

SCHNOODLE LOVE

A guide to the Schnoodle,
cross-breed dog.



The wonderful world of
the Schnoodle dog.

SCHNOODLE LOVE

By Lorraine A. Baker

About the Author

“A person who has never owned a dog has missed a wonderful part of life” Bob Barker

I have been a ‘pet Mummy’ for all of my 47 years. Having grown up in an animal loving family I have owned, loved and ‘lost’, through illness and old age, many furry friends over the years.



Pets have always played a big part in my life, in more ways than one, sometimes being the first to catch my falling tears and other times to share my happiness or to make me smile.

Life can be tough but the joy and pleasure of sharing your life with a dog cannot be underestimated. My own personal experience of dog ownership has been therapeutic and has contributed to my well-being. The love shown by a dog is unconditional.

The many dogs I have owned included pedigree dogs, mixed breed and cross breeds. All of them have had very unique characters but loved all the same. The bond with each dog has been intense and has flourished and blossomed throughout the precious time we shared.

Many of the dogs arrived in the household through rehoming and each came with its own individual problems, often deeply seated issues. The process to get these dogs relaxed, trusting and comfortable within a relaxed family

environment where punishment was not dished out as routine, or with them being locked in a coal shed all day had its trials and tribulations. Perseverance with all of the affected dogs paid dividends and all lived their lives out in a happy and loving home.

In 2009 a Schnoodle puppy, which we named Woody, was purchased to join our family in our new house, right next to the beach. This adorable bundle of black fur has the life of Riley, at least three walks a day, a jog with his 'pet Dad' in the mornings along the beach path and regular ball games on the field in front of the house. What more could a dog ask for?

I know I am not the only member of the family to benefit from the inclusion of a dog in our household. My husband, Steve, who never knew the joy of dog ownership during his childhood, has found a love he never knew. After a hard days work he finds relaxation in taking Woody for a game of ball and a stroll along the beach.

Woody inspired me to write this book based on the experience of dog ownership, which I wanted to share with my readers so they too could consider Schnoodle ownership and its many advantages



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In memory of
Rajah
Bess
Buddy
Sonny
Henry
Millie
Harvey and Honey Moon
Santa

All waiting at the Rainbow Bridge



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What is a Schnoodle

The Schnoodle is a domestic dog, a deliberate mating resulting in a cross breed between a pure breed Schnauzer and a pure breed Poodle.

Cross breed coupling is completely unassociated with a mixed breed mating, where resulting offspring are often referred to as 'mutts', 'bitzers' or 'Heinz 57's'

Often described as a designer dog, this connotation is not in the same context as a 'designer handbag or designer shoes'. In fact the 'designer dog' label is used to express, not solely novelty breed characteristics but also to reduce hereditary problems found in the pure breeds used in the mating.

Deliberate hybridisation, if done conscientiously by reputable breeders using pure breed sire and dam, can also reduce the undesirable traits associated with pure breeds. By the same token reputable breeders can breed offspring that have desired specific traits or characteristics.

The health of a Schnoodle hybrid dog depends on the offspring being descended from healthy parents. Breeders of quality hybrid puppy stock subject the breeding parents to veterinarian checks for common presenting conditions affecting specific breeds.

It is a commonly held belief that cross breed dogs resulting from pure breeds will have far lower instances of exhibiting disorders more common in their pure breed parents.

The Schnoodle cross breed dog can sometimes open the possibility of ownership of this delightful breed of dog for sufferers of allergies. This can be due to the low shedding or non-shedding of their coat and low dander.

The fur of a Schnoodle is more likely to be hypoallergenic and tolerated by allergy sufferers. However, there is still a risk that part or all of a litter can sometimes cause allergies. Therefore, it is always advisable before considering obtaining a puppy or dog to consult with a Clinician or breeder. One person's allergic reactions may differ from another's; hence it is wise to visit a breeder's pups before you commit to take the pup home.

