



Is a Dachshund right for me?

Dachshunds have a lot going for them. They must, to be one of the most popular breeds around, and to keep that position for so long. Perhaps the question isn't why they're so popular, but why anyone would choose any other dog? But like any breed, the Dachshund isn't for everyone.

- If you want a dog to hop to your every command, that's not a Dachshund. Most are very bright and quick to learn, but they're also independent and don't appreciate being bossed around. If you train your dog using rewards, rather than force, you're more likely to get a Dachshund who will mind you (unless something else more interesting is going on) rather than battle you. Dachshunds have achieved high honors in obedience, but they're not like retrievers and herding dogs that were bred to work following human direction.
- If you want a dog to lie quietly at your feet quietly at your feet all day, that's not a Dachshund. Dachshunds are small but energetic. They have to exercise their bodies and minds every day. Fortunately, their needs are not great; a walk around the neighborhood, or a vigorous game session in the backyard, are really all it takes to drain off excessive energy. A short training session will help further tire him. Dachshunds can also get a fair amount of exercise just running back and forth inside.

Given adequate exercise, though, your Dachshund will lie quietly, not at your feet, but at your side, where he is sure he belongs.

- If you want a dog to be your jogging companion, that's not a Dachshund. That is, unless you just want to jog around the block. It's true that Dachshunds can run farther than you'd think, but those short legs have limits, so if you really want a jogging partner, choose something with longer legs.
- If you want a dog to play fetch with, that's not a Dachshund. Yes, Dachshunds enjoy a good game of fetch when they're in the mood. But unlike retrievers and many other breeds, they're not always in the mood.
- If you want a dog who loves everybody, that's not a Dachshund. Dachshunds tend to be wary of strangers, warming up only after they've gotten to know them. The upside is that the Dachshund is a loyal dog, decidedly devoted to one family.