

Buying and owning a Dachshund

A free e-book produced by the Dachshund Breed Council



www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

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Part 1:

Buying a Dachshund

First things first!

Always contact one of our Breed Club Secretaries for advice on who to buy a puppy from.

Do careful research beforehand if you are thinking of buying a Dachshund from a website advert or from Free Ad newspapers.

Most puppy buyers use the internet to look for puppies. There's nothing wrong with that, as long as you realise that bad breeders are not sticking to the Exchange and Mart or ads in the Newsagent's window any more. They know where their buyers are and they know how to pull them in. It's up to you as a buyer to do your research, but it can be very confusing because bad breeders will claim all the same things that good ones do.



Dachshunds: an 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.

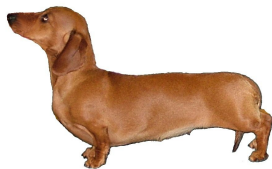
The breed is described as moderately long and low with a well-muscled body, bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.

Dachshunds are very popular as pets and, in the UK, come in six varieties, two sizes – Standard (20-26 lbs) and Miniature (10-11lbs) – and three coats – Smooth, Long and Wire Haired.

They are loyal companions and generally make good family pets. Standards are more robust and therefore probably better for families with very young children.

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), Chocolate/Tan 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. A Wire coat typically will need stripping (never clipping) twice a year; they don't moult. Most common colours are Brindle and Red. Chocolate/Tan and Dapple also occurs.

Rare colours: beware!

Do not be talked into buying a “rare coloured” Dachshund. Generally, anyone telling you a puppy has a rare colour either doesn’t know what they are talking about, or they are a commercial breeder. These are the most common colours:

			
Black and Tan	Red	Chocolate & Tan	Silver Dapple

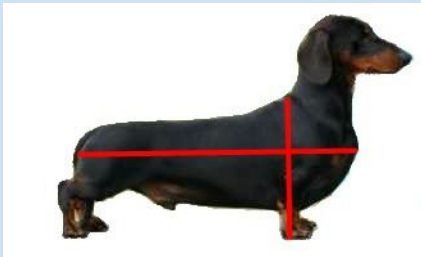
The Breed Standard states that, apart from in Dapples which should be evenly marked all over, there should be no white on a Dachshund’s coat, except perhaps a small patch on its chest and even this is

undesirable.

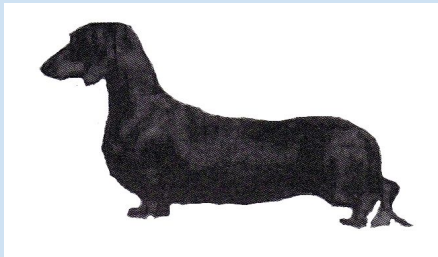
Exaggeration: beware!

The UK Breed Standard says...

Moderately long and low with no exaggeration; compact, well muscled body, with enough ground clearance to allow free movement. Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to the rear of thigh.



**Correct proportions
(UK Standard)**



**Too long and lacking in
ground clearance**



**Continental type with
more length of leg**

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. Always ask about any history of back problems when buying a puppy and avoid buying from parents with exaggerated length of body or excessively short legs. Problems 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.

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

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.

Are you ready for a Dachshund puppy?

Before buying a Dachshund, ask yourself:

- Can you afford to keep a dog?
 - Food, vet fees and pet insurance could cost you around £25 per week.
- Can you make a lifelong commitment to a Dachshund?
 - On average, a Dachshund will live to around 12 years old.
- Is my house/flat suitable for keeping a Dachshund?
- Do I have the time to exercise a Dachshund every day?
 - A Dachshund will need about an hour's exercise every day (not just running around in your garden).
- Will your Dachshund have company at home for most of the time?
 - Dachshunds can be noisy and destructive if not kept exercised mentally and physically; they like the company of people and other dogs.

If you have answered “**No**” to any of these questions, maybe now is not the right time to buy a Dachshund.

Should I get a dog or a bitch?

