Talk 'Mac,' and Ch Ebshine Prima Donna 'Elle.' When did you breed your first Schnauzer litter? 2004. Who was the first big winner in Schnauzers? Ch Risepark Pleased to Meet You (imp UK) - call name 'Poppy'. Did you breed her? No. If not who did? Peter Newman and Barry Day, United Kingdom.

What were your major wins with her? At 12 months of age she took Challenge at 2008 Sydney Royal – the only dog or bitch that day to do so from a class other than Open, but her most significant win was MinorIS (Utility Club of NSW) at age 6 months – the very same day she took BOB at the Utility Club Show under an American judge defeating all of that period's then being exhibited male Grand Champions in NSW, in addition to their protégé. Titled the week she turned 1 year old, she is 2008's most expeditiously titled Miniature Schnauzer and arguably the country's top bitch currently in our breed.

Who are your most successful dogs to date? Ch Risepark Pleased To Meet You (impUK); Ch Risepark Stylemarker (impUK); Ch Bayvista Jive Talk; Ch Awun Bobby Dazzla; Ch Ebshine Prima Donna; Ch Vonruf Rather Special and Ch Vonruf Rather Tuf. Are they a)homebred b)imported? Two homebred; two imported; two bred by family mentors (John & Rayma Ritzau (Awun) and Geoff & Kerry Dean (Bayvista); 1 bred by fellow NSW breeder/exhibitor.

Are you able to comment on major changes you might have seen develop in "type" over the years? There seems to be a definite trend by some breeders to breed for a narrow head and longer foreface – some would say, a terrierisation of the head. Narrower bodies have also started appearing more to keep the head and body of this type of dog in balance. Regrettably in recent times these narrower dogs have become a majority in the ring however, not only are they of course incorrect but they lack the very basic Schnauzer look. Beyond that however, it is difficult to make qualified comment, not having yet had the Regrettably of many years in the breed.

If you have imported dogs, would you please list them? Could you give a brief summary of their contribution, major show wins, as producers, and preferably in both fields of endeavour?

Ch Risepark Stylemarker (impUK) 'Newman,' born 14 May, 2006. Ch Risepark Pleased To Meet You (impUK) 'Poppy,' born 22 February, 2007. Risepark Lucky Strike (impUK) 'Geoffrey,' born 24 May, 2007. Multi Champion producing, Ch Risepark Rather Special (impUK) 'Eric,' born 5 May 2001, owned by John Hugo of Turnberry Miniature Schnauzers was the first import we were lucky enough to have campaigned and used to sire our first litter.

Risepark Chasing Ribbons (impUK) 'Gucci', born 4 October, 2007 owned by Ralph and Lyn Richardson (Worx) is another import who's show career has only just begun.

It is very early days for our imports however, their type is unmistakably that which we have always admired from our long distance mentors, Barry Day and Peter Newman (Risepark).

And anything else you would like to say please. Thank you first and foremost to my aunt Rayma and uncle John Ritzau (Awun), Kerry & Geoff Dean (Bayvista), and Lynda Ritzau-Tyzack for their input into shaping our beginnings in the breed and also for their continued support.

Thank you to Ralph Richardson, Veeni Craig, Marelyne McLeod-Woodhouse, Alan Bracken and Helen Sims who have all at one time or another provided invaluable advice, support and guidance. And of course for a beginning in the breed most would only dream of, in addition to encouragement, faith and trust in us not to mention their wonderful Miniature Schnauzers, thank you breeder/exhibitor/judge Barry Day, and breed icon, Peter Newman.

GROOMING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

If your dog has feet that turn in or out, is a short, tall, fat or thin dog, all these things need to be compensated for when you groom your dog. Eg., if you dog's foot 'toes-out' you would leave extra hair on the inside of the foot and give the illusion that the foot is where it is supposed to be.



Same again with the amount of hair to leave on the legs. If you have a very thick set dog then keeping their leg furnishings longer will make the dog appear bigger still so you would take more hair off to balance the dog. If you had a leaner dog, to make the dog appear thicker you would leave more hair on overall. But make sure the dog looks balanced.