Unfortunately often the case of allergies is not discovered until a pet has been purchased and brought into a household. Many dogs and cats find themselves being donated to rescue establishments, through no fault of their own.

Advantages of a Schnoodle

Temperament

The Schnoodle is an affectionate, confident, family friendly dog. Being keen to please he is an easy to train dog with high intelligence. A devoted companion, he often wants to be a lap dog.

Paying with a ball or Frisbee is a very rewarding game for both the Schnoodle and owner. Making this a part of his exercise routine can be fun for all involved. Schnoodles are inquisitive of other dogs and often approach with little fear but rarely show aggression towards other dogs.

Sharing your life, home and family with a Schnoodle can give many years of enjoyment, comfort and pleasure.

To ensure the benefits of a Schnoodle with a good temperament prospective owners should purchase from reputable breeders who use good quality pure breed stock. Reputable breeders should be happy to provide details regarding the temperament of the parent dogs, especially the Mother dog who will nurture and care for the pups for the first 12 weeks of their life.

Characteristics

Schnoodles can vary in appearance including coat texture, colour of coat, and size, depending on the dominant characteristics inherited from their parent. This variation can be evident amongst the same litter offspring.

The Poodle breed is characterised by 3 different sizes, toy, miniature and standard. Each size shares the benefits of exceptional intelligence, excelling in obedience training, eager to please and people orientated.

Poodle coat colours are silver, cream, gray, blue, black, white, apricot, red, café-au-lait, brown and parti-coloured.

The coat of a poodle is often referred to as hypoallergenic making it more compatible with people suffering dog allergies. Poodles due to their low shedding fur require regular grooming (see Grooming for further information relating to grooming)

The Schnauzer breed is characterised by 3 different sizes, Miniature, Standard and Giant. Each size shares a high level of intelligence and is alert and spirited. Typically the breed is friendly, social and obedient. Schnauzers love regular activities and are willing to please. Schnauzers have a tendency to be vocal, especially when meeting other dogs, people and within the home environment when accepting visitors.

Schnauzer coat colours are pepper and salt, solid black and less commonly seen solid white.

The coat of a Schnauzer is also referred to as a hypoallergenic, making it more compatible with people suffering dog allergies.

Schnauzers due to their low shedding fur require regular grooming.



Why Choose a Schnoodle?

Choosing the ideal dog for you

Your family

As with any major family decision, the undertaking of welcoming either a puppy or dog into your home should be considered very carefully. The age of children, visitors who regularly visit or your own needs or limitations need to be taken into account. Schnoodles are considered family friendly dogs and, introduced under supervision and treated respectfully can make ideal companions in a family environment. Adults must set the 'rules' that will ensure safety, respect and most of all enjoyment.



Curious Schnoodle
Puppies

Your time

Schnoodles are considered high-energy dogs requiring plentiful exercise and stimulation. A daily routine, which provides for their needs, can be incorporated into a family lifestyle or similar. Finding activities which will cater for their exercise needs can involve all of the family and a great deal of fun can be had by all, including your Schnoodle.

Ownership of any dog incurs time and commitment to varying degrees. Serious consideration needs to be given as to how much time you have available for your Schnoodle in addition to your work and home commitments. Take an average week in your household. How much time would you have available for the caring of your 'four legged friend'?

Incorporating a walk into your daily school drop off routine with your children can provide an exercise opportunity for your Schnoodle along with road walking training.

Be inventive with your exercise opportunities for your dog, all members of the family can benefit greatly.

Your finances

Schnoodle ownership does incur cost and can vary widely depending on the dog's health needs, feeding regime, grooming requirements and general day to day needs.

Consideration of the potential costs of ownership compared against available income resources should not be taken lightly.

The costs of dog ownership can vary from country to country as can our preference for taking care of our dog beyond the basic needs.

Throughout the western world, dog ownership is generally for companionship and our pets are very much regarded as part of the family, even sharing our vacations.

Potential dog owners should always do an affordability exercise before embarking on dog ownership and consider the 'what if' scenarios should finances change for the worse.

