

The "1-2-3 Cropped Ear Taping Procedure" for Standard Schnauzers

I have used this effective and simple method with good success. I credit this technique as provided to me by Beth Lawrence, of Schattentier Standard Schnauzers, who was even kind enough to provide a roll of tape with our new little guy! There are other taping methods that may be similar, or employ glue, sticks and other sorts of devices, none of which are the subject of this document. Other taping variations may work just as well.

GETTING READY: This is easier with *2 people*, one to hold the puppy and one to tape. You also need a *pencil* (for rolling the ear later) and *scissors*. Puppy's ears should be clean and very dry. For novices, I highly recommend a good "front on" face picture of a good set of schnauzer ears to refer to when you are doing the last step, which is the final setting of the ear's upright positions. *Treats help*, keep them handy. If your helper has the second page of this document handy, they can read it to you as you do the taping.

Type of Tape - The tape that Beth provided was one inch size, white cloth type of tape, and the inner core is imprinted in green and white, Kendall Curity. This tape has 6 barely discernible inter-stitched lines that run lengthwise through the roll, which helps in lining up the tapes evenly. It is important to use only tape that sticks well to itself and this does. When using it, make sure you press well down on the 'ends' of the tape when you are wrapping the ears at all stages. Beth called it "Green Cross" tape. Tape is found at surgical specialty drug stores, in Calgary at Blain Maclean etc. Try to get a tape that is roughly equivalent. More than just one type of tape will work, but try to get one that sticks better to itself than to puppy's hair, and keep to the 1" width for these instructions.

Overview of the 1-2-3 Procedure (*Before* you begin actually taping)

1. Each Ear will be covered (starting at the ear tip and working down the ear with each tape layer) with *one each* of the 3", 4" and 4 ½" strips. Each ear will now be laying flat; then
2. You will then shape or "roll" each ear, using a pencil as a guide, pulling the ear straight up, and then use the 5" strip that has been cut into half width, to hold the roll at the base.
3. You will use the last 7" tape strips, (first across the front of both ears, then across the back of the ears), overlapping them together to set the ears up properly.

Precut the Tape Strips - Attach one end of the tape strips to the clean edge of a counter or table that you will be working on, so they are readily handy. You will need to cut as follows:

- Cut two each of: 3", 4", 4 ½" and 7" strips; and
- Cut one 5" strip, but cut it in half lengthwise.

General Care of Taped Ears - Wait a day or two after the tapes are removed from the pup. Each taping may last a week or so, but this depends if you have other dogs in the house who like to remove puppy's tape. Be watchful of any redness or odour that should be addressed before retaping. As the upper ear stands, the amount of taping and time between may change. If you have any questions about this, it is best to contact your breeder. Or, join the standard schnauzer e-list that is sponsored by Andrew and Marion Kidd, www.standard-schnauzer.com (search the archives first, or post a question). Be watchful of skin condition, ie tape allergies (non-allergenic tape is available).

TIP: Try and remember to firmly press all of the edges of the tape throughout all 3 steps, including all overlap edges, either lengthwise or crosswise.

THE "1-2-3" PROCEDURE

Step 1: Cover Each Ear with Tape [3", 4" and 4 ½" tape strips, in this order]

- You will be doing one ear entirely, then the other.
- You will need to look at the back and front of puppy's ears (as tapes are applied to the back of the ear first, then will crisscross to the front of the ear).
- Starting with the 3" tape, (at roughly the mid 1 ½" point). Place the *tape with the top edge of the tape* equal to the high point or tip of the back of the ear.
- Smooth fold the edges around the side of the ear and downwards, which will end up crisscrossing across the front of the ear. Double check by looking at the front of puppy's ears. Before doing the next steps, try to be consistent with overlapping left first over right, or vice versa with the next two tapes.
- Repeat this twice, next by using next the 4" tape, then last using the 4 ½ " strip. NB: Be sure to just slightly overlap the tapes lengthwise (for rigidity) and press them firmly to ensure that they hold. For overlapping, use the lines on the tape, if no lines, overlap *by less than 1/4"*. (Remember, press edges).
- Repeat the above procedure on the other ear. Both ears will now be flat looking.

Step 2: Shape or Roll Each Ear [Pencil, two 5" strips that were cut in half lengthwise]

- You will be doing one ear at a time.
- Face the puppy towards you, as you are only working from the front now.
- Use a pencil (the eraser side gently to the ear canal) and pull ear straight up (See i below).
- Wrap the base of the ear around the pencil.
- Using one of the halved 5" strips of tape, tape and wrap snugly around the base of the ear.
- Repeat with second ear.

Step 3: Set the Ears Up Properly [Two 7" strips of tape, Front face picture]

- You will be working with both ears at once now, but only arranging them upwards and you can re-do as you go here.
- Have the pup's head facing you square on (this is so that you can keep the ears even).
- PRE-NOTE 1: You're not quite ready yet, but the taping will be continuous with the two 7" strips of tape, as you overlap the ends to continue fully around the ear set. When you do this, it is adjustable as you go, so do not worry at this point.
- PRE-NOTE 2: Very shortly, (not now) you will be taping (or hoisting) *only the front of the ears* into position with the first 7" tape. You will play with the position to get it right, then you will then continue the 2nd piece of 7" tape across the back of both ears.
- Pull ears straight up. The opening should actually point halfway between the bridge of the nose and the side of the head. The exact position depends somewhat on the shape of the crop. i What you want is the inside edge of the ears to be positioned up and equally, with the inside of the ears being almost aligned with the bridge of the nose. Get your helper to hold up the front face picture for you.
- Start taping across the front of the ears: Begin taping on the outside edge of one side and go across the front attach to second ear. Check for correct position and adjust if necessary.
- Stand back and look. If the ears are not even, perpendicular to the top of the head or correctly

positioned, redo the bridging portion with fresh pieces of tape.

- When you are satisfied, join the last piece of tape, but make sure to overlap it by 1".

- Continue wrapping across back of ears, making sure that the two pieces of tape join between the ears (*sticky to sticky*). Try to make sure that the tape sticks to the other tape somewhere between the ears.



Whimsey Lawrence, Arriving at New Home
Schattentier Standard Schnauzers

2 Types of Cropped Ears

Photographs courtesy of Beth Lawrence

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