Presenting -

The Standard Schnauzer

The Standard Schnauzer Club of America
Overview

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Meet the Family

The Standard Schnauzer is a member of the European pinscher-schnauzer family of dogs that includes (left to right) the Giant Schnauzer, Affenpinscher, Miniature Pinscher, Miniature Schnauzer, German Pinscher, Standard Schnauzer. Of the three Schnauzers, the Standard is considered the original.

Drawing by M. Esser
A Common Misconception

**MYTH**

The Standard Schnauzer is a wire coated terrier.

**FACT**

The Standard Schnauzer is **not a terrier**. It shares neither structure nor ancestry with the terriers of Great Britain. Genetically it is closer to the herding and hunting dogs of the European Continent.
Some Important Differences

STANDARD SCHNAUZER: Originated in Southern Germany. Working/utility dogs bred to herd, guard property and kill vermin. Their sturdy, robust build and well sprung ribs give them strength and endurance. Upper arm and shoulder blade are approximately the same length & set 45 degrees from horizontal. Feet converge towards the center line of gravity when trotting. Slight Slope to croup; tail set moderately high.

LONG LEGGED TERRIERS: Developed in the British Isles. Primarily bred to go to ground to hunt vermin. Their narrower chest & body help them maneuver in tight places in pursuit of vermin. Upper arm is usually shorter than shoulder blade and more vertical, an aid when going to ground. Parallel movement when trotting. Tail set is high.
Schnauzers originated as early as the 15th century in the fertile farming area of Southern Germany.

Known by various names, Wirehaired Pinschers, Rattlers or Rat-catchers, they were the hardy, useful dogs that guarded property, herded livestock to market and rid the stable of vermin. In addition to their role as farm dogs, they were used by early tradesmen to guard their wagons of merchandise as they traveled from hamlet to hamlet.

During World War I they served as dispatch carriers for the Red Cross and as guard dogs for the German Army.
Today the Standard Schnauzer is primarily a family companion and guardian of the home.

They are also used for:

• Police work
• Bomb detection
• Cancer sniffing research
• Herding livestock
• Search and rescue
• Personal assistance
• Therapy

What’s in a name?
The origin of the name Schnauzer is open to speculation. It first appeared in literature in 1842, when Jeremias Gotthelf used it as a synonym for wirehaired pinscher. Some speculate that it came from the German word schnauze, meaning snout. Others believe the breed was named after it’s first show winner named “Schnauzer”. The actual origin is unclear.
Breed Development in Germany

Though historically they were a common dog in Southern Germany, the effort to develop the Schnauzer as a pure breed did not began until the late 1800s.

They made their dog show debut in 1879 at the Third International Show in Hanover, Germany where a dog named “Schnauzer” won first prize.

The first German breed standard for the “Wire-haired German Pinscher, Rattler, or Rat-catcher” was published in 1884. A wider range of colors were accepted early on like the “red pepper” shown above. When a second breed standard was written in 1907, colors were limited to salt and pepper or black.

The Pinscher Klub formed in 1895 to oversee and promote breed development of the Pinscher/Schnauzer breeds in Germany. In 1921 it was renamed “The Pinscher-Schnauzer Klub, 1895 e.V.” The PSK continues to register these breeds today.

The first Stud Book, published in 1902 by the German Pinscher Klub, listed 353 dogs with birthdates extending back as far as 1880. Of the breeds listed, there were 248 Standard Schnauzers, 14 Miniature Schnauzers, 8 German Pinschers and 83 Miniature Pinschers.
1904 - The AKC registered its first Schnauzer, Norwood Victor.

1905 - “Fingal,” pictured below with his owner Mr. Leisching, was the first officially recorded import to the United States.

1920’s - Standard Schnauzers were imported in increasing numbers from breeders in Germany and Switzerland. Many had European titles and were proven producers, providing a strong foundation for the breed in this country.

1923 - Pictured at left is a pioneer of the breed, Mrs. Dean Bedford with import, Alabin von Schussenthal after she showed her in the Miscellaneous Class at Ladies Kennel Club.

1925 - the Swiss import, Resy Patricia (bottom right) became the first Schnauzer to finish an AKC Championship. Her daughter, Fracas Franconia, was the first American-bred Champion.
1925 - The Schnauzer Club was organized to promote both Standard and Miniature Schnauzers in the U.S.

