

An Introduction to the Dachshund

Origin

Some experts think that the Dachshund dates back to antiquity and was depicted in Egyptian Reliefs. While that may be true, it is widely accepted that the Germans were largely responsible for the development of the dog we know today. Some type of field spaniel and a terrier were likely bred to the smooth to produce the long coat and the wire coat. Their unique shape was developed to search for their quarry, the badger. “Dachshund” translated means “Badger Hound.” Hunters of that day used the Dachshund to keep the number of badgers in check while today’s hunters use the Dachshund in a variety of settings. His hunting spirit and good nose, loud tongue and distinctive build make him suitable for below-ground work and for excelling in field work. His keen nose gives him an advantage over many other breeds for trailing.

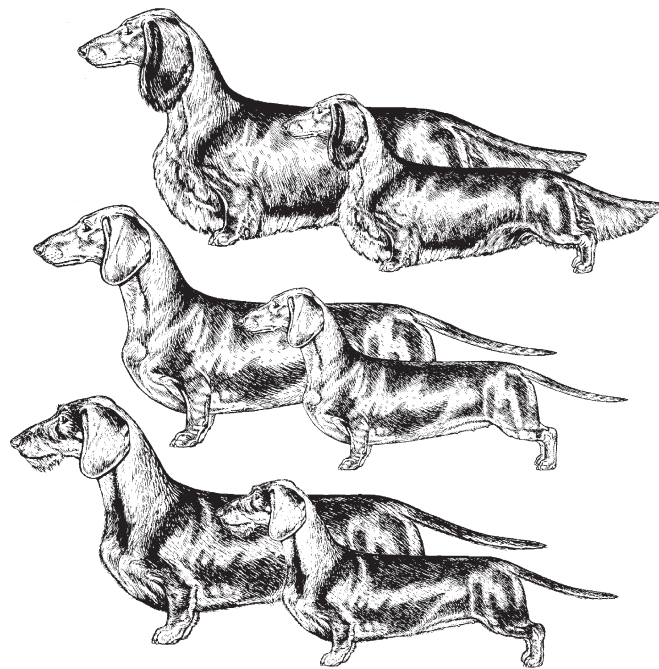
Today, Dachshunds can be seen in many AKC sanctioned activities such as Earthdog, Agility, Tracking, Obedience, Rally, Field Trials, Coursing Ability and Conformation. In addition, some are involved in pet therapy and others have been trained as drug sniffing dogs assisting the police.

General Appearance

According to the standard, “The Dachshund is low to the ground, long in body and short of leg with robust muscles and elastic, pliable skin.” The Dachshund is bred in two sizes, which are defined by weight. The standard Dachshund ranges in weight from 16-32 pounds and the miniature Dachshund weighs 11 pounds and under. In addition, he is bred in three coat varieties, the smooth (short hair), the long hair (long, silky coat) and the wire (a dense wiry coat). His small to medium size makes him particularly suited for small yards and apartment living. Commonly seen colors include red, cream, black and tan, black and cream, chocolate and tan and wild-boar. Several patterns are also recognized in addition to the above colors. Those include dapple (a merle pattern which displays lighter colored areas contrasting with a darker base area), brindle (black or dark stripes occurring over the entire body) and sable (a uniform dark overlay on red dogs).

Temperament

The Dachshund is clever, lively and courageous. He is affectionate and loving to his family. The Dachshund craves being the center of all family activities, and he is not a dog well suited to being an outside pet. The Dachshund is protective of his environment and may bark when he senses a potential threat or out of the ordinary event.



Routine Care

All dogs require proper nutrition, a clean environment, routine veterinary care with immunization and dental care to maintain optimal health. This will facilitate a long, healthy life. All new pups should receive a thorough exam by your vet within seventy-two (72) hours of purchase. Monthly heartworm prevention is required in most areas as well as flea and other parasite prevention or elimination.

Your breeder will likely recommend a type of dog food or you can seek the advice of your vet. Be aware that dog food labels may recommend an amount that is more than necessary to maintain a fit and healthy Dachshund. Be wary of over feeding and giving too many treats. An overweight Dachshund is prone to many of the same problems experienced by overweight humans, such as diabetes, joint problems, decreased stamina and possibly, problems with the back. Your Dachshund should be kept physically fit and walks several times per week will help accomplish this goal.

