



THE MINIATURE SCHNAUZER

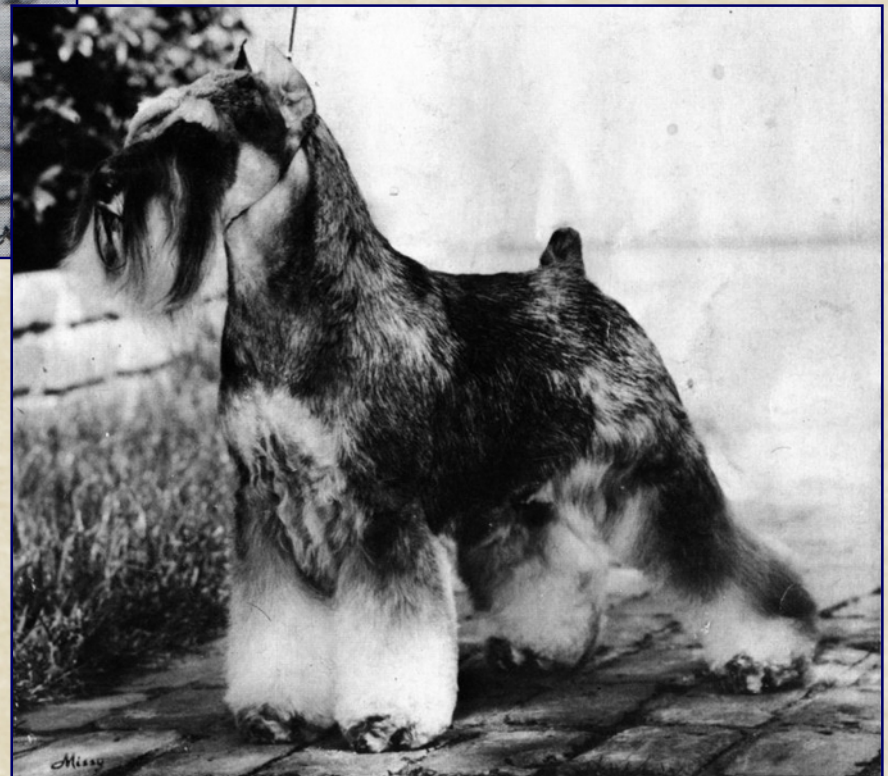
Understanding the type,
construction and character of a
breed that's as delightful as it
is demanding!

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"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 Miniature Schnauzer should never appear as though he was shot from a bow. He should hold down the ground with all four legs."





The first descriptor in the Miniature Schnauzer breed standard is "**robust**".

Never should a Miniature Schnauzer appear weedy, toyish or racy.



Mature male with juvenile bitch

- An "all-rounder", versatile breed
- Squarely built
- 12" to 14" in height
- Ground covering reach and drive
- Length of leg 50% of height
- Strong, well arched neck
- "Working dog" front
- Moderate forechest



- Deep, oval shaped, well sprung ribs
- Short loin, minimal tuck-up
- Short back, sloping topline
- Flat croup, wide pelvis
- Well angulated rear, short hocks
- Tail set high, carried erect



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

A Miniature Schnauzer that "runs downhill" should receive scant attention from breeder or judge.



