



## **What you should know about Dachshunds .....**

The Weiner Dog The Dachshund is a dynamic and affectionate breed. They are bold, proud and can be quite tenacious at times. They enjoy the outdoors and love to dig. They like to bark and are mischievous little dogs.

Dachshunds are an extremely devoted breed and make wonderful family pets. Their small size makes them ideal for apartment living, and they are relatively easy to care for. A Dachshund is a loyal companion who will love spending time with you.

Before you make the decision of owning a Dachshund it is your responsibility to learn about the good and bad associated with the dog. While you will discover Dachshunds are a wonderful breed, they may not be a suitable choice for you.

### **Dachshund History**

The Dachshund is a breed that dates back 600 years. Historical artwork depicts small, long bodied dogs hunting badgers in Germany during the 15 th century. At this time, the dogs were used for hunting, and were prized for their hound-tracking ability, their size, and their temperament that closely matched terriers. All of these characteristics made it possible for the Dachshund to effectively track badgers and other small creatures that dwelled in holes.

The German name Dachshund actually means “badger dog” (Dachs – Badger & Hund – Dog), and was applied to the breed in the early 17 th century.

Originally, Dachshunds were bred with two types of coats: long hair and short hair. The third coat variety of Dachshund – wire hair – wasn't introduced until the late 1800's. As Dachshunds were being developed, two sizes were being bred in order to accommodate the hunters needs, based on what type of game was to be hunted. The larger sized Dachshund weighed between 30 and 35 pounds and was used to hunt larger animals such as wild boars and badgers. The smaller types weighed between 16 and 22 pounds, and were used to hunt hares and foxes. Today there are still two different sizes of Dachshund –

Standard and Miniature.

As time passed, Dachshunds were used less for hunting purposes and more as family pets. The Dachshund was introduced to America in the 19th century, and the standard smooth haired variety continues to be one of the more popular beloved dog breeds today.

Selective breeding by German foresters developed a breed of hunting dog, mostly used to hunt badgers, as the land owners at this time considered badgers a pest. The dachshund was also used to hunt foxes, rabbits and when working in packs, bigger animals such as deer and boar.

The hunters needed a hardy dog that could follow quarry through thick undergrowth and even underground with fearless spirit and a build suitable for fitting into narrow burrows. Even with their short legs they could cover distances at speed, with a loud bark to let the hunters stay on the trail.

The name Dachshund is derived from two German words, **dachs meaning badger** and **Hund meaning hound**, pronounced **dacks-hoont** not dash-hound, as often heard.

According to Dachshund history these small dogs first appeared in **UK in 1840** when Prince Consort received a number of smooth haired dachshunds from Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar these dogs were kept at Windsor and took part mainly in pheasant shoots. The first Dachshund dog show was in England in 1859, another royal to show interest in the Dachshund breed was Queen Victoria, her interest in dog shows improved the dachshund dogs popularity.

During the First World War, because of their German origin they went out of fashion as anything to do with Germany was not popular and it has only been by the efforts of dedicated breeders that they are now one of the most popular small dog breeds.

The first Dachshund arrived in **United States in 1870 by 1895 the Dachshund Club of America** was established. Initially they were used for hunting rabbits and other small game but over some years evolved into a household pet, while still retaining their hunting instincts they really enjoyed being with people, and the fun and interaction they can create They are now one of the most popular small dog breed in America.

All About Dachshunds Dachshund dogs are very lively and affectionate. They have an average life span of 12-15 years. The standard Dachshund weighs between 15 – 25 pounds and stands to about 5-10 inches at the shoulder, while the miniature Dachshund weighs approximately 9 pounds and stands a maximum of 14 inches at the shoulder.

Although they are friendly, devoted, and lovable, Dachshunds can be rather hard headed at times, especially when it comes to training. These dogs do best in obedience school, and require proper obedience training and socialization in order to develop as a credit to their breed.

Dachshunds are apart of the Hound dog group and are natural hunters. They will easily slip into their hunting role when the opportunity presents itself. Their natural instinct to hunt and track game is not something that can be trained out of them. Therefore, when taking them out for a walk, it is a good idea to always keep the Dachshund on a leash to ensure that he doesn't chase after a squirrel or other rodents.

Dachshunds are extremely sociable dogs and love people, especially their owners. That being said, this breed has been known to be a little standoffish towards strangers, and is not recommended for families that have young children, as they won't hesitate to snap at a teasing child, or a toddler who doesn't understand how to play with the dog.

As for other pets, the Dachshund is pretty good. However, you need to watch this breed as they can be jealous or aggressive with other pets, especially other canines. Dachshunds are not good with rodents. Remember, this dog was bred to hunt game, and you can not train this instinct out of him. *Note: The longer haired type of Dachshund is considered to be the most docile of all the coat varieties.*

The Dachshund loves to bark, which makes him a good watchdog, as he will alert his owners when strangers are at the door.