Your home environment

Taking into account your immediate housing environment and that of the needs of the dog will establish whether Schnoodle ownership is appropriate according to your circumstances.

Living in a top floor apartment with no garden access may work perfectly if you have a low energy dog that is taken to the local park at regular intervals but may not be the best option for a high-energy dog.

Similarly a person with limited mobility and no additional support to walk a dog may choose a low energy lap dog to share their life.

Provided there is a regular exercise routine, ownership of a Schnoodle is not prohibitive to apartment dwellers. In between walks and play the Schnoodle is satisfied with rest periods and close companionship. Additional stimulation is advisable if the dog is left on its own and this can include leaving a radio on low.

Selecting a breeder

The selection of a reputable breeder of quality puppies should never be undervalued when considering the purchase of your Schnoodle puppy.

Whilst complete 100% guarantee that a puppy is absolutely healthy with no underlying conditions or complaints cannot be given, using a professional and reputable breeder can minimise the chance of buying a low quality dog, regardless of how cute it is.

Reputable Schnoodle breeders should have a list of customers who will provide a testimonial in support of the breeder. Local vets may also be able to provide information on reputable breeders known to their practice.

For pure breed dog breeders the Kennel Club of the UK or the American Kennel Club of the US can provide information on reputable breeders.

Throughout the world dog breeders will exhibit breeds at specially organised events and encourage potential owners to visit and ask questions and gain knowledge on particular breed specifics.



Choosing a Veterinarian

Selecting a Veterinarian for your Schnoodles health should be taken with the same consideration of choosing your own Doctor. Here is a list of questions to consider when choosing a vet practice.

- What animals does your vets specialise in?
- What treatment facilities do they have?
- Do they operate an out of hour's service for emergencies?
- Do the Vets all undertake regular training on changes in the industry?
- What onsite testing and analysis facilities do they have?
- What is the cleanliness of the vet's facilities?

Bringing your Schnoodle puppy home

Health check

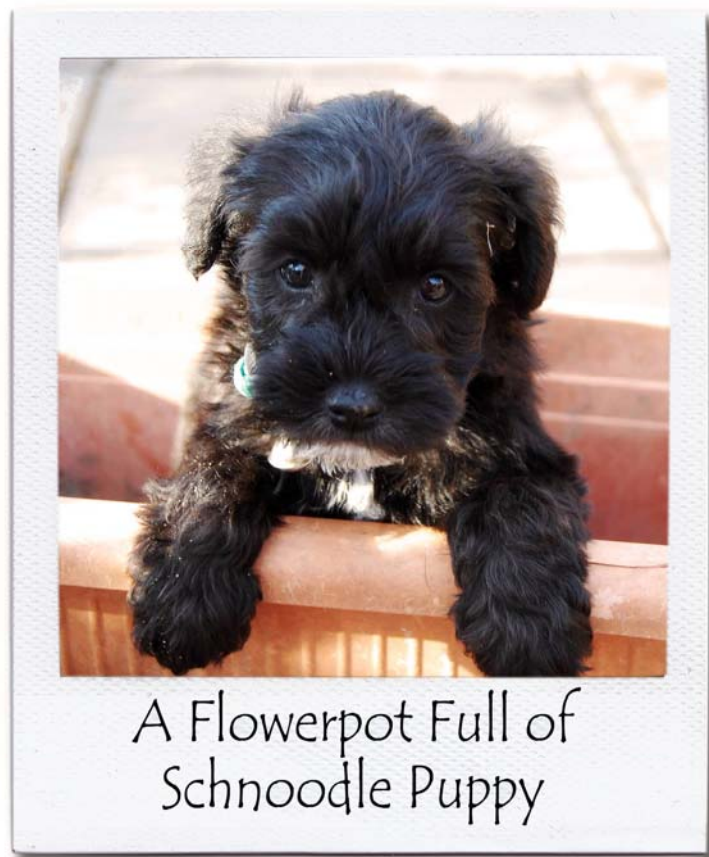
If purchasing your Schnoodle puppy from a reputable breeder they should be able to provide evidence of the pup being checked at least once by a veterinarian. You should make an appointment with your own vet practice as soon as possible for them to check the pup and advice on inoculations, flea and worm treatments, dietary and well-being.