There is little difference in size or temperament between Dachshund dogs and bitches. Bitches have the disadvantage of coming in season twice yearly and dachsies can suffer from “false pregnancies” when they come into milk and exhibit behavioural mood swings due to fluctuating hormones. Of course, having your bitch spayed will put an end to this, but spayed bitches can become fat and lethargic, and spaying changes the coat texture, making the coat much more “woolly” and softer.

Dogs make equally good companions and tend to be less “mercenary” than bitches, who, once adult tend to be more food orientated. Dogs tend to be more fun-loving and want to play games and join in, whereas bitches can prefer a quieter life, just sitting on the chair all day. Unless you particularly want to breed puppies, a dog probably makes a better companion than a bitch. Dogs can be accused of having antisocial habits, lifting their legs everywhere, and this is more likely occur if a dog has been used at stud.

Dachshund temperaments



Dachshunds should be bold and outgoing. The Breed Standard describes them as being “Faithful, versatile and good tempered”. It also says they should be “Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness, obedient”.

They can be a bit intimidated by other breeds and larger dogs, so it is important to ensure they are well socialised right from a young age.

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.

In general, they are a noisy breed, but some “lines” are more noisy than others. They can become persistent barkers, so you do have to work hard with them as puppies to ensure they know when to be quiet.

Finding the right Breeder

We strongly recommend that you ask a Breed Club Secretary for recommendations of breeders before visiting puppies, or committing to buy a puppy.

Breeders who are members of a Dachshund Breed Club will comply with our Code of Ethics which covers matters such as health testing, the age at which a bitch should be bred from and the maximum number of litters a bitch should have. Breed Club members will be aware of the relevant health tests which are recommended for Dachshunds and should be able to talk knowledgeably about the relevance of these.

Never buy from a pet shop or “pet supermarket”, however “up-market” they appear to be. Their puppies will almost certainly have come from puppy farms or “back-yard breeders”, where dogs are bred and reared in poor conditions, purely for profit and with little or no regard for health and welfare.

If you have any doubts about the health advice you are given, please contact a member of our Health and Welfare Sub-committee.

Reputable Breeders

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.

Remember, many reputable breeders have waiting lists and do not have to advertise their puppies, so do your research carefully if you are buying from Free Ads (internet or newspaper).



Making contact with a Breeder

You must expect to be asked lots of questions by the breeder and of course, you will want to ask lots of your own. If a breeder does not ask you questions about why you want a Dachshund and how you will raise and care for a puppy, this should ring alarm bells! Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, or if their advice sounds implausible, don't visit and don't part with any money.

Most breeders will not ask for a deposit on a puppy before they have met you; they will want to spend time with you ensuring you are the right person to have one of their puppies. If you are asked for a deposit, make sure you understand what the terms are: for example, if you change your mind, is the deposit refundable. Always ask for a receipt.

Don't agree to meet the breeder anywhere other than where the puppies were born and are being reared. Never agree to buy a puppy "unseen", or where the breeder agrees to ship it to you by courier.

Make sure you have done your research before visiting the breeder; know what health tests should have been done and what the Breed Council's current health priorities are, so you can discuss these with the breeder. Be prepared for the possibility that a breeder will not wish to sell you a puppy once they have met you. They may simply feel your circumstances are not right for one of their puppies.

How to recognise a good breeder

	Good Breeders	Other Breeders	Puppy Farmers/ Pet Shops
Puppy availability	Sometimes have puppies available.	Almost always have puppies available.	Always have puppies available.
Waiting lists	Almost always have a waiting list.	Rarely have a waiting list.	Unlikely to have a waiting list.
Advertising	Rarely have to advertise. Word of mouth recommendations are the norm.	Usually have to advertise. Often advertise in local newspapers and online.	Always advertise. Usually advertise in "Finder" or "Trader" weekly publications and on-line puppy sales sites.
Health information and faults	Provide comprehensive information about the breed's current health issues and testing programmes. Will be honest about health problems and the probability of health issues.	May provide information about the breed's problems. More likely to say their dogs have no health problems.	Unlikely to provide any information about the breed.
Health testing	Will have health-tested parents and/or puppies (e.g. DNA tests) for known conditions, where applicable.	Unlikely to be aware of the current health testing schemes.	Unlikely to be aware of the current health testing schemes. Will have no idea why this is important.