1927 - the first SCA Specialty boasted a combined entry of 63 and was won by Ch. Claus v Furstenwall, a Standard, imported from Germany.

1929 - The AKC approved the first breed standard. The last revision was in 1991.

1933 - The AKC ruled that a specialty club could list only one breed, which brought about the dissolution of The Schnauzer Club and the formation of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America and the American Miniature Schnauzer Club.

1945 - Standard Schnauzers were moved from the Terrier Group back to the Working Group after years of lobbying by the SSCA. Though both Schnauzer breeds had first been assigned to the Working Group in 1925, they were moved to the Terrier Group the next year, where Miniatures continue to be shown.
Examining Today’s Standard

Text from written standard appears boxed throughout.

✓ Areas that require hands-on examination.
The Standard Schnauzer is a robust, heavy-set dog, sturdily built with good muscle and plenty of bone;
General Appearance

Square-built in proportion of body length to height.
General Appearance

His rugged build and dense harsh coat are accentuated by the hallmark of the breed, the arched eyebrows and bristly mustache and whiskers.
General Appearance - Size

**Ideal Size:**
Females: 17 1/2” to 18 1/2”
Males: 18 1/2” to 19 1/2”

Should be faulted in proportion to the deviation from the ideal height.

**Disqualification:**
Males under 18” or over 20”
Females under 17” or over 19”
General Appearance - Proportion

Height is measured from the top of withers to the ground; length from forechest to rump.

The measurement from the top of the withers to brisket should equal the measurement from elbow to the ground.
General Appearance - Faults and Disqualifications

Faults:
Any deviation from the appearance of a
• robust,
• square-built,
• wire coated,
• active
• working dog
should be penalized in proportion to the extent of the deviation.

Size Disqualification:
Males under 18” or over 20”
Females under 17” or over 19”
Head
Head

The total length of the head is about one-half the length of the back measured from the withers to the set-on of the tail.

Strong, rectangular and elongated; narrowing slightly from the ears to the eyes and again to the tip of the nose.
Expression - Alert, highly intelligent, spirited.

Head matches the sex and substance of the dog.
Eyes

Medium size; dark brown (the darker the better); oval in shape and turned forward; neither round nor protruding. The brow is arched and wiry, but vision is not impaired nor eyes hidden by too long an eyebrow.

✓ If long eyebrows obscure the eyes, gently move them out of the way. The color and shape of the eye is an important feature of breed type.
Eye Faults:

Eyes that are **round** or **protruding**

Eyes that are **light in color**
Ears -

Set high, evenly shaped with moderate thickness of leather and carried erect when cropped.

The inner edges are carried perpendicular to the skull and parallel to one another when the dog is alert.
If uncropped, they are of medium size, V-shaped and mobile so that they break at skull level and are carried forward with the inner edge close to the cheek (when the dog is alert).

Fault-prick or hound ears.
Correct Ears

Ear Faults Cropped & Uncropped

Drawings on left hand side show correct ear sets; sketches on right hand show faults.
Skull (Occiput to Stop)-

**Modestly broad between the ears** with the width not exceeding two-thirds the length. The (top of the) skull must be **flat**; neither domed nor bumpy; **skin unwrinkled**. There is a **slight stop**, which is accentuated by wiry brows.

✔️ When judging, feel the top of the skull to make sure the skull is flat and skin unwrinkled.
Muzzle

- Strong and both parallel and equal in length to the topskull; the topline of the muzzle is parallel with the topline of the skull.

Muzzle ends in a moderately blunt wedge with wiry whiskers accenting the rectangular shape of the head.

- Proportionately short or elongated muzzles are often disguised by skillful trimming of beard and brows. This proportion is best assessed by touch.

- A distinctive characteristic of the breed is a powerful jaw, blunt and business-like. The muzzle should have a well-developed superior maxilla so as not to fall away below the eyes.
Cheeks and Nose

**Cheeks** - Well developed chewing muscles, but not so much that “cheekiness” disturbs the rectangular head form.

**Nose** is large, black and full. The lips should be black, tight and not overlapping.

- Well-developed chewing muscles can be easily felt. Bulging in the cheek area is neither necessary nor desirable. Often an excessively arched zygoma (the arched bone that extends along the side of the skull and beneath the eye socket) will contribute to a cheeky appearance as well as to the appearance of skull width when, in truth, it is neither but a fault of its own.
Head Faults: Weak Muzzle

Lack of fill under the eyes indicates molars are not set properly for correct biting action.

