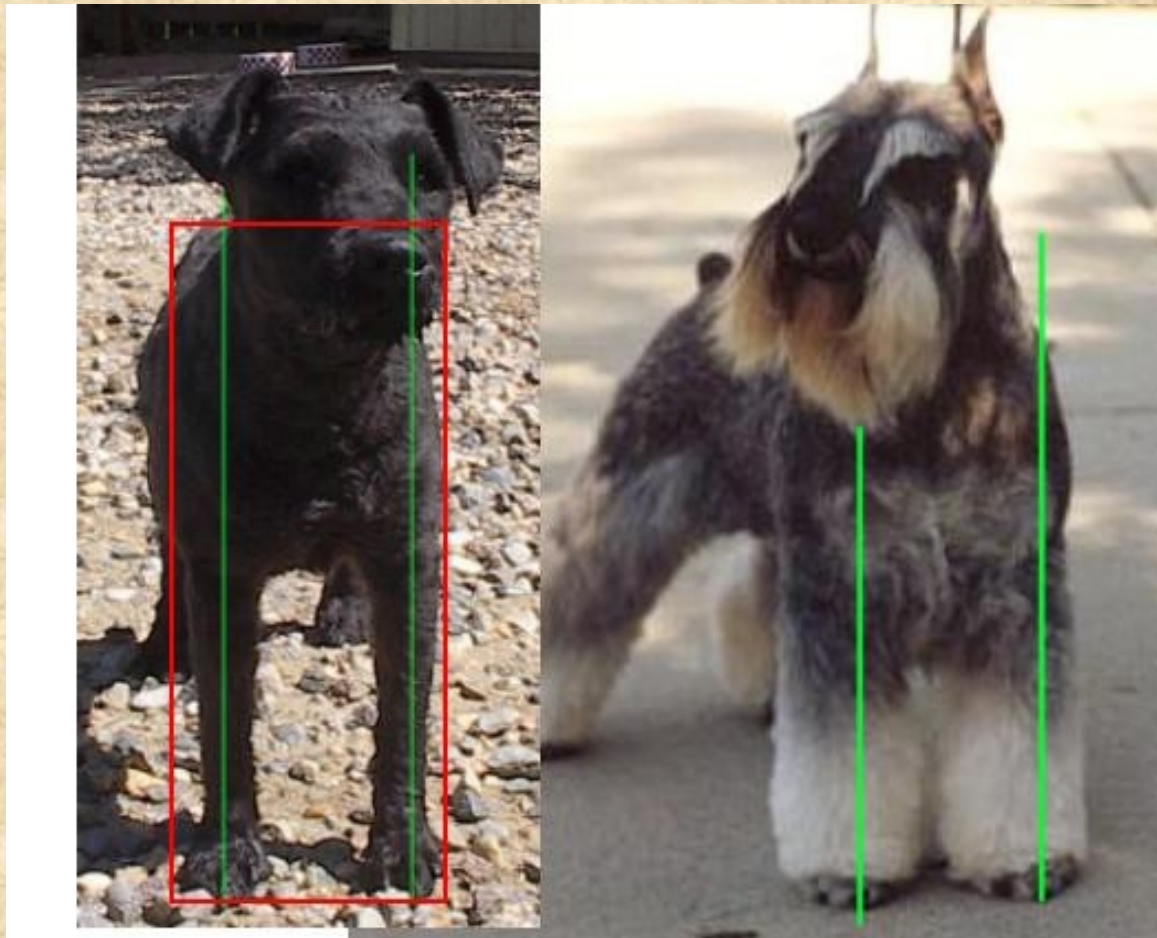
The schnauzer is an "all rounder", dog-of-all-trades without exaggeration in basic construction... classic working type front angles ... a short, firm spine well angulated rear and short hocks that are the trademarks of the squarely built trotting dog.