Questions to ask the Breeder

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long have you been a Dachshund owner?• How long have you been breeding Dachshunds?• How many litters do you typically have each year?• Do you own and breed other breeds?• Which Breed Clubs do you belong to?• What successes have you had when showing or working your Dachshunds?• What are the positive traits of this breed?• What are the negative traits of this breed?• What health problems does the breed suffer?• What DNA health tests are there and what is the status of the litter's parents? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is their average life expectancy?• What endorsements, if any, do you put on the puppy's KC papers?• What should we do if we ever need to re-home a dog we have bought from you?• What written information on diet and rearing do you provide?• What inoculations, if any, will the puppy have had when we get it?• What insurance cover, if any, do you provide with the puppy?• How many of these puppies will you be keeping yourself?• Will you be showing any of this litter?• How much grooming do they need?• How much exercise do your dogs get and how much will my puppy need? |
|---|---|

Expect the Breeder to ask...

- Are you out at work all day?
- If you work part-time, how long will the dog be left alone?
- Have you had a Dachshund before?
- What other dogs do you have, if any?
- What other pets, if any, do you have?
- If you have children, how old are they?
- Do you have a garden?
- Is your garden well-fenced?
- Do you live in a flat, or a house?
- Do you live in the town, or country?
- Why do you want a Dachshund?
- Do you intend to show or work your Dachshund?
- Do you intend to breed from your Dachshund?



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.

A responsible breeder will let you see all the puppies in the litter, with their mother and you should be able to handle them. You may not always be able to choose the puppy you want, as the breeder will have probably picked their first choice to keep and other buyers may already have chosen, before you.

If the puppy is KC Registered, Registration papers should be available when you pay for the puppy. It is the responsibility of the breeder to register the puppies with the KC and they must then give you the certificate for transfer of ownership.

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.

What to look for in a puppy

When you visit the puppies, look for the following:

- **Health:** do they look in good condition, well-covered, not under-weight and not pot-bellied?
- **Health:** do they have runny eyes or noses? Are they coughing, or do they have diarrhoea?
- **Welfare:** are they being kept in hygienic conditions that are obviously cleaned regularly?
- **Behaviour:** are they playing with their siblings?
- **Behaviour:** do they come up to you for a fuss and to play, or are they nervous and lacking in confidence?



Be prepared to walk away

If something doesn't feel right when you visit, walk away. Unscrupulous breeders rely on people "falling in love with a puppy", or "feeling sorry" for puppies and feeling obliged to buy one. Don't make this mistake, which could result in expensive vet bills and lots of heartache. And, it only encourages bad breeders to breed again because they find it so easy to sell poorly bred and poorly reared puppies.

Paperwork you should be given:

- A Contract of Sale or receipt (The Kennel Club has published an example of a Puppy Sales Contract).
- Written advice on feeding, training, socialisation, exercise and worming.
- Written advice on vaccination: if any have been given already, or when they are due.
- A Pedigree Certificate which shows your puppy's parents' names and those of their ancestors.
- Copies of any relevant health testing certificates for the puppy, or its parents.

Re-homing an older Dachshund

We're very lucky not to have a significant rescue/re-homing problem and our Breed Rescue organisation always has a waiting list of people who would like to re-home dogs.

Contact details of the Regional Rescue Coordinators are on our website:

<http://dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk> (Go to the “**Buying a Dachshund**” page)

Visit the Dachshund Rescue website: <http://www.dachshundrescue.org.uk/>

Part 2:

Owning a Dachshund

Dachshunds in brief...

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.



Your new puppy



Congratulations on your new addition to your family. Your new puppy will find her new home a big change from the warmth and familiarity of her old home and littermates. Allow her time to become familiar with her new home and family. Some puppies need more time than others to adjust. If your puppy has had a long journey she may just want to sleep.

