

DACHSHUND HEALTH MATTERS

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The role of judges and exhibitors

Presented by

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FIT FOR FUNCTION

What do the words mean?

- **FIT**
Capable of completing a task or sequence of tasks without suffering undue difficulty or fatigue
- **FUNCTION**
A task or series of tasks to be undertaken to serve a particular purpose

FIT FOR FUNCTION

The KC Perspective

- The Kennel Club believes that every dog should be bred to be fit enough to enjoy its life to the full
- At the heart of this belief that every dog, even if its function is solely to be a pet, should be able to see, walk and breathe freely
- The Kennel Club has been working over the past 20 years to improve breed health and welfare

HIGH PROFILE BREEDS

KC Definition

- A breed from time to time designated by the General Committee as requiring particular monitoring by reason of visible conditions(s) which may cause health or welfare concerns.

KC DOG HEALTH GROUP

What is it?

- A group of experts in various areas, from within the KC and externally, who set policy and monitor progress. The Dog Health Group has three sub-groups: Assured Breeder Scheme Sub-group; Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-group; Genetics and Health Screening Sub-group

KC BREED WATCH

- Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard. The features listed are derived from health surveys, meetings of Kennel Club Group Judges, feedback from judges at shows and consultation with individual breed clubs/councils
- Dachshunds
 - Currently no points of concern specific to this breed have been identified for special attention by judges, other than those covered routinely by the Kennel Club Breed Standard

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The Dachshund Perspective

- What is a Dachshund?
A long bodied, low to ground hunting dog that scents and burrows.
- What makes a Dachshund fit for function?
Correctly constructed, adequate ground clearance, unimpaired eyesight, well developed scenting ability, supple and pliant skin, hard physical condition, stamina and a fearless but docile temperament.
- What makes a Dachshund NOT fit for function?
Incorrect construction, inadequate ground clearance, impaired eyesight, poor scenting ability, thin/loose/excessive skin, poor physical condition, lack of stamina, nervous or aggressive temperament.





ROLES OF JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS

JUDGES

- Judge to the breed standard
- Recognise importance of fit for function issues
- Reward typical exhibits that are fit and healthy
- Penalise exaggerations that lead to health and welfare problems

EXHIBITORS

- Exhibit dogs that fit the breed standard
- Appreciate and understand what makes exhibits fit for function
- Maintain exhibits in peak physical condition
- Do not exhibit dogs that fail to meet the basic fit for function criteria

ROLE OF JUDGES (1)

- Judge to the breed standard
 - Understand breed type and characteristics
 - Appreciate and assess correctness of construction
 - Recognise impact of incorrect construction on overall breed type and characteristics

ROLE OF JUDGES (2)

- Recognise importance of fit for function issues
 - Movement
 - Length of body
 - Body proportions
 - Eyes
 - Skin
 - Physical condition
 - Muscle tone
 - Weight

ROLE OF JUDGES (3)

- Reward only typical exhibits that are fit and healthy
 - Knowledge
 - Experience
 - Integrity
 - Make awards without fear or favour
 - DO NOT REWARD UNTYPICAL EXHIBITS
 - EXCLUDE UNHEALTHY EXHIBITS FROM COMPETITON

ROLE OF JUDGES (4)

- Penalise exaggerations that lead to health and welfare problems
 - Incorrect dentition
 - Eye problems
 - Incorrect front and/or rear assemblies
 - Insufficient length and expanse of rib
 - Excessive length of loin
 - Skin problems
 - Evidence of food/water withholding

ROLE OF EXHIBITORS (1)

- Exhibit healthy dogs that fit the breed standard
 - Size
 - Shape
 - Proportions
 - Construction
 - Eye shape and placement
 - Skin and coat
 - Dentition
 - Movement

ROLE OF EXHIBITORS (2)

- Appreciate and understand what makes exhibits fit for function
 - Function of breed
 - Effect of exaggerations on breed specific functions
 - Importance of correct husbandry and nutrition
 - Socialisation and environmental factors

ROLE OF EXHIBITORS (3)

- Maintain exhibits in peak physical condition
 - Correct feeding
 - Correct exercise
 - Maintain skin and coat condition
 - Mental well being

ROLE OF EXHIBITORS (4)

- Do not exhibit dogs that fail to meet the basic fit for function criteria
 - Incorrect movement
 - Incorrect dentition
 - Inadequate rib cages
 - Incorrect top lines and faulty couplings
 - Insufficient ground clearance
 - Visible manifestations of ocular and/or skin disease
 - Unreliable temperament

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- There are currently no identified concerns when judging Dachshunds that arise as a result of exaggerations that are deemed to adversely affect health and welfare
- Judges and exhibitors have responsibilities to ensure that Dachshunds that are both fit for function and breed typical are presented and rewarded in the show ring
- Judges and exhibitors also have responsibilities to ensure that Dachshunds that are not fit for function and/or are untypical are neither presented nor rewarded in the show ring
- Understanding of the responsibilities of both judges and exhibitors with respect to fitness for function must be based on in-depth understanding and appreciation of the breed standard, breed specific functions and how departures from the requirements of the breed standard can and do impact on fitness for function