The Magic Ratio



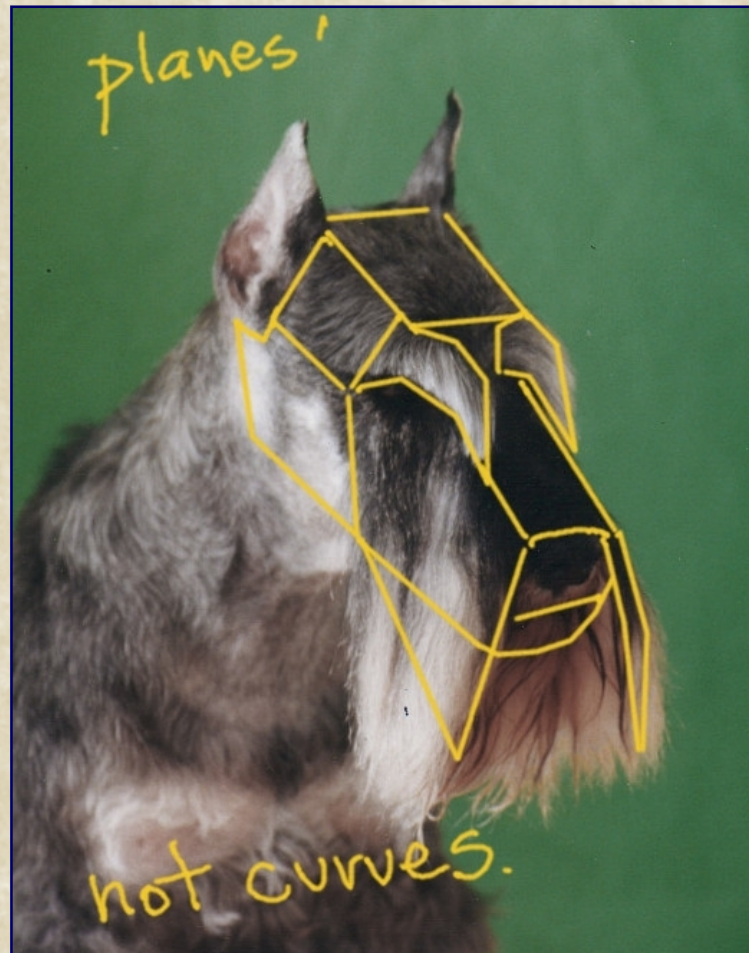
An aesthetic quality created by a well set shoulder, balanced length of neck, proud carriage and a short back. Distance from occiput to transition (a point just back of the withers) will appear nearly equal to the distance from transition to set on of tail.

The Magic Ratio



The Head

- Strong and rectangular, flat skull and clean cheeks
- Foreface strong and well filled.
- Deep set, dark, oval eye that looks "down the nose"
- Ears set high on a flat skull



Foreface is "at least" as long as the topskull ...

but!

Excessive head length is associated with a sloping stop and loss of parallel planes, round eye and "foreign" expression.

Planes are parallel, with a slight stop



Ears are small, V-shaped, break just above skull and carried close to cheeks.



Nose large and black
demonstrating strength of jaw.

Bite: scissors only



Too narrow head
Muzzle weak and snipey.



Plain head
Skull flat, but wide
Eyes light



Rounded skull,
Earset low
Excessive stop
Weak foreface
Poor expression.