When you bring her home, play with her outside for a little while as she will probably need to relieve herself, more than once if she has travelled a long way. A puppy may wet the floor when excited, so give her plenty of

opportunity to be clean outside.

She will probably be lonely and homesick for the first few nights. A warm hot water bottle (well wrapped) will give her something to snuggle up to. A softly playing radio may help. Talk to her; a friendly voice will reassure her.

Bedding

Place her bed or box where she can feel secure. Ensure that it is away from any draughts, and if possible where she can watch the comings and goings of the household.

Remember a puppy needs plenty of sleep, her bed will be a place where she can feel safe and secure. Respect her right to be undisturbed when she goes to bed.

Handling and picking up

Teach children to handle her gently, and warn against squeezing or dropping her. Explain that she is only a baby and needs to be treated with kindness and patience.

Always lift her up by placing one hand under her chest and the other under her



hindquarters.

NEVER, EVER, PICK HER UP BY THE SCRUFF OF HER NECK

Feeding

Follow the feeding guidelines given to you by your puppy's breeder.

Your puppy will grow rapidly in the first 6 months of life, and will continue to fill out and mature until she is 18 months to two years of age. This is a critical time for your puppy and a well balanced diet will influence her health during her entire life. Never give table scraps as they may upset her tummy.

She should be allowed to eat her meals undisturbed.

Your puppy will enjoy a hard biscuit when she is cutting her adult teeth at 5 to 6 months of age.

Heavy plastic or stainless steel bowls are easy to wash and keep clean. The dishes should be solely for the puppy's use and should be washed after every meal. She must have access to fresh water at all times. Change the water several times a day and keep the bowl clean.

House-training

If you put the time in when the puppy is very young, then they are quite easy to house-train. You must be prepared to keep letting your new puppy out to relieve herself every 15 minutes or so, while she is awake and playing. As they puppy grows, extend the time interval. The secret is never to let her puddle or mess in the house so that she learns the right habits and does not make mistakes. They can become “confused” and end up playing outside in the garden, and relieving themselves indoors and once your dachsie gets into this cycle, bad habits can be extremely hard to break.

As with many hound breeds, they can never be classed as 100% house-trained and the Minis seem to be worse than the Standards. However, with consistency and reward for good behaviour your new pup should be well on the way to being clean in the house by about 4 months of age. Even as adults, make sure to let your dachsie out to relieve herself at regular intervals, to avoid any chance of her making a mistake. Watch out when you take your dachsie visiting to friends’ houses. They can be keen to “mark their new territory” and this applies to both dogs and bitches!!

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 her adult teeth (by about 6 months) start brushing the teeth weekly. Brush her teeth with a very soft toothbrush at least once a week, using "doggy toothpaste".

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.

Check her eyes are clear and her ears are clean; check whether her nails need cutting. Walking on concrete or a hard surface will help to wear her nails down but they may need cutting occasionally. Ask your vet how to do that home.

Even the most particular home can pick up the occasional flea. Regular grooming will help keep an eye on the problem. If you do experience a problem with fleas buy treatment from your vets. If your dog carries on scratching after being treated for parasites, this may indicate an allergy; discuss any problems with your vet.

Barking

In general, they are a noisy breed, but some “lines” are more noisy than others. They can become persistent barkers, so you do have to work hard with them as puppies to ensure they know when to be quiet.

Vaccination and worming

Your puppy will require vaccination by your veterinary surgeon before she can be taken out and be allowed to mix with other dogs. However she will benefit from being taken out and about in your arms and experiencing the outside world. She should have been wormed several times and her worming record card should accompany her. All dogs should be wormed regularly throughout their life, between three and four times a year. Take advice from your vet.

Cleaning up

Always be a responsible dog owner and clear up after your dog. Keep a plastic bag with you at all times in case of an accident away from home.

Exercise

A young puppy does not need any formal exercise, playing the garden will be sufficient. A puppy needs lots of sleep, so allow her to go bed whenever she wants to.