To tolerate a snipy foreface is to deny the requirement for a powerful jaw. “Snipy is defined as a pointed, weak muzzle, lacking breadth and depth”

(AKC Complete Dog Book, 19th ed)
Other Head Faults -

- Unparallel Planes faulty
- Cheeky excessively developed
- Skully
- Domed Head
JUDGING HEADS - Which head is closest to the Standard?
Dog C:
Well proportioned, rectangular head.
Topskull and Muzzle are both parallel and equal in length.
Skull is flat and unwrinkled.
Cheeks are well developed, yet smooth.
Muzzle has ample fill.

Dog A:
The ear set (uncropped), flat topskull and expression are correct.
He has the big, black nose typical of the breed.
His fault is that his head appears “cheeky,” which detracts from the rectilinear shape.
Dog B:
This dog appears to be “skully”, with the topskull curving from eyebrows to occiput.

Dog D:
This dog has a narrow head and a domed topskull.
**Bite**- full complement of teeth, with a strong, sound scissors bite. The upper and lower jaws are powerful and neither undershot nor overshot.

**Fault**- A level bite is considered undesirable but a lesser fault than undershot or overshot mouth.
Neck, Topline, Body
Neck-Strong, moderate thickness and length, elegantly arched, blending cleanly into the shoulders. The skin is tight, fitting closely to the dry throat with no wrinkles or dewlaps.
Shoulder layback = Good length of Neck  

The appearance of length of neck is largely governed by the layback of the shoulders. An upright shoulder usually goes with a short neck. A neck cannot blend “cleanly into the shoulders” if the shoulder angle is upright (Figure B).

Notice the difference in the examples. The first dog has an arched neck that gradually widens toward the base and flows smoothly into the back. The second dog’s neck is about the same circumference at the top as at the base. It meets the back at an abrupt, nearly right angle, which also makes the back appear longer.
The requirement for an arched neck is to insure adequate support for the muscles which move the front legs forward. The terminals of these muscles are attached to the cervical ligament, which runs down the arch of the neck from the occiput to the dorsal vertebrae. One of the long muscles of the neck runs from the occipital bone of the skull to the upper arm.
Fault: Ewe Neck

A ewe or concave neck isn’t strong enough to provide adequate support for the propelling muscles that move the legs forward and the possessor usually exhibits faulty front movement and loose shoulders.
Topline of the back- should not be absolutely horizontal, but should have a slightly descending slope from the first vertebra of the withers to the faintly curved croup and set-on of the tail.

Back - strong, firm, straight and short. Loin well developed, with the distance from the last rib to the hips as short as possible.

Body - Compact, strong, short-coupled and substantial.
An oval shaped chest provides the necessary depth for ample heart and lung room.

✓ Check for the prominent forechest. Then put a hand behind the elbows to check depth of chest and make sure the brisket extends back, behind the elbows. Excess hair often hides faults in these two areas.
Chest -

For a balanced appearance the **depth of chest should be approximately equal to the space from the chest to the ground.**

The ascent of the rib cage should not begin until after the eighth rib and then the ascent should be gradual.

✓ **The brisket should be parallel to the ground for a distance well past the elbows before it begins its upward curve.** If the ribs have this gradual ascending curve, the loin section will not present an exaggerated tuck-up, which is considered a fault.
Faults:

If the rib cage is narrow, or slab-sided, the dog’s body will be narrow and lack substance. The narrow chest cavity does not give adequate room for heart and lungs.

If the rib cage is round and the dog barrel-chested, as is the dog on the left, the body is often too bulky and coarse. A round chest is shallow, hence it also lacks adequate heart and lung room.
Croup and Tail -

**Croup**-full and slightly rounded. **Tail**-set moderately high and carried erect. It is docked to not less than one inch nor more than two inches. **Fault**-squirrel tail.

**Tail carriage** is a barometer of the dog’s mental attitude and will vary. When the dog is alert, the tail carriage should be just past vertical, or in the 1:00 o’clock position.