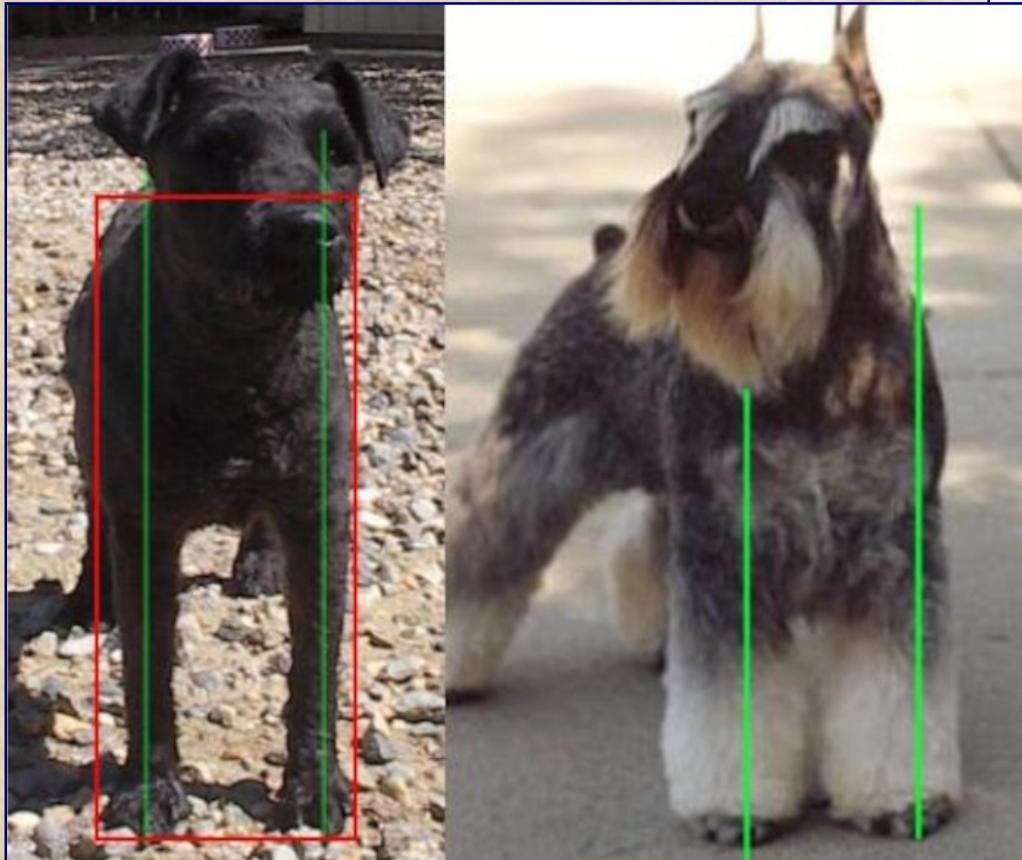
Short muzzle, cheeky



The Front

Viewed from the front, must have enough rib spring and breadth to avoid any suggestion of weediness or raciness.

- Ribs flatten and taper to allow elbow to pass



- Width across the front should be approximately 40% of height at the withers (mature dog)



Wide fronts are a structural unsoundness.

Lateral stress on the elbow joint will result in structural break down, discomfort and unsoundness with age.



The front so narrow that forelegs "come out of the same hole" is incompatible with correct type and unworthy of a Miniature Schnauzer.



The Rear

- well angulated, in balance with front
- Well muscled second thigh
- Short hocks
- Broad pelvis, flat croup and strong shelf.





- The wine glass test

From above, the croup should appear wide and flat enough to hold a wine glass on the hips.



Beneath the artistry, the hands should find a substantive and strongly-made dog with with correct legs, tight feet and strong bone.

Beneath the Hair



Gait

"... the forelegs have good reach, while the hind legs have strong drive, with good pickup of hocks"



The final test of type is movement and in this breed it is demanding.

In profile, the Miniature Schnauzer is to exhibit good reach and strong drive, with good pickup of hocks.

However, when coming and going she is to move in parallel planes!

This is at odds with conventional wisdom that convergence is necessary for a moving dog to hold its center of gravity.



Nonetheless! A single tracking Schnauzer with good reach and drive lacks type, as does the parallel mover with the restricted gait of a fox terrier.

The Standard asks for virtually parallel planes of movement when coming. "...degree of inward inclination is almost imperceptible"



...and going!

The Miniature Schnauzer is "*rear drive*"!

It should never appear to pull itself along by the front. Hock fully extends to drive the body forward, and picks up to "*show pad*".

* Not be confused with "*bicycling*" and judges should be on the watch for sickle hocks.





Running "downhill"
is a common problem.



Rear should not over-reach the front



Restricted, lacking reach and drive



Boys should be boys.
Girls should be girls.

Masculine & Feminine





Coat and Color

- Double, with hard, wiry, outer coat and close undercoat.
- Head, neck, ears*, chest, tail, and body coat must be plucked
- Sufficient length to determine texture
- Stern, belly, cheeks, and front "butterfly" may be clipped.
- Furnishings are fairly thick but not silky.

* Cropped ears are nearly always clipped



- Salt & Pepper: banded hairs: black tips with silver or pale tan bands
- All shades are acceptable
- Stern, chest, lower legs and cheeks are silver to white in tanpoint pattern.