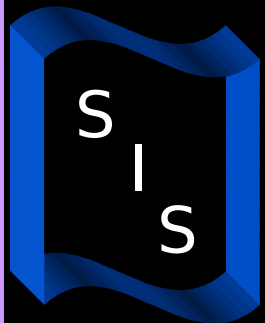




From the front, he must have enough breadth to avoid any suggestion of weediness or raciness. Typically, an adult dog's width across the front will be around 40% Of height at the withers.

Length of leg must be about 50% the height at withers





Too much, and the ribs will force the elbows away from the ribcage, causing a breakdown in the "pillar" of support that runs from foot pad, through the wrist, elbow and upper arm.

Not enough, and the front will be narrow, with front legs "coming out of the same hole" - a very common fault.

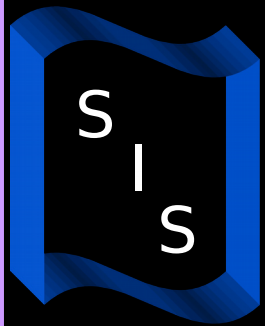


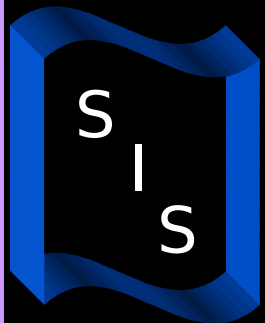


## “The Magic Ratio”

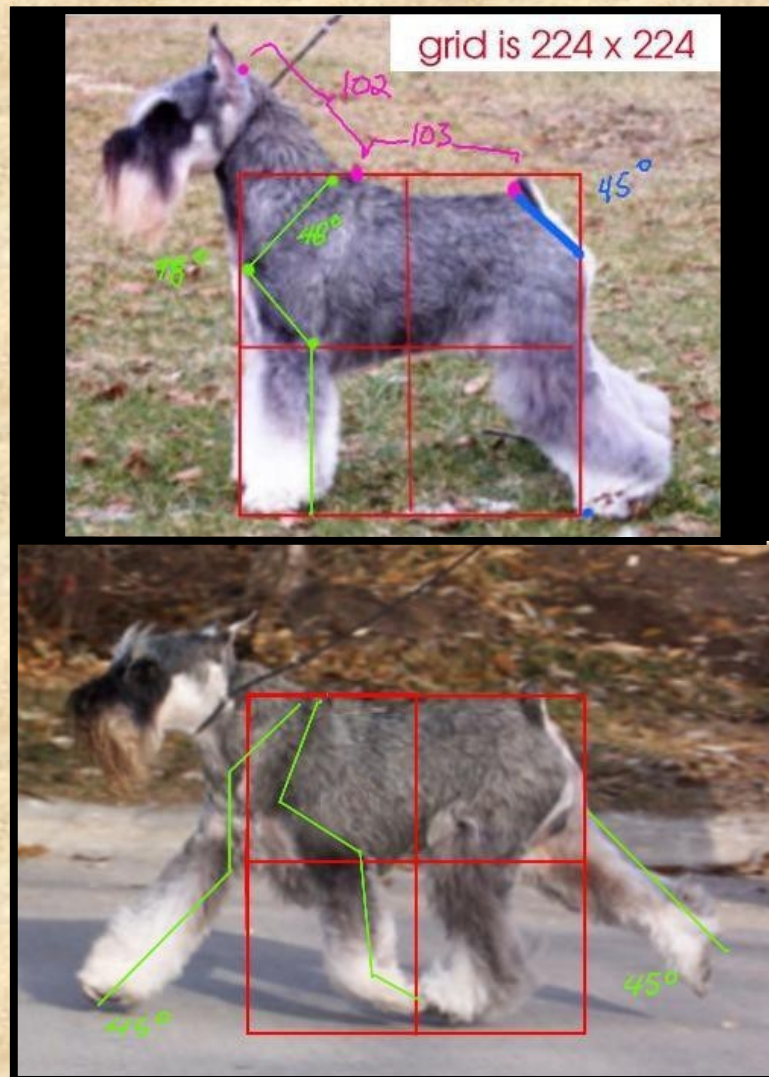
The distance from the occiput to the transition (a point just back of the withers) should be about equal to that of transition to tail set.

