

MY OPINION ON HEALTH TESTING

Absorb this before you continue on: **Congenital disorders** are present from birth, and **hereditary genetic disorders** are transmitted from parents to their offspring through the genes.

Ethical Dog Breeders make it their **life's** work to learn about the history of their breed, canine health, genetics and structure. They are interested in forming relationships with their puppy buyers and want to have continued contact throughout the dogs lives to ensure they are informed of any health issues that may arise.

Majority of Dachshund breeders who health test their dogs are those who know nothing about the dogs in their pedigrees. They will throw 2 dogs together and see what happens. Anyone can breed two dogs together but knowing the dogs in your pedigrees takes time & experience.

Some will health test per the breed clubs recommendations. The Dachshund Club of America does not **require** any health testing. They recommend (suggest) three health screenings (Patella luxation, Eye examination by an board certified Ophthalmologist, & a basic cardiac exam) but it is not required for our breed. The dachshund breed overall is a hardy & healthy breed. IVDD is a high risk in our breed but it has not been proven to be a genetic disease nor is there any **accurate** test developed for breeders to use as a tool when breeding. IVDD cases are more than not, environmental.

An ethical breeder will not knowingly breed health issues; congenital or genetic. If these issues arise, they will not breed the parents again and will take care of the unhealthy puppy(s) themselves for the life of the dog or will place the puppy/dog with someone who will take on the responsibility and give the proper care for the rest of its life.

Health Tests are used as a marketing tool to get you to pay more money and make you think you are getting something you are not.

Health tests were created to make you think you are getting a healthy puppy that will live a long life with no issues when in fact this is not the case. Anomalies can pop up and are known as **congenital disorders** which you cannot test for. These anomalies can happen in the womb as the puppy

develops such as heart, eye, skeletal, urinary, digestive, oral & other defects.

Most experienced breeders will know if any genetic issues are in a dogs pedigree and will avoid it like the plague.

Some commonsense questions:

Do you require health testing to be performed on a hamster, rabbit, bird, pig or any other pet animal before you buy it? No, probably because they do not cost as much as dogs. If you care so much about the health of your dog why wouldn't you put that much care in the health of a hamster just because it is a fraction of the cost.

DO YOU HEALTH TEST YOU & YOUR PARTNER BEFORE YOU HAVE A BABY?
No, because its not a practice we do in humans but we expect it in our animals?

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By Christina Hager

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