



~ Questions & Answers ~

Are dachshunds easy to housebreak?

Housebreaking can be difficult with dachshunds. While most dachshunds do eventually get the hang of it, it is not totally uncommon to hear things like "she's 95% reliable." Most likely it is their independent nature that makes them a little difficult to housebreak. It's not that they don't know any better, or that they maliciously want to be disobedient; it's just that they don't always see the necessity of relieving themselves outside (especially in bad weather), and they are willing to accept the consequences. Unless you're a real ogre, the minute you see one look up at you with his inquisitive, adoring expression, capped off with his brown, almond shaped, soulful eyes, you'll understand why they often get away with things. Patience goes a long way with housebreaking a dachshund.

Are they trainable?

With proper motivation (treats!) they can be trained. They are also very clever in ways you'd never expect. Dachshunds are very intelligent dogs. They learn fast, but mostly when it suits their purposes. This is where their stubbornness shows itself most clearly, making some a bit of a challenge to train. Although they absolutely can learn, they definitely have their own agenda, which may or may not coincide with yours. Like housebreaking, consistency and patience goes a long way.

Are they good with children?

Yes as long as you supervise the child with the puppy at all times they will grow up to be the best of buds. Children and Dachshunds make great companions. Because of the size and energy Dachshunds can keep up with children. (This is the way you tire both of them out!) Do be careful not allowing your small children to pick up and carry them around. The Dachshund has a predisposition of back injuries. Please teach your child and family the proper way to pick up and hold puppy. To properly pick up your Dachshund refer to the "How to Hold A Dachshund Properly" Article.

Dachshunds need to be socialized properly when they are puppies. It is a good idea to let your dachshund meet as many people as possible at an early age, including adults, teenagers, and children. Good experiences with people at an early age will make your dachshund a very good canine citizen, who gets along with almost everybody.

Do they bark a lot? What do they sound like?

Some can tend to bark a lot but not all do. Once they find their voice, they have barks that sound like they come from much bigger dogs, making them good watch dogs – not guard dogs (which will actually attack) but watch dogs, which only make a lot of noise.

Do they have any funny habits?

One peculiar thing they do is to roll around in smelly things when they encounter them. Rolling on earthworms or dead bugs, for example, is a popular dachshund pastime. This is due to their hunting instinct. While doing this, they are trying to "lose their scent" so that their prey cannot smell them. Another carry-over from their hunting instincts is their love of digging, and if left unsupervised, they can often be found digging for grubs in your lawn. Although this trait is usually seen outdoors, it also follows them into the house, where they like to tunnel through blankets until they get it "just right."

Are they clean dogs?

They are medium shedders, relatively clean, and they have little or no doggy odor. They don't need to be bathed often (less than once a month, unless, of course, they've gotten into something, which they're known to do).

How much exercise do they need?

They require a modest amount of exercise. Two walks of moderate distance (each about 1/2 mile) a day should be pretty good. More if you're so inclined. They're a long-lived breed that can live up to 16 years or more with proper care. Because they are such social creatures, they don't do well as outdoor dogs - they need to be with their humans.

What activities can I do with my Dachshund?

Even though they were originally bred to go to ground to hunt badgers, Dachshunds have evolved to become a very versatile breed, and there are many types of activities you can do with them, that are fun for you and your dog. Besides being wonderful family pets, you can, of course, show them in conformation, do obedience work with them, enter them in field trials (tracking rabbits) or earthdog trials (where they enter tunnels to track rats), use them as pet therapy dogs (where you bring them to hospitals and nursing homes, provided they are properly evaluated for behavior and temperament). Many people have also done agility (think of it as an obstacle course for dogs) with their dachshunds. If you choose to do agility, please be especially careful with the jumps, so as not to injure your dachshund's back.

I just want a dog for a pet; I don't want to show him. Why should my puppy's parents be 'show dogs?'

Presumably, the reason you've decided to get a dachshund is because you like the look and personality of the breed. So don't you want to maximize your chances of getting one just like you expect? There are two important reasons why you should purchase puppies from a breeder who has "show" dogs, even if you only want your dachshund as a pet.

First, 'show' dogs are evaluated at conformation shows to determine which ones best meet the breed standard. Dogs that do well in the show ring have proven themselves to physically conform to the breed standard, so their puppies are most likely to conform to the look you have decided you want. With the dachshund, the physical structure of the dog is important to reduce the chance of back problems.

Second, when you adopt a puppy, you probably don't want one who is too shy, nor one who is too aggressive. In either of these cases, the puppy will present an extra set of challenges to you, as you raise him into adulthood. Dogs who do well in the show ring have proven themselves to be not too timid, nor too aggressive. If they

were either of those extremes, they would not likely do well. So puppies born to these dogs are more likely to have a good, balanced temperament, not too timid and not too aggressive.

Given that the best predictor of a puppy's looks and temperament is the look and temperament of the parents, you want a puppy who's parents have demonstrated themselves to be excellent, both physically and in temperament. Healthy, structurally sound, and well-tempered parents yield healthy, structurally sound, and well-tempered puppies.

So how do you increase your odds of getting a puppy who will grow to be healthy, structurally sound, and friendly? By buying one from a breeder who has 'show' dogs who have done well in the show ring, even if you have no intention of showing your dog.

<http://www.dachshund-dca.org/faq.html#development>