

# Choosing a Puppy and then Realizing It Will Become an Adult Dog

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All puppies are cute! Although, it is important to beware of what the puppy will look like when it is an adult. As an example I would like to choose the schnauzers, since I have had five (5) Miniature Schnauzers through my life. For myself, I find even though the puppies are cute, as they mature, they become a very elegant pet if groomed correctly. Therefore, since I am familiar with Miniature Schnauzers, you will find this article to be more informative about the Miniature Schnauzers.

**Important Note:** Puppies, or as you should be aware, will grow into adult dogs. They are a lot of responsibility and it is important that you decide prior getting a dog if you are **really** up to adding an addition to your family. Keep in mind that they are like children in many ways. They need to be feed; if they are an indoor dog, your schedule needs to consider going home within a certain set of hours. Dogs are like people, they need to eat and they need to go to relieve themselves (go to the bathroom); these are areas similar to that of a young child, except you also need to keep in mind they will always be children and will also have to depend on you. But the GOOD part is that their love for their owner is that of an “everlasting love.” They enjoy pleasing their owner(s). Therefore this is the way it will always be. Children grow up and become independent, dogs will always have an unconditional love for its owner, but on the other hand, they still remain as a baby. Ask yourself, what am I going to do if I decide to go on vacation? Again, these are very important questions you need to ask yourself.

## Breeds: What Kind of Dog?

I would advise you to look up a breed that you are interested in and use the Search Engines, American Kennel Club ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) and look under breeds, or another good site to go to is Wikipedia, which is an online encyclopedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)), and type in the breed of dog. There are many ways to inquire about different breeds of dogs, the pro and cons, behavior, etc. We will touch on this subject a little later in this article.

## Considerations of what you should be concerned about.

### **Important Question: Fur or Hair?**

The consideration of a dog with fur is shedding. Along with brushing the dog periodically, if not on a regular basis; it also encompasses vacuuming your home more often and dealing with pieces of fur on your clothes. I am sure a person who has a dog with fur can easily add other obstacles to this paragraph.

The consideration of a dog with hair is the cost of grooming and/or learning to do your own grooming. Keep in mind grooming can be an ongoing expense and along with the grooming, since the dog has hair, it is like a child, their hair needs to be combed on a regular basis or you will end up with a dog with a lot tangles and a very unhappy dog when you attempt to loosen the

tangles in order to comb the hair. (A hint to loosen a tangle is to use the end tooth of a metal dog grooming comb, until the tangle is loose enough to comb it out. This eliminates some discomfort in the process of removing tangled hair.)

### *Some Breeds of Dogs, Color Orientation is a Consideration*

As I stated, I will be giving a lot of my own experience and research will be leaning toward Schnauzers. As any Schnauzer ages, you will find the color of their hair will change or lighten in color as the dog gets older. In purchasing a puppy, you should always keep this in mind if you decide to purchase a Miniature, Standard or Giant Schnauzer. It would be a good idea if you are buying directly from a breeder to ask to see at least a minimum of a 3 Generation Pedigree Report of the Sires and Dams' colors; or it would even be better to see a 5 generation report. That report will show the puppy's pedigree line and the coloring of each Sire and Dam. That will give you a better idea of the puppy you are purchasing when it becomes an aging adult. You will also see if there was any inbreeding regarding the puppy. (Inbreeding can cause different weaknesses as the puppy grows to be an adult and can possible cause certain medical defects, disorders or weaknesses.)

As I shared, all of the colors of Schnauzers will lighten with age as well as a few other breeds too, with the certain exceptions of the Black Schnauzers (if the puppy's line is completely black); whether they are miniature, standard or giant, (only the giant schnauzers come in black).

