

STANDARD SCHNAUZERS: The Relentless Pursuit of Life

By Diana M. Barber, Ph. D.

The Standard Schnauzer was originally developed as an all-purpose farm dog in Germany centuries before organized dog showing. However, all-purpose should not be confused with the cliché “jack-of-all-trades, master of none.” Indeed they excel at any task in which they believe. They are incredibly intelligent (nicknamed the dog with a human brain), but more than their intelligence and creativity, what sets these dogs apart from the rest of canine intelligentsia is purpose. This is the joy and terror of this breed in a nutshell. When you look into a Standard’s eyes, the lights

are on, someone is home, and there are plans for you. Standards are filled with purpose and if you don’t assign them a job, they will find one of their own and you may not like it. Once given a job, the Standard’s pursuit of perfection is relentless. World War II POWs feared Standard Schnauzers because they could not be bribed. Standard Schnauzers are not the dog for everyone and are completely unsuitable for owners who are not willing to be leaders. To truly be happy with Standard Schnauzers, you must not just live with them—you must work with them. To do otherwise is to risk working for them.

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Well trained standards make patient teachers and devoted playmates for children.

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