The sternum is also an area that needs attention . as you can see from Breastbone, diagram front (with longer hair in black area). (In front view and highlighted in black) we basically keep some extra hair from the breastbone downwards and run virtually two lines down to the inside of the front leg. and keep the hair in between the lines to nearly form a triangle shape. Now looking from the side, get your curved scissors and carefully cut the hair to accentuate the prosternum, you will need to adjust this depending on how much prosternum your dog actually has and work the hair down so it looks like a natural progression into the underbelly furnishings as seen in the photo of Alee

The Underbelly and Rear Legs: From the Australian Breed Standard (I believe most Standards are similar): "BODY - Chest moderately broad and deep, reaching at least to height of elbow rising slightly backward to loins."

Now what can we do to achieve this and accentuate the look on the dog. Basically keep the hair a bit longer on the chest and towards the front end and tuck it up a bit more severely into the loin. This creates the illusion of the dog having a deeper chest and does make it look more stylish. You will find that using the curved scissors upside - down works well on the underbelly. Many people have problems with straight scissors and angle them wrongly and take out too much hair at an incorrect angle, so try the curved scissors or use your thinning scissors :) A LITTLE AT A TIME !!!! (see Side Furnishings diagram).



The area of the loin is quite important. You need to join the underbelly line to the hindleg furnishings, resulting in a curved look as seen in the Side Furnishings diagram. (Hint) You can even leave more hair on the top front part of

the thigh and move the loin curve forward slightly to give the dog the appearance of being shorter in back and shorter in the coupling with the bonus of the thigh looking thicker. (Hint) If you have problems trimming the rear furnishings or

following the curve of the leg or doing the curve of the loin, a pretty rough and ready way to do it is to pull the dog's leg straight back and to be presented basically with a straight line to trim.

The rear legs looking from behind should be filled in and balanced (see rear diagram) nearly forming an "A". To achieve this you will need to brush up the hair (use the mousse, hair dryer and slicker brush) on the inside of the legs to stand the hair up and the same on the outside filling in the 'second thigh', etc to create two neat columns, then scissor the rear to give the dog a nice clean look through from behind. All this will be a little trial and error as each dog will be differently built and move differently and you will need to compensate for your dog's imperfect features. But the best approach is to do a little, get someone to move the dog while you watch it from behind and then do some more if need be. Remember, the rear legs just like the front legs, must look correct in the dog's natural stance position as well as on the move!!!!



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Worx Miniature Schnauzers



Home of Worx Just Begun & Risepark Chasing Ribbons (Imp UK) Expertly handled & groomed by Lyn & Ralph Richardson 0421 111 403 worxexcell@yahoo.com.au

The hock area looking from the side, is very important in that it can help the outline of the dog. If your dog doesn't have much angulation in the rear you can enhance what he has by leaving more hair at the back of the hock, it must follow the natural rear line of the leg, viewing it from the side. You will also have a shorter looking hock which is quite desirable (you are making the hock appear to be back further than where it is) and also the illusion of a better turn of stifle (more angulation). So as this stands if you have a dog with too much angulation you can decrease it by keeping the hock hair very tight. The front of the hock can also make a big difference to the overall balance of the dog. That is, the accompanying articles "Breed Standards" and "Diagrammatic Representations" refer to the backline of the neck being parallel to the line from stifle joint to hock; this latter line can be presented at a steeper angle by filling in the front of the hock with hair (which may be seen as "D" in the dark sketch of an ideal Mini Schnauzer within the article "Diagrammatic Representations").

This will always be a 'work in progress' document, changing with experience which never ends. If you have any comments or questions please email me - your feedback will be welcome. Alee's photo is a wonderful example of grooming and provides something to aspire to.

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More on grooming can be found in 'The World of Schnauzers' published by Alpine, author John Gallant. Drawings reproduced with permission.

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For Schnauzers headed for a show career or for pet owners who like perfection, the grooming of their Schnauzer will, of course, maintain the original goal of promoting cleanliness and health; however, emphasis is placed on enhancing the Schnauzer's attractive appeareance ... the Schnauzer's rustic quality should never be sacrificed in favour of glamour or fashion.

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