NEVER ALLOW CHILDREN TO DRAG A PUPPY AROUND ON A LEAD.

NEVER ALLOW YOUR DACHSHUND TO RUN UP OR DOWN STAIRS.

Once the puppy has finished her course of inoculations,



in

start to take her for a short walk of about 5 minutes every couple of days or so to help her get used to traffic and other people and dogs. By the time she is about 4 months old, she should be having a 10 minute walk every other day, then as she gets to 5 months gradually increase the distance and time to about 15 minutes every day. By 6 months she should be going for a 20 to 25 minute walk on the lead each day. By a year old you should be giving your dog a 30-40 minute walk a day. Once adult, your Dachsie will take any amount of exercise you care to give.

The exercise advice is particularly relevant for puppies that will be shown because too much exercise, too soon, will cause out-turned feet, poor toplines and poor body development.

Even with a “pet” you’d be far better allowing the puppy to exercise in the garden so she can decide when she’s had enough, rather than any long walks where you risk over-tiring her. They are full of energy until they “grow up” (if they ever do), but you will have a far fitter dog in the long-term if you don’t over-exercise when young.

At the end of the day, it’s up to you of course, but do ensure she gets out and about so he is well socialised by meeting different people and experiences different situations.



Training

Some basic training is needed to allow your puppy to achieve her full potential as a companion. Training, or the lack of it will influence her disposition. The only training needed for a week or two is to prevent bad habits forming. If you allow the puppy to jump up at people it will be difficult to stop her later. A puppy jumps for attention, put her down and praise her on the floor.

Lead training should be introduced as part of playtime. Encourage her to come on the lead by playing with

her. Consider attending training classes, if only an 8-week beginner's course. They are invaluable, and a trained dog is a happy dog. A list of reputable training clubs is available from the Kennel Club, or ask your vet.

If you want a dog that's going to be easy to train, buy a gundog, or border collie, not a Dachshund. Dachshunds are not noted for their obedience but, with patience and persistence by the owner, they can be trained to basic levels of obedience. However, they are Hounds and when they are off the lead, if they get a scent, they can "go deaf" when it suits them. They do have very strong characters and need to know who the boss is, otherwise they can definitely rule the house. They are loyal companions and generally make good family pets.

You're probably never going to train a Dachshund to be a Guide Dog or Drug Sniffer Dog! Generally, they do obedience up to the point that suits them! For some, that's a pretty low level; but for working Teckels, it's quite remarkable.

Overall, these are amazingly fit, healthy and rewarding dogs to own; full of character and trainable enough to be fun.

Do they come back if let off the lead?

It depends!!! If you let them off the lead when they are young puppies (after they have completed their injections), you can usually teach them to come back by use

of encouraging commands and tidbits as bribes. However, some dogs have a very strong hunting instinct and may never be safe to let off. The secret is to start young and make it fun for them to come back.

They have absolutely no road sense. However well trained your Dachshund may be, it is simply not worth the risk (and potential heartbreak) to let her walk near a road, off the lead. Near a road, always keep your dog on a short lead; never use an extending flexi-lead.

Your Dachshund's bodyweight

For a healthy, happy Dachshund, you need to keep her at the right weight throughout her life. Being overweight, or indeed underweight, can lead to serious health risks. It is good to get into the habit of checking your Dachshund's weight on a regular basis. The Pet Size_O-Meter (shown here) is the perfect tool to help you do this.

Your Dachshund is at an **ideal weight** if you can easily feel her ribs, but they are not visible. She should have an obvious waist behind the ribs,

when viewed from above. There should be little abdominal fat and a slight tuck-up should be evident when she is viewed from the side.

Your Dachshund is **not getting enough to eat** if you can easily see her ribs, spine and pelvic bones. You will be unable to feel any fat on her bones, and will possibly notice some loss of muscle mass. She will have an obvious abdominal tuck-up, when viewed from the side. You should increase the size of her portions and maybe consider finding a food with a higher calorie level.