The different colors of the Miniature Schnauzers are:

**Salt & Pepper** (the black will become gray)

**Black & Silver** (the black will become dark gray)

**Black & White** (the black will become dark gray)

**Silver** (will continue to lighten in color to almost a white)

**White**, (which is a controversial color with AKC and other Kennel Clubs or Associations) (they also have a tendency to yellow with aging)

**Black** Schnauzers, of all sizes, have a tendency to lighten to a dark brown or have highlights of brown.

You will often see unusual changes depending upon the pedigree generation color blends from the Sires and Dams. If you have a lot of Black or Black & White, even in a Salt & Pepper dog you may have purchased, you will see highlights of light brown as the hair grows, but immediately after a grooming the highlights are cut off, especially if you are clipping the Miniature Schnauzer. If you use a plucking comb for grooming, which is customary for show dogs, you may not lose all the light brown highlights, which could affect the grooming scores in the results of the judging.

**TIP:** On all light colored areas, especially around the eyes, beard and sometimes legs, if grooming is not done on a regular basis this can cause a rapid discoloring to a dark brown (especially around the eyes, mouth and into the beard). I found giving your dog the dark brown or smoked rawhide will often darken their beard. There are product on the market to remove this discoloring but it will take time and a lot of effort on the owner's part to maintain or clean the hair to its original white or silver hair tones. To help maintain the discoloring: daily clean any

mucus discharge from the eyes; after a meal, take a baby wipe and clean the beard and comb it; in fact, your dog should be combed on a daily basis. Since the dog has hair, it is like a child; if you do not comb the hair on a regular basis it will become tangled and will encompass a harder job on yourself and initial pain for the dog. When you locate a tangle use the front tooth of the comb in order to loosen the tangle to pull it apart so you can comb your schnauzer with less pain and aggravation. Schnauzers love to be clean and because of the fact that they have hair, they should be bathed at least once a month if not more.

### *Behavioral Often Depends Upon The Breed Of Dog*

**Sporting Dogs:** can be aggressive, excessive training and must have a lot of daily exercise.

**Regular Sport Dogs** – can be aggressive and must have a lot of daily exercise.

**Winter Sport Dogs** – can be aggressive and are also known to be diggers. Keep in mind that as a pack, their inbred behavior is to dig a hole in the snow and then the pack of dogs will keep warmer in the snow. The problem is that even without the snow, they have a tendency to dig in the ground since the temperature is cooler underground during the summer season.

**Hunting Dogs:** can also be aggressive to a point. Remember their purpose is to be skilled as hunting wild animals. Growing up we had a beagle, best little guy in town. But living in the country, we dealt with him running away because their instinct is to be adventurous. There were the numerous times he would come home and his whole snout and mouth would be loaded with porcupine quills. So we would use a pair of pliers and pull the quills out one at a time. The poor dog was in such pain. One thing I have to say about the breed of the Beagle is that from a puppy to an adult, there is very little change in appearance or color, they just get bigger.

**Working Dogs:** they need a lot of exercise. If you are not a walker or jogger, you will find these breeds of dogs to become aggressive in their behavior and psychologically frustrated; Why? Because they are doers. Yes dogs love pleasing the owner, but these dogs also take pleasure in doing or working. Such dogs are: herding dogs, collies, sheep dogs and the three types of dogs listed below:

**Police Dogs, Rescue Dogs and Seeing Eye Dogs** – These three types of dogs, which are of numerous different breeds, need a lot of professional training. Since they have been extremely trained for specific duties, they can become aggressive if they are not daily doing or functioning from the rigorous training. Again being a Schnauzer lover, they have now found that the Schnauzer is an excellent intelligent breed and the Giant Schnauzer is an excellent Rescue dog. And the Standard Schnauzer is an excellent dog as a Seeing Eye Dog, basically, because they don't shed and a blind person does not have to deal with the shedding or having fur on their clothes. Also, the blind person can groom the dog on a daily basis just by combing them. They would just have to have them groomed by a groomer, which I am referring to as haircuts. Also with any Seeing Eye Dog, there is a time spent to see if they are compatible, that is extremely important.

**Non-Sporting Dogs:** can vary according to the breed. Some can be aggressive, some are not fond of children, and they prefer adults only. Other breeds are excellent with children. On the other hand a couple of breeds of dogs are considered as a ONE MAN dog. In other words, their

instinct is to be protective of just one person. A good example is a Chow-chow. They are beautiful and I love the fact that they are about the only dog that has a black tongue. Again, they are NOT a dog for children.

