

Are you a Miniature Schnauzer person?

Find out if the intelligent Miniature Schnauzer breed is for you.

Before purchasing your Miniature Schnauzer, you should really think about the personality and characteristics of this breed to determine if this is the right dog for you. Answer the following questions and, if you can answer each one positively, you are off to a good start. You might also like to attend a local dog show. Find out what time the Mini Schnauzer is being shown and, after the judging, talk to some breeders and handlers and take the opportunity to see the Miniature Schnauzers "up close."

The questions you should consider are:

1. Do you have time to give to a dog? He will need care, companionship, training and grooming. This is almost like having a child, except that a dog remains childlike in that he will always require your care for his well-being.
2. Are you looking for a small dog, one that weighs 15 pounds or less?
3. Do you have a fenced-in yard for your dog? If not, will you be willing and able to walk your dog several times a day?
4. Are you willing to give your new pet a weekly brushing and a full grooming every two or three months? Are you aware that this is a breed that requires a fair amount of grooming and that, if you are unable to do it yourself, you will have to take your pet to a professional groomer?
5. Are you willing, or able, to have a dog that tends to be a bit noisy? Will your neighbors tolerate this? The Miniature Schnauzer, a good watchdog, does tend to be a bit noisier than other breeds.

Lets look at each question in more detail, one at a time.

1. Time for a dog does not mean that you cannot work and own a dog. Your new pet will need quality time, just like a child needs it. A dog must be fed and exercised several times a day, on a regular schedule. He needs to be cuddled and loved. He will like to go places with you whenever possible. He will really like it if you work with him in a sport that requires some intelligence and athletic ability.

The dog should have at least two good outings a day, and that means a walk in the morning and evening if this is an apartment dog. A dog with a fenced-in yard needs adequate time to romp and play. Never let your dog out loose, even if you live on a very quiet street with little traffic, as it only takes one car or truck to run down your four-footed family member.