Your Dachshund is **overweight** if you cannot feel her ribs and can see fat over her back and the base of her tail. She will also have rolls of fat on her neck and over her shoulders. She will have no discernible waist behind the ribs, when viewed from above, and you will be able to see excessive abdominal fat or a distended underline, in profile. The risk of obesity increases with age and is more common in neutered animals, and there are associated risks of diabetes and osteoarthritis. The most obvious solution is to reduce the quantities your Dachshund eats (including titbits!), or move her onto a lower calorie food.

For those Dachshund owners interested in showing their dog, the Breed Standard defines the Miniature and Standard varieties on the basis of their weight:

Standards: 9-12 kg (20-26 lbs), Miniatures: Ideal weight 4.5 kg (10 lbs), desired maximum weight 5 kg (11 lbs); The Breed Standard also says: Exhibits which appear thin and undernourished should be severely penalised.

Judges have a responsibility to ensure that there are no welfare issues, particularly of Miniature Dachshunds, related to the weight clause in the Breed Standard. A dog is too thin if, when running your fingertips against the direction of the coat without applying any pressure, you can:

1. Easily feel the ribcage and
2. Easily feel the spine and
3. Easily feel the shoulder-blades and hip-bones

Remember, the Breed Standard describes the ideal sizes of Standard and Miniature Dachshunds; these **ARE NOT** "target weights" for individual dogs. Every Dachshund will be different and will need to be fed to keep her ideal weight for her frame.

If your Dachshund is one of life's "thin dogs" no matter how much you feed him or her, we would prefer you not to show him/her, however good you feel he/she is in other respects.

Sometimes, young male dogs can go through a phase of not eating well and appearing underweight; such dogs would be best left at home until they body-up, rather than being shown looking thin.

It is equally unacceptable to show a dog that is overweight and who looks like it needs more exercise and/or less food. Dachshunds should be shown in fit, well-muscled condition so that it is clear they could do the work for which they were originally bred.

Should I breed from my bitch?

- Check that no breeding endorsement has been placed on your dog's records by the breeder you bought her from
- Ask your vet's advice and ensure your dog is healthy and suitable (especially in temperament) to whelp a litter
- Carry out all currently recommended health checks e.g. DNA eye testing for all Miniatures and Lafora for MWHs (Contact a Breed Club for more breed-specific information, if you are unsure)
- Ensure that the health status of the proposed stud dog is satisfactory and that the owner has also carried out any recommended health checks (and they are "Clear")
- Talk to the breeder of your bitch, as they should be able to help advise you on suitable mates
- Read our advice on genetics and diversity, Code of Ethics and Guidance on our Code of Ethics

- Predict the Coefficient of Inbreeding of puppies from a proposed mating using the Kennel Club's Mate Select service.

You have to be sure that you have enough enquiries for good homes, as this is quite a specialist breed and can be difficult to sell if you don't have "contacts" in the breed. Enquiries for new homes tend to be from people who have already had one of the breed and are looking for a replacement for an old dog who has died.



Dachshunds can have quite large litters of 6 – 8 puppies and if new owners are not forthcoming you could be faced with keeping this number of extremely active (and hungry) pups beyond the age of 8 weeks until suitable homes become available. Do you have the time and the space for such a commitment?

Are you able to afford the cost of vets fees if your bitch requires a caesarian section? Depending on where you live this could cost you anywhere up to £1000. There is always a risk that your bitch might suffer complications and die during whelping. Prepare yourself for this possibility and the subsequent need to hand-rear any surviving puppies.

If you're thinking about breeding "to make money", or because you think "it would be nice for my bitch to have puppies" these are probably not the best of reasons.

Remember, if you just want a companion for your pet, perhaps it would be better to get another puppy from a specialist breeder.

Should I use my dog at stud?

You will probably find that breeders or breeding kennels are not usually interested in using privately owned dogs for stud purposes, unless the dog has some special qualifications or show merit, or has the pedigree that they require for their breeding programme.