The early days

Your pup will have left the comfort of its Mother and possibly its litter mates and familiarity of the noises and odours associated with its early environment. Therefore, any change to the pup can potentially be stressful and upsetting and cause the pup to whine and cry.

Keeping disruption and excessive noise to a minimum may be advisable for the first few days. Whilst it may be tempting to show your new pup off to the world allow the pup to adjust to its new environment gradually. Minimise visitors until the pup has settled in.

Most breeders will provide a blanket from the pup's environment as a comfort when you take the puppy from the breeders. Once home you can give him a warm clean bed in your preferred area, away from drafts and dangers. Some people use a crate for their pups, or a playpen, which restricts movement. Whatever method you choose is individual and could be discussed with either the breeder or veterinarian.



Down time

Schnoodle pups are no different in 'down time' needs of any young. Rest and quiet are essential for full rest and depending on your pup's needs this will vary. A warm and comfortable space should be provided to allow them to take this precious time to re energise and rest. Pups are so cute to watch sleeping, make the most of this time to observe your pup and get to know him or her.

Setting the boundaries

As with life in general we have boundaries in many areas of lives, this is often for safety and protection. Pups should not be treated any different and the acceptable boundaries should be introduced early on and adhered to.

If you don't want dogs to share your furnishings set your furniture as out of bounds to the pup with enforcement techniques. Same for meal times, if you don't want your dog begging from you at the table during meal times make a 'boundary rule' and stick to it. All occupants of the house should also agree and abide by the 'rules'

Remember your pup will have had boundaries set by its Mother from birth so it will be nature to the animal to learn and adapt to acceptable behaviour within your household.

Safety in the home

How safe and pet friendly is your home environment? Consider it as if you would for a child. Dogs, especially when puppies will look for items, often inappropriate, to play with including loose electric wires. Examine all areas including your external environment and make necessary alterations to ensure dog safety.

In particular, address the following

- Yard panels, are they intact and high enough to prevent jumping.
- Electrical appliances. Hide cords and cover electrical supply sockets.
- Front door. Can the dog easily escape into the road.
- Put harmful chemicals and products out of reach of pup/dog.
- Install child safety gates to restrict access.
- Restrict window exits.

Feeding routine

- Your puppy's breeder should provide information on the feeding routine being followed and the food being used. Early consultation with a veterinarian provides the opportunity to discuss recommended feeding products and routines suitable for your chosen breed.
- Fresh water should always be provided for your pup/dog and ensure suitable access at all times.

There are many varieties of commercial products available on the market for dog foods as well as the opportunity to feed your dog on products created non-commercially. Advice is best sought through your vet or with a dog nutrition expert.



Pet Insurance

Pets are reliant on their owners making appointments with a veterinarian when unwell and this specialist knowledge in pet health does not come cheap. Pet insurance can give some financial comfort for large bills faced by pet owners.

Insurance for your pet can be a minefield and variations can be confusing. Your vet will be able to explain the pros and cons of pet insurance. Ask around with pet owning colleagues, fellow pet owners and pet care professionals.

Schnoodles are crossbreed dogs and therefore should be less costly to insure than pure breed dogs.

Typical questions to ask include (list is not exhaustive)

- Does the policy cover hereditary conditions?
- Does the policy cover chronic condition?
- Does the premium increase?
- What is the maximum payout per year?
- Do you cover for the lifetime of the pet?

Socialisation

Early socialisation with other humans and other animals is recommended for a Schnoodle puppy. Puppies learn quickly from interaction with their own species and can be fascinating to watch.