**Tail set** is primarily determined by the structure of the **croup**, so it does not really change. **Tail set should be moderately high**, as illustrated in the drawing.
Faulty Tail Sets -

A low tail set indicates a steep pelvis, which restricts rear extension when the dog trots. (top photo)

A squirrel tail may be caused by a flat pelvis (diagram and bottom photo). A dog with a flat pelvis may have an exaggerated rear kick, instead of reaching under the body to efficiently cover ground.
SSCA Position on Undocked Tails

When presented with an undocked Standard Schnauzer, the judge should evaluate the dog on its merits as outlined in the AKC standard for the breed. **The presence of an undocked tail should not be a reason to dismiss, withhold ribbons or fail to place an exhibit.** The overall type, structure, movement and temperament of the dog should be of primary consideration. The set-on and placement of the tail are important, and should be carefully evaluated. The appearance of the undocked tail, however, should not be a major factor in judging as it is at most (or worst) a cosmetic fault.
Judging Neck, Topline, Body
Judging Neck, Topline, Body

Dog D has a neck that blends cleanly into the shoulder. His back is firm, he has the correct slope to the backline, and his croup and tail set are correct.

Dog B lacks the slightly descending backline called for in the breed standard. His straighter front affects neck length and how cleanly the neck blends into the back.
Judging Neck, Topline, Body

Dogs C and A both have too much slope to the croup giving them a lower tail set.

Dog A also appears to have straight shoulders which may be responsible for the rolls behind his withers.
Forequarters
The sloping shoulder blades are strongly muscled, yet flat and well laid back so that the rounded upper ends are in a nearly vertical line above the elbows. They slope well forward to the point where they join the upper arm, forming as nearly as possible a right angle when seen from the side.

✓ The shoulder blade and upper arm should be the same length and the angle they form as close as possible to 90 degrees.

Correct angulation places the front leg under the shoulder, providing strength and support to the deepest part of the chest.
Faulty Shoulders -

A short upper arm positions the elbow further forward. A correct shoulder with a steep upper arm (Drawing A) results in lack of forechest and reach when the dog trots.

If both upper arm and shoulder are steep (Drawing B), the whole shoulder assembly is too far forward and the forelegs will not support the deepest part of the chest. When the shoulder is straight, the neck will usually appear to be short (Photo).
Forelegs-

**Straight, vertical, and without any curvature when seen from all sides; set moderately far apart; with heavy bone; elbows set close to the body and pointing directly to the rear. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.**

✔ Bone is usually assessed by feeling the forelegs. What is under those furnishings can only be assessed by touch.
Forelegs -

The forelegs should provide a straight column of support from point of shoulder to the feet when viewed from the front.

Correct

Not Correct -
“Out at Elbow”
“East-West”
Feet-

Small and compact, round with thick pads and strong black nails. The toes are well closed and arched (cat’s paws) and pointing straight ahead.
Judging Forequarters
Judging Forequarters

D: Forequarters appear to be correct with the neck flowing cleanly into the back.

B: A straight shoulder and upper arm, places the front assembly too far forward. The result is a short neck, a lack forechest and less support for the deepest part of the chest.
Judging Forequarters

A: This dog’s neck is set nearly perpendicular to the backline indicating a straight shoulder. Because of the shoulder set, the back appears long, even though the dog overall is square.

C: This dog has a ewe neck and a level backline. He is very likely to move high behind.
Hindquarters
Hindquarters

Strongly muscled, in balance with the forequarters, never appearing higher than the shoulders.

Thighs broad with well bent stifles.

The second thigh, from knee to hock, is approximately parallel with an extension of the upper neck line.

In order to meet the requirement of the standard for a second thigh, which runs parallel with the extension of the upper neck line, these bones must be relatively long and the rear pastern (hock joint to foot) must be short. Such proportion provides excellent leverage for drive and follow through.
Rear Angulation -

The angle formed by the pelvis and the femur should approximate 90 degrees at the hip socket, with the Pelvis at a 30 degree slant from the horizontal. The angulation at the hip socket, together with the relative lengths of the femurs and tibia determine the bend of stifle. The requirement for a broad thigh cannot be met without the angulation at the hip socket being close to 90 degrees.

