

## **Dach-Facts: Weighing of Miniature Dachshunds at Shows**

Health & Welfare Information from the  
Dachshund Breed Council

### **Miniature Dachshunds**

Miniature Dachshunds are defined in the Breed Standard as follows:

**Ideal weight 4.5 kg (10 lbs).**

**Desired maximum weight 5 kg (11 lbs.)**

The Dachshund Breed Council supports the right of judges to weigh all Miniature Dachshunds should they so choose; and reminds them of their responsibility to use powers given to them by the KC to act on any Health and Welfare issues.

Experience outside the UK has shown that, without a means of ensuring Miniatures fall within the 5 kg./11 lbs. desired maximum weight, it is inevitable that their size will increase and they will become indistinguishable from the smaller specimens of Standard Dachshunds. Countless breeders have shown, over 60 years, that it is possible to breed fit and healthy Miniature Dachshunds that do not exceed 5 kg./11 lbs.

### **Health and Welfare Issues**

The Breed Council wishes to make it clear that the health and welfare of all dogs entered at shows is of the highest importance.

The Breed Standard states:

**Exhibits which appear thin and under-nourished should be severely penalised.**

It is equally important to recognise that an **over-weight** Dachshund is also at risk of health problems (e.g. Heart Disease & Slipped Discs).

### **Advice for Judges**

When accepting offers of appointments to judge Miniature Dachshunds judges should confirm with the Society that:

- weighing is mutually acceptable to both the judge and the Society,
- calibrated (preferably electronic) scales will be provided, and
- that both the Schedule and Catalogue will clearly state that Miniature Dachshunds will be weighed.

Many of the Dachshund Breed Clubs can arrange to lend scales, if necessary.

When judging:

- If a dog weighs more than the desired

maximum 5 kg./ 11 lbs. it is to be considered a fault, the seriousness depending on how much over 5 kg./11 lbs. it is and how "well covered" it is.

- This fault should be taken into consideration with all the dog's other virtues and faults by judges.
- Judges should **penalise** any dog shown "up to weight", but in a **thin** condition.
- **A dog that is over 5 kg./11 lbs. cannot be disqualified from receiving an award and must not be dismissed from the ring for this reason.**

If a judge wishes to put up a dog that is over 5 kg./11 lbs. then, to make it known that the judge has noted this, in their critique they might explain that "the dog's good points exceeded the fault of being marginally over the desired maximum weight".

The Kennel Club's health guidance to judges (2009) is very clear:

*Judges may exclude any dog from the ring if it is considered not in a fit state for exhibition owing to savage disposition or suffering from any visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare and the exclusion must be reported immediately by the judge/steward to the Show Secretary. The judge's decision is final and the dog shall be excluded from all subsequent competition at the Show. The judge must make a report to the Show Secretary at the first opportunity after the Show.*

### **Advice for Exhibitors**

The Animal Welfare Act became law in England on 6 April 2008. The focus is now on the responsibility of the owner, as seen in the 'Duty of Care'. Those who own a dog are legally responsible for its welfare, otherwise they may be found to be committing a 'Welfare Offence'.

Dachshund Breed Club Committees will take action against any exhibitors who are believed to be in breach of the Animal Welfare Act.

### **Where to find out more**

Visit [www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk](http://www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk) for the latest information and advice.

The Miniature Dachshund Club will be happy to provide guidance to any General Show Society, or judge, that requires clarification of the revised Breed Standard and judging procedures. <http://www.miniaturedachshundclub.co.uk/>