The puppy learning process begins from the moment they are born in the puppy nursery. Their environment is also part of their education process including direct noises and indirect noises, like household appliances, human voices, telephones and doorbells. The sooner a pup is subjected to everyday noises the less traumatic it would find them future. Attempt to make each new encounter a positive experience.

Once the period of isolation following inoculations is over, as recommended by your pet health care consultant or vet, socialisation can begin.

Puppy classes

Professionally run puppy class can be hugely beneficial for your pup and the owner themselves. Providing socialisation skills for the young pup with other young dogs gives the owner tools and tricks to encourage positive dog-to-dog relationships and etiquette.

Meeting new friends

Once your Schnoodle puppy is able to go out and meet new friends you will open his world to a wide range of experiences and encounters. Meeting new friends is a huge learning curve for the puppy. He will discover some dogs are friendlier than others and he will learn how to read other dogs.

House visitors

Pups introduced to other 'house' residents, early on, for example cats and children, will benefit from forming an acceptance and tolerance of each other. Introduce house visitors to the pup and the accompanying noises associated with visitors. Establish a pattern of acceptable behaviours early on from the pup and persevere with this. Discuss in more detail with a Dog Training Behaviour a training plan to suit your family.

Exercising

Basic dog care includes stimulation and exercise, without which behaviours can change with your dog. To fit a schedule of walking your dog into your own routine has health benefits for the owner and dog alike.

Walking your Schnoodle is a great joint social activity. Owning a dog is never a lonely experience unless you live in a remote location. I have had my best conversations with strangers and it is amazing what you learn and the conversation topics you discuss.

Games

Schnoodles love a ball game or Frisbee game. Introducing this into your routine further adds to the value of stimulation and exercise for the dog. Ball or Frisbee games are great interactive games the dog will love.

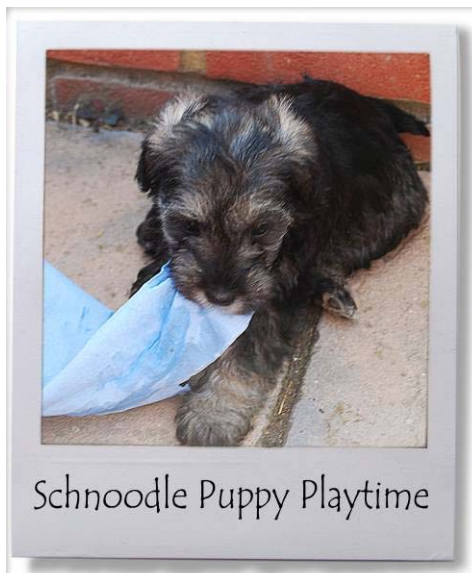
Schnoodles are great fun dogs who love a good entertaining game. Providing good quality toys including balls can compliment a walk in the park or as some additional canine-human bonding time.

Keep the games short so as to avoid over exerting your Schnoodle but make it fun and rewarding. Obedience training can be incorporated into your game routine by giving commands before launching the ball or Frisbee.

Dogs regularly exercised suffer less boredom, which in turn can lead to separation anxiety and destruction.

My Schnoodle loves hide and seek games with his ball and will play happily working with me to locate the ball. He has an amazing sense of smell and can immediately find his ball even when we think it is lost.

Never use any object that can be swallowed by the dog and obstruct the airways, nor use a ball of poor quality that can be ripped apart.



Training

Professional trainers

Although I consider myself to be an experienced dog owner, I enrolled both my new Schnoodle puppy and myself into a professionally run dog training class. Owners need to learn how to behave around their own dogs as much as the dogs need to learn acceptable behaviours, this will lead to a happy well-adjusted member of the family.

How many times have you met an ill-mannered dog, poorly trained by its owner? This is not the dog's fault it simply has not learned what is acceptable and non acceptable behaviour from the owner.

Puppy or dog socialisation is a benefit of attending dog behaviour classes. If they meet different breeds and personalities during their classes they are building their experience of the wider canine world. Teaching the puppy and owner safe techniques for street walking on a leash can save lives. Puppies need to learn recall techniques, again, to keep puppy safe from danger in various different guises. A well-behaved and well-mannered dog is a delight to take out on trips and walks.