While the body itself is square, the short back is created by a neck that rises from the top of the dog, and a tail set well forward of the buttock.





**M  
O  
V  
E  
M  
E  
N  
T**



**Correct**





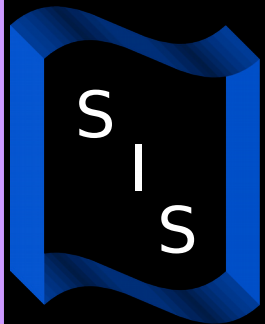
Terrier-type gait - incorrect in a Schnauzer

# Developing Your Ideal Mental Image





Developing an ideal mental picture is largely the result of study, bias and experience. For most, this ideal will change and evolve as we mature and gain knowledge.



## Study other breeds!



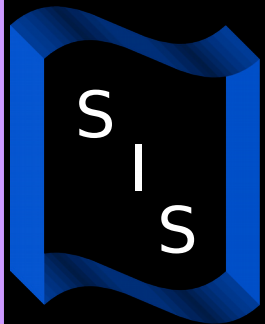
The Doberman is a useful model to study, as this breed is also squarely built, with working dog angles, and the requirement of strong reach and drive – but without hair to hide it.

Getting your hands on more extreme breeds like the Scottie can help our understanding of traits that are more moderate in Minis.

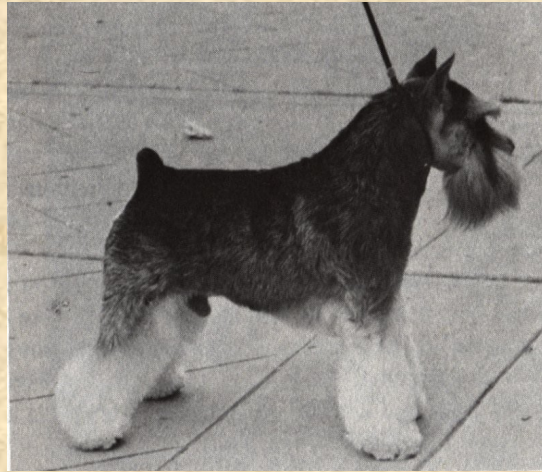




The fox terrier is the temptation we guard our breed against. To turn the MS into a heavier bodied wire fox is a subversion of breed type.



Study photos of breed greats - and not so greats.  
The more of these dogs you can consign to memory,  
the better you will become at recognizing good type  
and correct proportion when you see it in the flesh.





# Objectivity

The art of breeding good dogs requires the ability to distance oneself from emotional reaction.

Dogs are not children!

The first thing a breeder must learn is that honest critique of their dog is not a personal attack.

It's entirely appropriate for our peers and competitors to objectively discuss what they like and dislike about the dogs we choose to breed and exhibit.

We invest great time and resources in our breed to preserve and protect it. This is serious business, and thus the evaluation of breeding animals deserves an honest and mature approach from us all.



# Setting Priorities In Your Breeding Program

It is not possible for your dogs to be "all things to all people" without becoming generic.

It's important to breed for yourself first and remain true to your own developing interpretation of breed type, or you'll find yourself dragged down to suit the lowest common denominator.



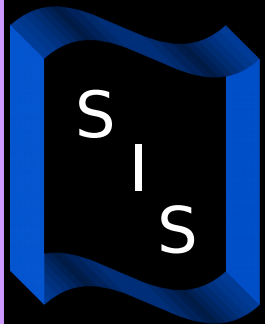


# Grading Puppies

There is a saying about judging that applies equally to grading puppies - "Examine on the table, judge on the floor." Don't make the mistake of choosing puppies on the basis of how cleverly you can stack them on a table.