Heterozygotes often appear darker, due to the complexity of gene interaction at the agouti locus.



- Black/Silver color is a genetic tanpoint.
- Recessive to salt & pepper.
- Stripped sections should be shiny black while scissored leg overlays softer black with silver points.



- Blacks: stripped areas deep, shiny black.
- Intensity of scissored area is softer.
- Should not be penalized for appearing less intense than the "blue black" pictured below, which has been dyed.

- Small white spot allowed on chest
- Connecting stripe of white on the throat above the prosternum is a DQ under the American breed standard, as is solid white, white patches on the body, or any nose color other than black.



Character and Disposition

- Alert, active disposition
- Confident, highly trainable, attentive to their owner
- A small alarm breed, sometimes wary of strangers. May object to heavy handed exam - keep those hands light



- Ready to stand their ground without overt aggression.



- Comfortable in multiple dog environments. Squabbles rarely lead to bites.

- Excels at obedience and performance

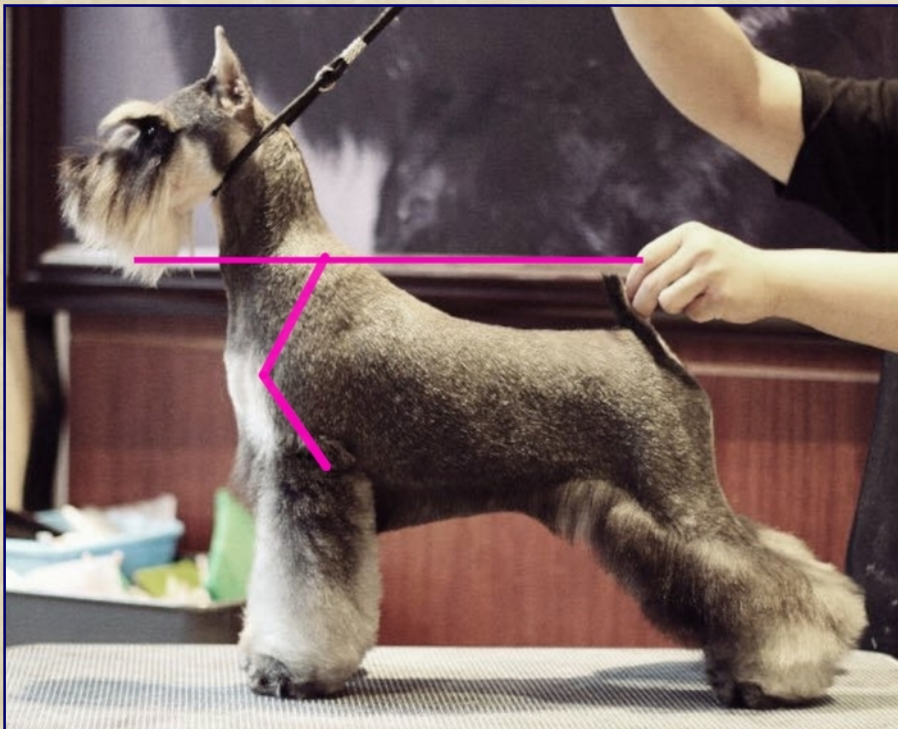




Detrimental breeding fads
to watch for and penalize

The "rotated front"

- Shoulder rotated upright, forcing elbow back
- Excessive forechest, wide front
- Ewe neck, low head carriage
- Extreme slope to topline



Fox Terrier influenced "faux neck"

- High set shoulders
- Straight upper arm
- Dip in topline



Lack of Breed Type

Lack of substance

Shelly, narrow or rangy dogs lack breed type, no matter how well they are constructed in other regards.

While puppies may lack maturity, they should not exhibit slabby ribs, narrow fronts.



Low on leg

- Persistent type fault

Often occurs on dogs with evident quality and sound movement in other regards.