Your Dachshund should never be allowed to run free. A fenced yard will provide your Dachshund with a safe place to exercise and will prevent injuries such as being struck by a car. In addition, it will reduce the likelihood of his being a nuisance in your community. *Remember, your Dachshund should never run free unless involved in hunting or some similar activity.*

Make sure your Dachshund is identified with tags, tattoo or microchip in case it is lost. AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) offers a free collar tag with every microchip and tattoo enrollment. Your dog’s unique ID# and the AKC CAR 24/7 recovery hotline are printed on the tag. Whatever the method of identification, be sure to enroll the microchip, tattoo or AKC CAR collar tag for lifetime recovery protection.



For more information, visit www.akccar.org or call 1-800-252-7894.

Grooming

Dachshunds are generally very clean dogs with little to no body odor. Minimal grooming requirements to maintain the Dachshund include clipping the nails, cleaning the inside of the ears, bathing when necessary and removing tartar from the teeth at least twice yearly, when indicated. The importance of keeping the teeth clean and tartar free cannot be stressed enough. Tartar build-up can lead to infected gums which can lead to infection in the heart of your dog. Wirehaired and longhaired Dachshunds may require professional grooming with frequent brushing of the coat.

Crate Training

Dogs are by nature den animals and contrary to the belief that crates are “jails”, they provide your Dachshund with a sense of safety and security. Crates also foster peace of mind for you when you are away, knowing that your Dachshund is safe. In addition, it can be an important adjunct to the housebreaking regimen. Most dogs don’t want to soil their own bed. Introduce your Dachshund to the crate gradually and make the inside appealing and comfortable. Provide soft bedding and toys for your puppy. Treats can be used to encourage your Dachshund to enter the crate and should be given as rewards for every successful training period. Gradually increase the time your Dachshund remains in the crate. Release your Dachshund only when he is quiet and reward him.

Spay and Neutering

The Dachshund Club of America strongly recommends that you spay or neuter your Dachshund. Many responsible breeders require this by selling pet Dachshunds with spay/neuter contracts. There are many reasons for this recommendation. Neutered animals are healthier; generally live longer lives and it helps avoid overpopulation with unwanted dogs.

Health Research Support for Our Breed

Many Parent Club (DCA) members individually or collectively support health research for our breed whose mission is to help our dogs live longer, healthier lives.

DCA is actively supporting hemangiosarcoma research and is co-sponsoring a stem cell study with Morris Animal Foundation. In the past, we have supported studies on retinal atrophy, disk disease and epilepsy. Tax deductible contributions can be made to the DCA Health and Welfare Trust Fund or the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Support of these organizations helps to ensure a healthy future for our breed and for dogs as a whole. For more information about ongoing health research and how to contribute to either nonprofit charitable fund, see www.dachshund-dca.org or www.akcCHF.org. In addition, AKCCHF can be contacted toll free at 1-888-682-9696.

Conclusion

Finally, if the day ever comes that you can no longer keep your Dachshund for any reason, the Dachshund Club of America urges you to never take your Dachshund to an animal shelter. You should contact your breeder for assistance. If you cannot locate the breeder, then contact breed rescue. Dachshund Club of America Rescue Chair Emma Jean Stephenson (724) 846-6745 emmajean52@aol.com

Additional Information

Internet

Information on the Dachshund Club of America and locating a local Dachshund Club can be found on the Dachshund Club of America website at

www.dachshund-dca.org

Newsletter

Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter for informative articles, information about Dachshunds and other educational material. Contact Newsletter Editor:

Lynne Dahlen
9086 Daniels 70
Siren, WI 54872
Email chazlyn@sirentel.net

May you enjoy your Dachshund for many years to come.

Order Form

Please send:

- Information on the Dachshund Club of America
- Illustrated Standard -\$5.50 per copy

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Send this form to: **Trudy Kawami**
(salixbrooklyn@aol.com)

Make check payable to: DCA, Inc.
(This form may be reproduced for your convenience)