The rear pastern (hock joint to foot) is relatively short in length compared to the femur and tibia and it is perpendicular to the ground when the dog stands naturally.
Hindquarters

The legs, from the clearly defined hock joint to the feet, are short and perpendicular to the ground, and, when viewed from the rear are parallel to each other. Dewclaws on the hind legs are removed.
Hindquarters

Faults:

- Open Hocked
- Cow Hocked

The rear pasterns (hock joint to the feet) are relatively short and perpendicular to the ground. The hocks turn neither in nor out. Muscling is smooth yet well developed on both the inside and the outside of the legs.
Evaluating Hindquarters
Evaluating Hindquarters

Dog C has sound rear structure. Angulation is correct. Thighs are broad and well muscled. Hocks are well let down.

Dog A has a squirrel tail with the accompanying flat pelvis and incorrect rear angulation. He also lacks muscle and definition at the hock joint.
Evaluating Hindquarters

Dog B lacks rear muscling and breadth of the thigh due to a lack of rear angulation.

Dog D has a steep croup and low tail set, which usually causes a lack of rear extension when moving. As sometimes happens when the rear is weak, the dog stands with his legs further forward, underneath his body.
The Coat
“The Hallmark of the Standard Schnauzer” is a harsh, wiry coat. Coat texture is of the greatest importance.
Coat - Tight, hard, wiry, and as thick as possible, composed of a soft, close undercoat and a harsh outer coat which, when seen against the grain, stands up off the back, lying neither smooth nor flat.

- It is important to feel the coat to evaluate both the texture and thickness. The course, wiry outer coat is very important as it protects against the elements. The soft undercoat is important too as it helps to maintain body temperature.
Outer coat (body coat) is trimmed (by plucking) only to accent the body outline. As **coat texture is of greatest importance**, a dog may be considered in show coat with back hair measuring from 3/4 to 2 inches in length. Coat on the ears head, neck, chest, belly and under the tail may be closely trimmed to give the desired appearance of the breed.

On the muzzle and over the eyes, the coat lengthens to form the beard and eyebrows; hair on the legs is longer than that on the body.

These “furnishings” should be of harsh texture and not so profuse as to detract from neat appearance or working capabilities of the dog.
Coat Faults

- Soft, smooth, curly, wavy or shaggy;
- Too long or short;
- Too sparse or lacking undercoat;
- Excessive furnishings; lack of furnishings.
The Unique Pepper & Salt Color

The typical pepper and salt color of the topcoat results from the combination of black and white hairs, and white hairs banded with black. Ideally the pepper and salt Standard Schnauzers have a grey undercoat, but a tan or fawn undercoat is not to be penalized.

The unique color is the result of alternating black and white bands on hairs in the topcoat. Color often varies with coat length because of the changing proportions of the black and white bands on the hair shafts.
Pepper & Salt Color

Acceptable are all shades of pepper and salt, dark iron gray to silver gray.

Color Faults:

--Absence of banded hairs in a pepper & salt top coat. Though the shade may differ the topcoat must have banded hair shafts.

--Rust, red, brown, yellow and tan tones in the top coat are a fault. These pigments are genetically based so are difficult to eradicate. They should not be dismissed lightly.
Pepper & Salt Color

It is desirable to have a darker facial mask that harmonizes with the particular shade of coat color.

Also in pepper and salt dogs, the pepper and salt mixture may fade out to light gray or silver white in the eyebrows, whiskers, cheeks, under throat, across chest, under tail, leg furnishings, under body and inside legs.
Black Color

Ideally Black Schnauzers should be a true rich color, free from any fading or discoloration or admixture of gray or tan hairs. The undercoat should be solid black. However, increased age or continued exposure to the sun may cause a certain amount of fading and burning. A small white smudge on chest is not a fault. Loss of color as a result of scars from cuts or bites is not a fault.

The “small white smudge” should be no larger than a quarter. **Black Schnauzers should have a solid, glossy black coat of hard, wiry texture, with a black undercoat.**

Fading or graying of coat, white markings on chest and paws, and a mixture of white or off-color hairs are genetically determined and should be faulted in proportion to their occurrence. An occasional white hair is found in the best black coat, however. Graying of the muzzle with increasing age, or white marks from scars are not faults.
Color Faults

- Any color other than specified;
- Rust, brown, red, yellow or tan shadings in the topcoat.
- Absence of peppering (banded hairs) in Pepper and salt coat;
- Spotting or striping;
- A black streak down the back without typical salt and pepper coloring in pepper and salt;
- Gray hairs in the coat of a black;
- In blacks any undercoat color other than black.
The proof of structural soundness can be seen in the gait.
Side movement at the trot should ideally show:

Sound, strong, true & level gait.