The elbow should be $\frac{1}{2}$ the height at the withers. (Don't confuse deep chested dog with low on leg - leg is measured at the elbow, not the brisket)

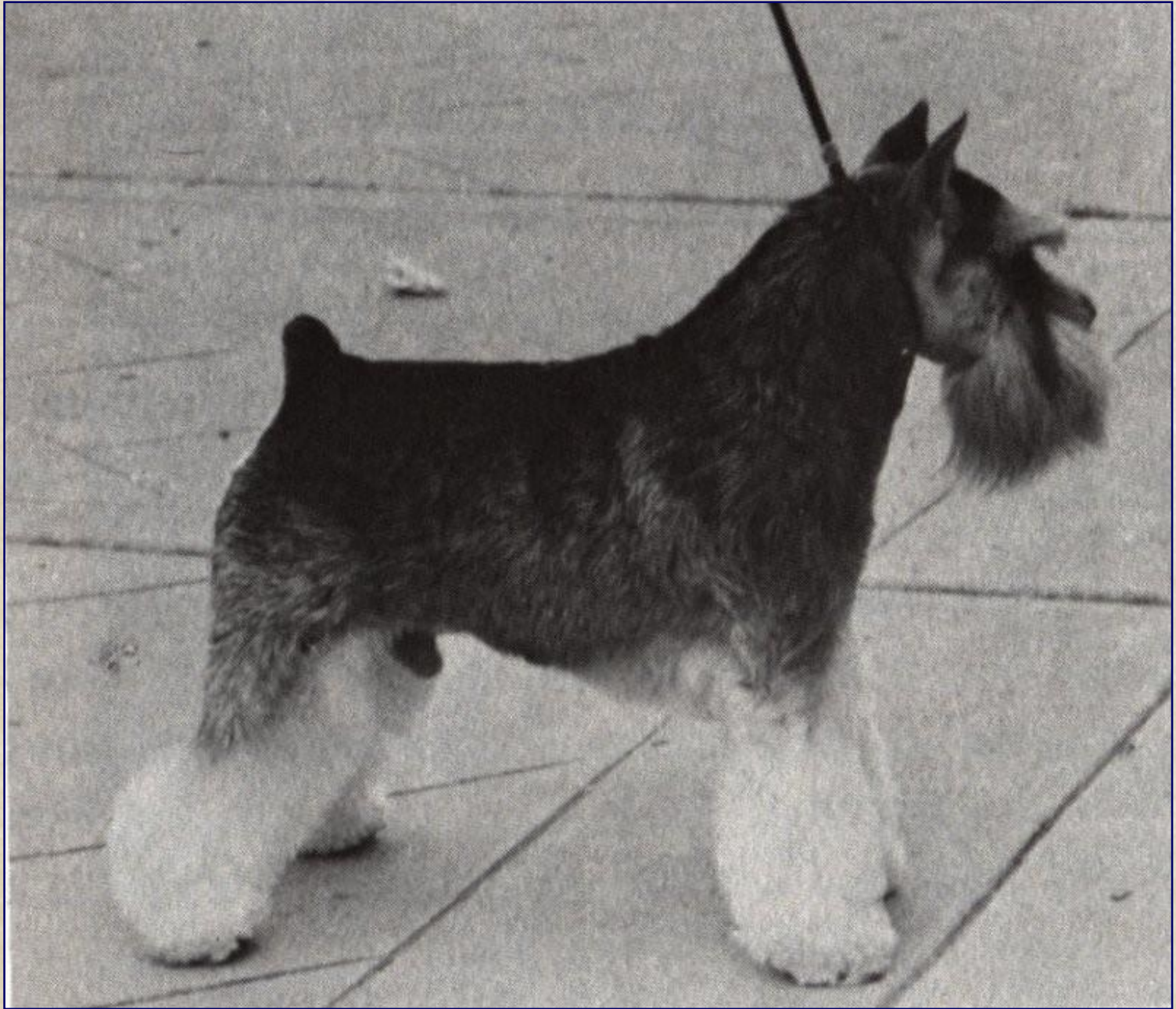
Historical Photos



CH Dorem Display - 1945



1950's



1960's



1970's



1980's



The End!