Checklist:

- Is your dog fit, healthy and a typical specimen of the breed?
- Have you carried out all the recommended health screening tests (cord1 PRA for all Miniatures and Lafora for MWHs) and is your dog "clear"?
- Does your dog have any breeding restrictions placed by its breeder on your Registration document?
- Are you prepared to help the owner of the bitch find suitable homes for the puppies, if necessary?

- Read our advice on genetics and diversity, Code of Ethics and Guidance on our Code of Ethics
- Predict the Coefficient of Inbreeding of puppies from a proposed mating using the Kennel Club's Mate Select service.

With Dachshunds, it's very rarely just a case of putting a dog and a bitch together and "letting them get on with it". Until a dog is experienced at stud, you may well find you have to intervene and "stage manage" his first few matings. Even experienced stud dogs will need to be managed.

Should I spay or neuter my Dachshund?

Many veterinary surgeons seem to advocate spaying of bitches and neutering of dogs, but this is not a straightforward or obvious decision to make. An interesting review of the scientific literature concluded:

"An objective reading of the veterinary medical literature reveals a complex situation with respect to the long-term health risks and benefits associated with spay/neuter in dogs. The evidence shows that spay/neuter correlates with both positive AND adverse health effects in dogs. It also suggests how much we really do not yet understand about this subject.

"On balance, it appears that no compelling case can be made for neutering most male dogs to prevent future health problems, especially immature male dogs. The number of health problems associated with

neutering may exceed the associated health benefits in most cases.

“For female dogs, the situation is more complex. The number of health benefits associated with spaying may exceed the associated health problems in many (not all) cases. On balance, whether spaying improves the odds of overall good health or degrades them probably depends on the age of the dog and the relative risk of various diseases in the different breeds.

“The traditional spay/neuter age of six months as well as the modern practice of pediatric spay/neuter appears to predispose dogs to health risks that could otherwise be avoided by waiting until the dog is physically mature, or perhaps in the case of many male dogs, foregoing it altogether unless medically necessary.

“The balance of long-term health risks and benefits of spay/neuter will vary from one dog to the next. Breed, age, and gender are variables that must be taken into consideration in conjunction with non-medical factors for each individual dog. Across-the-board recommendations for all dogs do not appear to be supportable from findings in the veterinary medical literature.”

Our [Dachslife 2015 Survey](#) found that neutered Dachshunds were nearly twice as likely to have suffered back disease (IVDD) than entire Dachshunds. Neutering under the age of 1 also resulted in higher odds of IVDD than those neutered over the age of 1.

One Dachshund is never enough!



And, finally...

You may not want to show your Dachshund, but always contact a Breed Club for advice on buying or owning a Dachshund. If there were no Breed Clubs...

- there would be no Code of Ethics for members
- there would be no Health Improvement Plans
- there would be no Health Screening

Where to find out more

Contact any of our Dachshund Breed Club Secretaries who will be able to recommend a reputable breeder. All our Breed Club members have to abide by our Code of Ethics.

www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

www.dachshundhealth.org.uk

About the Dachshund Breed Council

In 2007, all 19 UK Dachshund Breed Clubs agreed to form a Breed Council and work together for the good of the breed. The Breed Council was set up to continue and advance the work of the UK Dachshund Forum which had been in existence for 10 years. The Forum was set up initially to allow Dachshund Breed Clubs to coordinate Show Dates and Judging Lists. The work of the Forum developed to look at Health and Welfare issues, Judges' Education and other matters relevant to the breed.

The Council is a Kennel Club registered organisation and as such has to comply with the Kennel Club rules and regulations for Breed Councils. There are no individual members of a Breed Council, its members are the 16 Dachshund Breed Clubs who all pay a membership subscription to finance the running of the Breed Council. Membership is open to all registered Breed Clubs for the breed.



Disclaimer:

This information is presented for educational purposes and as a resource for the Dachshund community. Nothing herein should be interpreted as medical or veterinary advice for your particular Dachshund(s) and you should contact your veterinary professional for specific advice.