Powerful, well-angulated hindquarters that reach out & cover ground.

Forelegs reach out in stride balancing that of the hindquarters.
At a trot, the back remains firm and level, without swaying, rolling or roaching.
Common Faults -

**Fault: Exaggerated Movement**
If angles front and rear are wrong, gait may be balanced, but incorrect.

**Fault: Moving Downhill**
has multiple causes including an upright upper arm.

**Fault: Hackney Gait**
Keeps hind feet from striking front when rear is better angulated than front.

**Fault: Stilted Gait**
Lack of reach and drive is often caused by straight angles in front and rear.
Judging Side Movement
Judging Side Movement

Dog B exhibits efficient movement. The set of his pelvis allows the left rear leg to reach under the mid-point of the body while the opposing leg thrusts back, extending into a nearly straight line, pushing the body over maximum ground with each stride.
Judging Side Movement

The firm, straight back transfers the drive from behind to the front without wasting any energy. The head is up and the front angulation is sufficient to match the powerful drive from the rear.
Dog C also exhibits a smooth side gait. He shows good reach and drive, maintains a solid backline, and wastes no energy as he trots behind the sheep.
Dog D does not have the same fluid side gait as dogs B and C. The high kicking action in the rear, though flashy, wastes energy. This exaggerated movement should be faulted.
Dog A moves high in the rear. His head is lower, reach is diminished, and he covers less ground with each stride. This movement too should be faulted.
Gait - Up and Back

Viewed from the rear, the feet, though they may appear to travel close when trotting, must not cross or strike. Increased speed causes feet to converge toward the center line of gravity.
Gait - Up and Back

Viewed from front and rear, as the dog’s speed increases and the feet move toward the centerline of gravity, the fore and hind legs travel on the same plane. The leg swings inward from the shoulder or pelvis joint, the fore and hind paws striking the ground in a line with one another.
Faults - Going and Coming

Movement faults most often consist of a break in the straight column of support from the point of shoulder to pad in front, and, from the point of rump to foot in the rear. It results in lateral displacement, which requires more effort to cover ground. Above are several examples of these common movement faults.
Judging Movement Up and Back

Which one of each pair is correct?

Can you explain why?
Crossing Over
Faults

Correct

Incorrect

Paddling

Crossing Over
The Standard Schnauzer has:

- Highly developed senses,
- Intelligence,
- Aptitude for training,
- Fearlessness,
- Endurance and
- Resistance against weather and illness.
The Standard Schnauzer is high-spirited, lively and playful.
His nature combines high-spirited temperament with extreme reliability.
The Standard Schnauzer is inherently a family protector.

During ring examination, it should be alert and approachable.

The attitude may correctly be friendly or aloof.

It should never show shyness, nervousness or aggression towards any person during the ring examination.
Topcoat: Wiry and thick, Black or pepper & salt color

**SUMMARY**

Body: Well muscled and sturdily built without coarseness.

Movement: Efficient, ground-covering; feet converge to center of gravity at the trot.

Proportion: Square-built,
Size: Medium
Stance: Four square

Temperament: Intelligent, alert and reliable.
Weighing Faults

Any deviation from desired temperament or appearance should be faulted to the extent of the deviation.

When weighing the seriousness of a fault, greatest consideration should be given to deviation from the desired alert, highly intelligent, spirited, reliable character of the standard schnauzer, and secondly to any deviation that detracts from the desired general appearance of a robust, active, square-built, wire coated dog.

Dogs that appear shy or appear to be highly nervous should be seriously faulted and dismissed from the ring. Vicious dogs shall be disqualified.
SIZE DISQUALIFICATION

Males under 18” or over 20” at the withers

Females under 17” or over 19” at the withers
The Standard Schnauzer is a Robust, Square-built, Wire-coated, Active, Working Dog.
Credits

**Presenting The Standard Schnauzer**
Standard Schnauzer Club of America

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References