Choose a class run by a certified training instructor. Check out your local paper for advertisements, ask other dog walkers for their recommendations or visit your vet practice as they will often have a list of certified professional they would be happy to recommend to you.

Make some phone calls to recommended trainers and ask them what kind of environment they use to deliver training. Some trainers use outside facilities while others use church halls or community centres. Ask them how many dogs they have in a class at any time. Too many and it may be a disadvantage. Also, ask them if you could pop along and check out one of their classes on your own and watch the trainer's interaction with the dogs and their owners, this will give you an insight into the quality of the training being delivered and whether it will suit you and your dog.

Punishment is not an effective way of training your dog. Positive reinforcement is the most humane and effective method of training used in conjunction with reward association. Rewards do not have to be food specific, this could lead to a dog with weight concerns. However, praise given through stroking will enable your dog to associate command – performance – reward.

Training should be a continual process and not end when the training class finishes. Make the lessons learned at class part of your daily routine and help your dog achieve his good canine citizen potential.

Typical questions to ask a dog trainer

- What qualifications do they hold in relation to dog training?
- What types of classes do they run, obedience or agility?
- How many dogs (and owners) per class?
- What should an owner expect to get out of a course?
- What are the course fees?

DIY training

Many professional trainers have created books and DVD's suitable for DIY training. If you are a member of an online community associated with pets' recommendations for specific products can be obtained.

The key to success is owner discipline in beginning the DIY program, for the dog is not going to make the move to start the process. Be structured and disciplined if using the DIY method of learning to train your puppy.

Grooming

Grooming requirements are specific to breeds but should be part of the very essence of your Schnoodle grooming routine.

Daily brushing of the dog's coat will reduce matting and tangles, which lead to discomfort when trying to remove when knotted.

Some dogs, other than Schnoodles moult and don't require a trip to the groomers for hair trimming. Delicate areas including the anal glands and ears may require experience to carry out so as not to cause injury and discomfort to the dog.

Unless they are water-loving dogs most dogs will not willingly get into a bath. To ensure the coat is cleansed thoroughly a bath will be part of a grooming routine, whether at home or in the grooming parlour. Try to reduce the stress your dog may feel if they are not lovers of bathing as much as possible.

Nail care is another area many dogs detest, as do the owners. Done incorrectly it can cause severe discomfort to the dog so is best carried out by a professional.

Dogs with long ears or hairy inside ears can be susceptible to ear problems, which includes yeast problems. A reduction in the air supply to the ear can cause recurrent infections, which require daily treatment. Foul smells

emanating from the ear is a sure sign of infection, early diagnosis and treatment will result in reduced discomfort for the animal.

Professional Groomers

Choosing a Dog Groomer for your precious Schnoodle is like checking out your child's pre school nursery. A checklist should be drawn up to ensure you and your pet will have a positive experience that can continue each time grooming is required.

Firstly ask around for groomer recommendations, ask people what positive experience they and their dog have had and what negatives, if any.

Once you have a list of recommendations call each one and ask to speak to the head groomer. Ask them the following questions

- What qualifications they have for grooming and pet care.
- Establish if it is a recognised certification by a recognised professional grooming body.
- What is their price structure?
- What products are used?
- How they deal with dogs with special requirements, i.e. a nervous dog or elderly dog.

Lastly, visit the grooming salon, check out for a well-lit and clean salon, which is organised, and professional.

Dogs don't forget a bad experience and each visit should be positive for both of you.

Final Word

I hope you will have found this book informative and helpful.

Take a look at my blog created specifically for Schnoodle owners and those looking for more information on this delightful cross breed dog.

Visit www.iLoveSchnoodles.com



iLoveSchnoodles.com

*The Schnoodle Cross Breed Dog,
Hypo Allergenic & Intelligent.*

visit iloveschnoodles.com

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