General Description
The Giant Schnauzer should resemble, as nearly as possible, in general appearance, a larger and more powerful version of the Standard Schnauzer, on the whole a bold and valiant figure of a dog. Robust, strongly built, nearly square in proportion of body length to height at withers, active, sturdy and well-muscled. Temperament which combines spirit and alertness with intelligence and reliability. Composed, watchful, courageous, easily trained, deeply loyal to family, playful, amiable in repose and a commanding figure when aroused. The sound, reliable temperament, rugged build and dense weather-resistant wiry coat make for one of the most useful, powerful and enduring working breeds.

Breed History
In the English edition of *German Dogs in Word and Picture*, E. von Otto identifies the Giant’s progenitor as the “Bear Schnauzer” of Munich, which had long, shaggy hair and was related to the Old German shaggy shepherd dog. This type came to the attention of fanciers of the wire-haired Pinschers and early medium-sized Schnauzers. In an effort to make the hair shorter and the body larger and black, the breed was crossed with the black Great Dane, gaining power and acquiring the discretion of a protecting dog. Other breeds possibly contributing include the Bouviers des Flandres and Standard Schnauzer. Riesenschnauzers, as they are known in Germany, were originally multi-purpose farm dogs used to drive livestock to market and to guard property. As the need for all-around farm dogs declined, their intelligence and versatility allowed them to work as guard dogs in breweries, butcheries, stockyards and factories. They were practically unknown outside of Bavaria until becoming popular as military dogs during World Wars I and II.

Today’s Giant Schnauzer
Giants excel in search and rescue, conformation, obedience, agility and herding with a few still being used for police work. They have earned their reputation as a handsome, intelligent and truly versatile working dog and are deeply loyal to owners and naturally protective of their homes and owners, making them wonderful family companions.

The Giant Schnauzer Blueprint
The Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc. (GSCA) is a member of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and is responsible for writing the standard for our breed – the description of how the ideal Giant should look, move and behave. Responsible breeders strive to produce dogs that are both mentally and physically healthy and conform to this standard. Giants that deviate substantially from the standard in appearance, structure, or temperament should not be bred.

Breeding dogs is a great responsibility that requires a substantial commitment of time and money and is something that should never be undertaken lightly. Re
responsi ble breed ers are charged with the duty of protecting and preserving the Giant Schnauzer for future generations. They are experts in evaluating dogs and only breed for the betterment of the breed using health-tested breeding pairs that complement each other in conformation, temperament and breed type. Responsible breeders are also always there to support you. Always contact your breeder first with any questions regarding feeding, health and training.

**Training**
Socialization and basic obedience training, beginning at an early age, are essential to ensure that every Giant puppy grows into a well-behaved adult dog. Giants are energetic and playful. But when these traits are combined with boredom, destructive behaviors often result. Giants need regular activities and consistent expectations from their owner. As they are inherently suspicious of strangers and naturally protective of their families and homes, formal protection training is not required. Giants will instinctually take care of what they perceive as their own.

**Grooming**
All dogs need basic grooming – nails clipped, ears and teeth cleaned, coat brushed, etc. – and Giants are certainly no exception, but they require even more grooming than most breeds. Beards and leg hair (“furnishings”) must be brushed often enough to prevent matting. Dogs that are being shown have their coats “stripped” – loose, dead hair is plucked out to allow regrowth of new harsh hair. Pet Giants are usually clippered as this is faster but can also affect coat texture.

**Rescue**
Although GSCA itself is not a rescue organization, there are several reputable groups of volunteers dedicated to finding homes for every Giant in need. Contact information for these programs can be found on the GSCA website under the “Breed Information” tab.

**The Parent Club**
The Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality and care of the breed of dog known as the Giant Schnauzer. The club is the parent club for the breed in the United States of America and sponsors events and functions that are approved by the AKC. Membership is open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the AKC and who subscribe to the purposes of the club. Membership in the club is unrestricted as to country of origin.

**More Information**
For more about this wonderful breed or information on how to become a member of GSCA, please visit [www.GiantSchnauzerClubofAmerica.com](http://www.GiantSchnauzerClubofAmerica.com) and join us on Facebook by scanning the QR codes with your smart phone or tablet.

The following publications are available from GSCA and can be ordered from the website:

- **The Giant Schnauzer - A Blueprint for the Breed** (The Illustrated Standard by GSCA)
- **What You Should Know About the Giant Schnauzer** (booklet)
- **Grooming Manual** (booklet)