**The very best will announce themselves.**



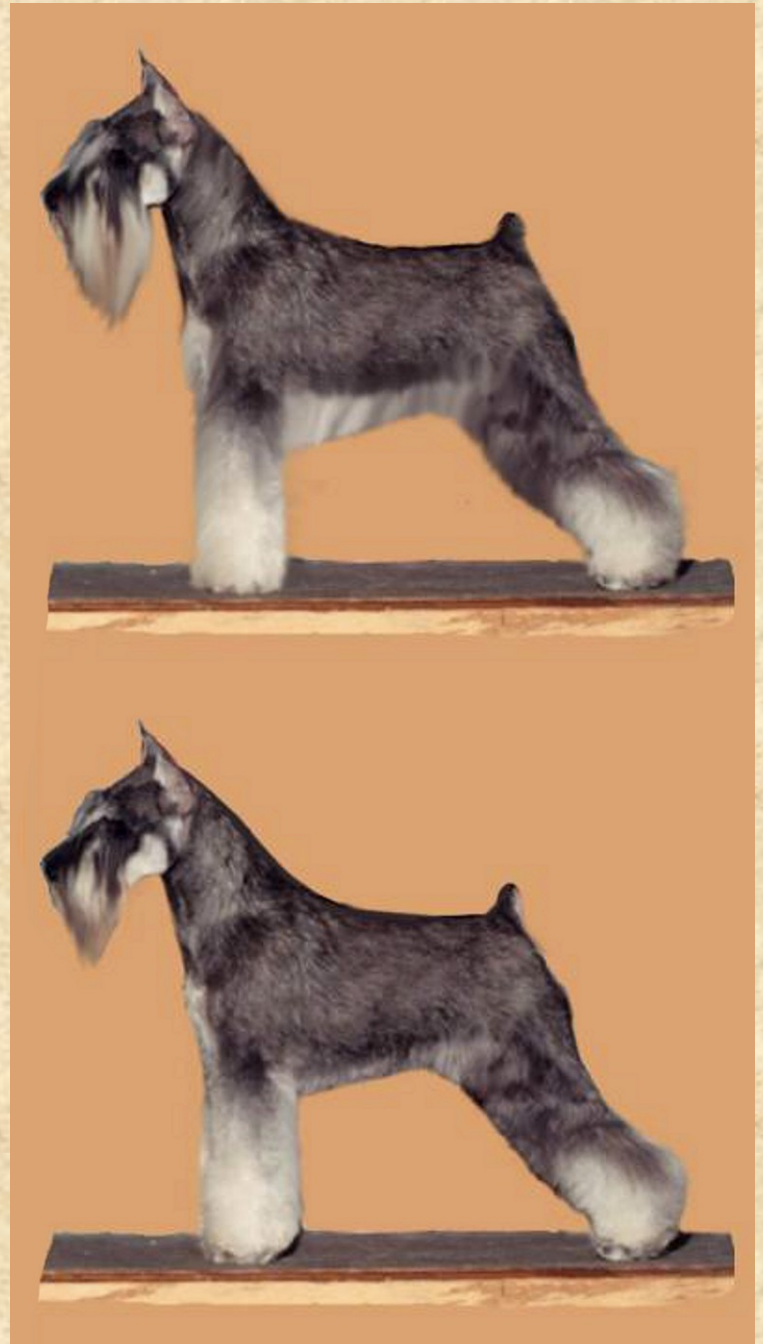


Trimming can make  
or break a dog!

It's not just a  
“grooming contest”.

A judge has only a  
few moments to  
evaluate your dog.

Trimming errors can  
create the illusion of  
faults that don't exist.







They are the same dog in different trims, of course.

The top figure has several common trim errors.

Note the “window” under the dog and how it can alter one’s perception of the dog’s overall proportion .