**House Dogs (Terriers and Toy Breeds):** Terriers are very intelligent on the whole. They are usually very good with children. Some breeds can be more aggressive and need a lot of exercise. They need a lot of training in different areas; more of house training; and, can become bored if they do not have the attention or exercise a couple times a day. If you are gone from the house too long they will show their disapproval by destroying things, These breeds need to be put in a crate when you leave the house unless you want to walk into a mess when you get home. They will show their revenge.

Fox terriers are cute, lovable, but aggressive; don't be surprised if you will find them on your kitchen counter. They are jumpers! Their ability to jump is amazing. But if not trained correctly you will find them annoying. Many of the terriers are known to be yelpers, but that can be broken through training.

Yorkshire or Yorkies: Is another beautiful dog with hair so there is no shedding but they must be groomed almost on a daily basis, especially the toy Yorkie. The bad issue of Yorkies are; they are extremely difficult to potty train. I have spoken with numerous people and they have shared that their dog is years old and still has not learned to go outside to do potty. You can take them outside, walk them; but when they come in the house they will do their business. They are a very strong willed breed and demand dominance. The only person I spoke with who has a Yorkie, already had a couple of dogs and the Yorkie then follow the pack in their habits. I believe that was because the Yorkie was not the leader of the pack. They are also not the greatest dog for children, they prefer adults over children. A neighbor of mine had a Yorkie and they were going on vacation; now their Yorkie was probably about 10 years old. I had two Miniature Schnauzers and the dogs would see and smell each other along the fence. I consented to take care of their Yorkie while they were on vacation; it was the worst experience I ever had. The dog was not house broken, chewed on the furniture, pillows, destroyed object you would think impossible. I ended up just putting the dog in the crate. It really needed strong training, but it even went potty in every area of the crate, even by its food and water, which is not typical of any breed of dog I have ever seen. I was constantly cleaning him because he would lay down where he went potty. I told the owner and he said that is the way the dog always was and they could never train him. To me that dog never appreciated the privilege of being a part of that family's home.

Many of the smaller breeds of dogs are excellent to train and good with children. But the biggest decision you need to make is: Do I want a dog that sheds (fur) or a dog that needs to be groomed (hair)? Is the breed of dog going to be compatible with my family, especially if you have children?

### *Question: Indoor or outdoor dog; or both?*

In dealing with the choice of an indoor dog, keep in mind that size is a consideration. Small dogs are better for an indoor pet, although larger dogs can also be an indoor pet, but you need to be aware that you may have to make some changes in your home for a larger pet. A larger pet

needs more space. You may also have to go through your home and decide what items can be kept on the floor or table level, especially if the item has value to it, you may want to place it in a higher position or in a place where a larger dog cannot get to it. For example, if you decide that you would like to have a golden retriever for a house dog, it has a long fluffy tail and when it gets excited with you or at any event in your home, its tail is going to wag and if there is any object in the way, the dog's tail may break or spill the item. So you need to be prepared for those situations.

Again, before getting a dog, don't go by how cute the puppy is, check on the internet, in Wikipedia or go to AKC.org and check out the breed of dogs that you think you would like. Read about that breed's behavior. Look at pictures as they would be as an adult before making a decision.

When training a dog, remember the whole family has to be in sync with all commands. Everyone must act and react in the same way with the puppy. That is what provides quick training and a secured environment for your dog. This is a family project,-talk about it, share your concepts and what you are experiencing with the pet and how you are handling the matter at hand. The problem is that most of the time the dog in the home becomes one person's responsibility. If that is the case, **don't get a pet** of any kind. Getting a dog is like adopting a child and everyone in the home needs to be involved.

**Parents:** don't allow your children to talk you into getting a dog unless you are strike parents or a strike parent and make sure that your children take an even responsibility of caring for the dog. It may be a good idea to take care of one of a friend's dog for a week while the family goes on vacation just to feel the concept of having the responsibility of having a dog before making a decision.