As far as grooming is concerned, the Dachshund is relatively easy to take care of. The short haired types simply need to be groomed once a week, or biweekly with a rubber brush. This will remove any dead hairs, and keep their coat looking glossy. Long haired Dachshunds should be groomed daily to keep tangles and mats out of the hair.

Because Dachshunds are small, compact dogs, they can live virtually anywhere. This makes them ideal for both city and country life. They are perfect for apartments, and happily make their home wherever their owner chooses to live. However, even though they do well in apartments and small spaces, the Dachshund still requires plenty of exercise. He should be taken out at least twice a day for a good 10-20 minute walk, on top of the additional playtime or exercise he receives indoors. Keep in mind that the Dachshund is a breed that is prone to obesity, so it doesn't take much for the dog to become overweight.

Other health issues that are common in this breed include hip dysplasia, spinal problems and overall bone development issues. A Dachshund should be tested

and monitored for these health defects.

In essence, the Dachshund makes a wonderful companion for both the experienced and first time dog owner. With the right care and commitment he will bring plenty of joy and adventure to your life.

## ***First Aid Dachshund Care***

First aid Dachshund care is important to know in case your Dachshund should ever need emergency attention. Knowing first aid for dogs will allow you to comfort and/or stabilize your dog until you can provide him with professional care, because first aid should not be the only care your Dachshund receives.

The following are some emergency Dachshund care tips for you to keep in mind and apply should the time to act ever occur:

**Standard injuries** – If your dog breaks his leg or goes into shock, wrap him in a heavy blanket or towel to keep him warm and to restrict his movements. Take him to the Vet as soon as possible.

Have a first aid kit ready to help you deal with standard injuries. Your first aid kit for Dachshund care should include the following:

- Antibiotic ointment (care for cuts and scrapes)
- Rectal thermometer (taking temperature)
- Tweezers (remove splinters, stingers, etc.)
- Bandages and padding that can easily be wrapped
- Large towel or blanket that you can easily wrap your dog in

**Not breathing** – if your dog is not breathing, administer CPR if you have been trained to perform this task on a pet. If you have not been trained in pet CPR, rush your dog to the Vet immediately. Even if you know pet CPR, you should administer it while on the way to the Vet's. If you would like to learn pet CPR, ask your Vet to recommend a program in your area. *Note: administering CPR to a human is different than the CPR administered to a dog.*

**Bleeding** – If your dog is bleeding, the right emergency Dachshund care is to apply a thick, sterile bandage (handkerchief, gauze etc.) to the affected area and firmly place pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding. If you can, also try to elevate the area. For instance, if your dog's paw is bleeding, try to have him lie on his back and hold his paw up in the air to stop the pressure of blood flow to the open area. If the bleeding does not

stop after 5 minutes, take your dog to the Vet. He may require stitches.

**Burn** – If your Dachshund suffers a burn, apply a cold compress or ice to the affected area until you can get to the Vet. *Note: The ice and cold compress should be wrapped in a towel before being applied to the burn. Never stick ice directly on a burn as this will cause the burn to worsen.*

**Poison** – If your Dachshund ingests something poisonous, the best Dachshund care is to immediately call the Vet or poison control to see if vomiting should be induced. Regardless of their recommendation, take your dog to the Vet after to make sure he's completely checked out and healthy.

**Chocking** – If your Dachshund appears to be chocking (has trouble swallowing or is constantly gagging, do not try and remove the object), take him to the Vet. If he is coughing or having trouble swallowing he can likely still breathe. Encourage him to bark to try and help him cough up what's lodged in his throat, but still take him to the Vet.

**Fever** – Understanding Dachshund care is knowing your dog's healthy temperature. Your dog should not have a temperature that exceeds 103 degrees. If his temperature is high, seek Veterinarian care as soon as possible.

**Heatstroke** – If your dog is showing signs of heatstroke immediately take him to a shaded or cool area and sponge him with cool water. You should also encourage him to drink *small* amounts of water. Take him to the Vet as soon as possible.

**Frostbite** – If your dog has frostbite you will want to immediately take him to a warm place. Wrap moist, *warm* towels around the areas that are frostbitten. Continue to change these towels until you see the area flush (turn bright pink or red). Take him to the Vet immediately for care.

Finally, should your dog ever become injured and need emergency care, when in doubt, the best Dachshund care you can provide your dog is to take him to the Vet. If your regular Vet office is closed, call the nearest emergency clinic. It is a good idea to keep a list of emergency numbers (your vet, emergency pet clinic, poison control, etc.) by your phone so you don't have to search for them in a crisis