

Dach-Facts: All about the Dachshund

Information for potential Dachshund owners from the Dachshund Breed Council



Introduction

The origins of the Dachshund can be traced back to working dogs that could go to ground after animals such as badgers, foxes and rabbits. The breed is described as moderately long and low with a well-muscled body, bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression. Dachshunds are very popular as pets and, in the UK, come in six varieties, two sizes – Standard (9-12 kg; 20-26 lbs) and Miniature (4.5-5 kg; 10-11lbs) – and three coats – Smooth, Long and Wire Haired.

Coats and Colours

Smooth haired – Dense, short, smooth and shiny requiring little maintenance. Most common colours are Black and Tan, Red, Chocolate/Tan and Dapple.

Long haired – Soft and straight with feathering on underparts, ears, behind legs and tail where it forms a flag. Coat requires regular grooming. Most common colours are Black and Tan, Red (ranging from Cream to Shaded Red) and Silver Dapple.

Wire Haired – A short, harsh coat with a dense undercoat covers the body. There is a beard on the chin, the eyebrows are bushy, but hair on the ears is almost smooth. Most common colours are Brindle and Red. Chocolate/Tan and Dapple also occurs.

Living with a Dachshund

Dachshunds are active dogs and will take as much exercise as you can give them. They are, however, just as happy curled up on your lap, snoozing. They are loyal companions and make good family pets. They are not noted for their obedience but, with patience and persistence by the owner, they can be trained. However, they are Hounds and when they are off the lead, if they get a scent, they can “go deaf” when it suits them.

As a generalisation, Wires are the most extrovert and active, Standard Longs are the most laid-back, and Standard Smooths are perhaps more “one person” or “one family” dogs. All the Miniatures make ideal pets for someone who is less active and who wants a small but affectionate companion.

Health Issues

Dachshunds generally suffer few health problems providing they are kept well exercised and fed a healthy, balanced diet. On average, they live to

more than 12 years old.

Because they are a dwarf breed there is an increased risk of back problems. These are best avoided by keeping the dog fit and not allowing it to become overweight, or to run up and down stairs which puts extra stress on the back. Always ask about any history of back problems when buying a puppy.

Mini Long, Mini Smooth and Mini Wire breeding stock should have been tested for Retinal Degeneration (cord1 mutation PRA) which is an inherited condition causing degenerative disease of the retina, resulting in visual impairment, or blindness. Mini Wires should be DNA screened for Lafora Disease, a form of Epilepsy.

Always consult a Vet if you have any concerns about a puppy you intend to purchase, or health problems with an older dog.

Breed Club Secretaries will also be able to provide up-to-date advice on any current or emerging health concerns in any of the Dachshund breeds. Visit our health website for the latest information:

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

After Sales Service

A reputable breeder will, as a minimum, comply with the good practice requirements of the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme and will always be happy to answer any queries you may have at any stage of your dog's life and will like to hear how your dog is progressing. Reputable breeders will want you to be assured that your puppy has been well reared and is a fit, healthy and typical specimen of the breed. Please remember that a puppy bought as a pet may not be suitable for showing or breeding from.

Grooming

Once a week check your dog's eyes, ears and feet. Keep the nails short using nail clippers, or a file. When your dog has all his adult teeth (by about 6 months) start brushing the teeth weekly.

Long and Wire Dachshunds will need regular grooming (at least weekly) using a bristle brush and wide-toothed metal comb. Pay particular attention to the longer hairs on the legs (and a Wire's beard) to ensure there are no tangles.

Wire Dachshunds have a double coat and do not moult like other dogs. There is a longer, harsh top coat with a dense undercoat. 2-3 times a year the long, dead, top coat will need to be stripped out to allow a new top coat to grow in. Do not clipper a Wire coat otherwise it will become soft and fluffy.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Should I get a dog or a bitch?

A. There is little difference in size or temperament between Dachshund dogs and bitches. Bitches do have the disadvantage of coming in season twice yearly. Dogs can be accused of having antisocial habits, but these usually only occur when a dog has been used at stud.

Q. Are they easy to house-train?

A. If you put the time in when the puppy is very young, then yes. You must be patient and consistent; never chastise, but show the puppy the area to be used outside and praise when he is good.

Q. Does my garden need to be dog-proof?

A. Yes. All Dachshunds can dig! Your garden needs a good strong fence all round. Make sure all visitors shut any gates.

Buying Your Puppy

Except in exceptional circumstances you should **always** be able to see the mother of the puppy. Visit where the puppy was born, regardless of how far you have to travel. Never buy from a pet shop. Get a written receipt for the puppy. Carefully read and understand any conditions imposed by the breeder. If the puppy is KC Registered, Registration papers should be available when you pay for the puppy. All puppies should be provided with free health insurance to cover the first few weeks with their new owner. The breeder should give you a diet sheet and preferably also a few days' supply of their current food. Reputable breeders will not be prepared to sell puppies without meeting prospective buyers and will not sell to people who are out at work all day, leaving the dog unattended.

Where to find out more

Dachshund Breed Club Secretaries:

MIDLAND DACHSHUND CLUB FLO WINCHURCH 01902 790276
THE DACHSHUND CLUB LYNDA BILLINGHURST 02920 832233
WIREHAISED DACHSHUND CLUB PHIL ROLLINSON 01752 216331 388195
SOUTHERN DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION SUE ERGIS 01202 388195

LONGHAISED DACHSHUND CLUB

ANNETTE LATHAM-JACKSON 01981 550831

MINIATURE DACHSHUND CLUB

DAWN NORTON 01939 250210

EASTERN COUNTIES DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

MINNA HAGAN 01406 821005

WEST OF ENGLAND DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

ANN JEFFERY 01297 32502

LANCS & CHESHIRE DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

KATHRYN BETHEL 0161 775 7167

NORTHERN COUNTIES DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

MICHAEL PAGET 0151 721 2772

SMOOTHHAISED DACHSHUND CLUB

KATHERINE HERRINGTON 01904 761903

ULSTER DACHSHUND CLUB

GARY MCALPINE 028 3085 1862

DACHSHUND CLUB OF WALES

JUDITH ARMSTRONG 01639 884082

NORTHERN LONGHAISED DACHSHUND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

ANDY BETHEL 0161 775 7167

SCOTTISH DACHSHUND CLUB

CHRISTINE RUSSELL 0131 440 1763

WEST RIDING DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

JANET KAY 01709 510796

EAST YORKSHIRE DACHSHUND CLUB

IRENE COOK 01757 706573

GREAT JOINT DACHSHUND ASSOCIATION

GERALDINE BRACE 0292 061 4339

Dachshund Rescue

Mrs G Goad 01458 850745

Dachshund Breed Council

Download a FREE Guide for Dachshund Buyers and Owners at:

www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk;