

## Giant Schnauzer



At one time the three varieties of Schnauzer were in the Utility Group, but because of his size and working ability the Giant was moved to the Working Group. An imposing dog, large and square in outline, he combines strength with agility. His outlook is bold and vigorous. Farmers around the Munich area used him from the fifteenth century as a droving dog until the coming of the railways when large cattle drives vanished. Interest in the breed was lost in the rural communities and he re-emerged in the towns and cities as a guard or even a mascot in beer halls and butchers' shops. He also became a breed used widely for police and security work in Europe.

Amenable to training, not aggressive unless provoked, he is a good house-dog and a lovable pet. His coat is harsh and wiry, and should be trimmed regularly. Prominent eyebrows, a bristly moustache and whiskers give his strong head a keen expression. He is slow to mature, but a good stayer.

### **What about Health Issues?**

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

**Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:**

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

### **And what health screening is relevant for the Giant Schnauzer?**

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme including litter screening

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.