



# All About the **Dachshund**

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# The Dachshund

## About the Dachshund

The Dachshund is of German descent. There are indications that the Dachshund dates as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> century where they were originally bred as hunting dogs. The word 'dachs' is German for badger. They were used to hunt badgers and other ground animals. Today however, Dachshunds are domestic pet. They make good family dogs because of their devotion and watchdog-like manner.



Average Weight	16-30 Lbs	Temperament	Intelligent, lively & playful.
Average Height	15-17 inches	Good with Children?	Yes. If raised with a child, they make good watchdogs.
Coat	Short, long, wire haired	Health Concerns	Disc problems, genetic disease.

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## Dachshund Characteristics

Dachshunds are lively, intelligent animals. They do require a significant amount of training to prevent disobedience. Just as they will be devoted to you and other family members, they will be every bit as courageous and persistent when it comes to mischief. There are six varieties of Dachshunds. There is a standard and a miniature in the following types:

- Smooth haired with a short, glossy coat
- Long haired with a soft, silky coat
- Wire haired with a short, harsh coat

The Dachshund's colors are only a few. They could be black or chocolate marked with tan or various shades of solid red. They are long-bodied dogs with a deep chest, short legs, tapering muzzle and long ears. They bark loudly and don't miss much so they do make good watchdogs. Standing at 7-10 inches, and weighing 16-30 pounds the standard Dachshund makes an excellent pet for large houses and smaller dwellings. The miniature Dachshund stands less than 7 inches high from shoulder and weighs no more than 9 pounds. They do require plenty of activity though. Make sure you take them outside frequently, and give them plenty of attention.

## Selecting Your Dachshund Puppy

There are a couple of options when it comes time to get your pet. If you have decided on a Dachshund, the next step is to decide if you would be comfortable with one from the local shelter, an animal in need of rescue. Or would you prefer an animal from a breeder, one with papers that has the potential of a being a show dog? It is a strictly personal choice.



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## A Few Words About Adoption

If you would like to give an animal a second chance at life then perhaps you could adopt one from the local shelter or humane society. Check the local newspaper or online to find the ones closest to you. Make phone calls to see which ones have adoption fees and what services, if any are included. Most shelters spay or neuter as a part of the adoption contract you will sign. An adoption is simply a promise to take care of the animal you are adopting. While you are at the shelter ask questions of the staff. Do they know any history of the dog you are looking at? What can they tell you about his behavior and demeanor while at the shelter? Ask anything that helps makes your decision to bring that dog into your house easier.

## A Few Words About Breeders

Purchasing your Dachshund from a reputable breeder is an excellent option. Breeders register their dogs with the AKC and they should come with shot records and a complete history. A breeder should also guarantee your pup to be healthy and disease free. You should also be able to see the parents or pictures of them upon request. Dealing with a breeder is different because you can practically place an order for the pup you want and he will fill the order.

## How to Choose your Dachshund

Now that it is time to pick out your new puppy. You should pay close attention to all the pups and ask yourself several questions to decide which one you want. Dogs come with many different personalities and temperaments. It is important you select a dog the entire family can get along with. For example, Dachshunds with long hair are very good with children while the smooth haired is only fairly good with them. Miniatures are better with older children as they are more aggressive and take action quicker. Watch how the dogs interact with one another. If the pup is energetic and lively, he will grow up to be the same way. If he is lazy and slow, he will not be very active as an adult. When you choose your dog always look for the following:

- Bright shiny eyes
- Healthy coat
- Clean ears, parasite free
- Paw pads are soft and free of sore sores
- Check to see that they have been wormed

## Bringing Your Dachshund Home

In order to make sure your transition is a smooth one, we recommend you make a checklist of things you will need to get. You will need the essentials such as a well-balanced food, a bed, a box or crate for containment, toys, and a brush for grooming. Make sure you have plenty of treats and training items. Remember the Dachshund will require a lot of your time at first to train and reinforce good behavior practices. You should check the phone book for local vets and have a well dog check up scheduled. You can make a list of questions for the



You'll need these basics before your Dachshund comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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### EXPERT TIP

#### Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Dachshund puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Dachshund and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Dachshund is 16 lbs and 15 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for medium sized breeds such as the Dachshund.

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vet as he is an excellent source of information and support for the new pet owner.

It is also extremely important to puppy proof your home just as you would for a new baby addition. There should not be any cords hanging, any clutter on the floor, as pups chew on everything. There are also some plants that are dangerous to animals. A list of these can be obtained online.

### The Dachshund Pup

As a puppy your dog needs the most care and attention. It is important to brush and groom them from the age of 2-3 weeks. This gets them used to being brushed and clipped. It can be a fun time for the two of you. You should use this time to check for ticks, fleas, and matted hair. You should develop a healthy, active lifestyle as a puppy so he can remain healthy as he grows. This is the time to make sure he has all his immunizations. It is imperative for this breed to stay active. This is the time to train and reward with positive reinforcement. It is important that he learns to obey you from the beginning.

### The Dachshund Adult

As he grows to adulthood, your Dachshund will be calmer but will bark very loudly at many things. For this reason he is a good watch-dog. He will alert you to most things coming and going. You should not depend on him to be a guard dog, though, as he is courageous but not quite that brave! He will have to be groomed several times a year to keep his hair clean and tangle free. By now he should be eating one large or two small meals a day. It is imperative that he gets plenty of exercise and does not over eat.

### The Dachshund Senior

Your Dachshund should live approximately 12-16 years. As he approaches old age, he may be grouchy and stubborn. Small children should be supervised when around older dogs, as he is apt to be ill tempered and might snap at them. His dietary needs are changing as his ability to exercise decreases. You should help him remain as active as possible. Check with your vet to see if he has any special advice on helping your pet deal with aging.

## Medical Considerations

Like all purebreds, Dachshunds are susceptible to certain diseases. They are prone to disc problems and should not become overweight or jump from heights. There are also a number of genetic diseases they could inherit. You should speak with your vet to see if he is concerned that your Dachshund is showing any signs of genetic diseases. He can give you a list of symptoms and behaviors to be on the look out for. Dachshunds are also at risk for certain skin problems. Your vet can prescribe medication to treat these conditions.



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