

The Dachshund

Origin

For the most part, the Germans are responsible for the development of the Dachshund. Some type of field spaniel and a terrier were likely bred to a smooth to develop the long hair and the wire coats. Their unique shape of long body, short legs, and distinct nose is specialized for hunting badgers. Hunters used the Dachshund to keep the number of badgers down. The Dachshund has incredible tunneling ability and a keen scent. (Hence their habit of digging!) Today, Dachshunds can be seen in many AKC sanctioned activities, such as Earthdog, Agility, Tracking, Obedience, Field Trials and Conformation. In addition, some are involved in pet therapy work while others have been trained as drug sniffing dogs by police. But overall, they make an exceptional family pet and companion!!!

General Appearance

According to the standard, "The Dachshund is low to the ground, long in body and short of leg with robust muscles and elastic, pliable skin." They are bred in two sizes, which are defined by weight. The standard Dachshund ranges in weight from 16-32 pounds and the miniature Dachshund weighs 11 pounds and under. The AKC only recognizes Standards and Miniatures. However, dogs in between 11-16 pounds are referred to as "tweenies". There are three coat varieties: smooth (short hair), the long hair (long, silky coat), and the wire (a dense wiry coat). They are recognized in every color except solid white. (Check our color descriptions to see the different colors.)

Temperament

The Dachshund is clever, lively, and courageous. They are very affectionate and loving to his/her family. The Dachshund craves being the center of all family activities. Even though they are a hardy breed, the Dachshund is a more well suited inside pet. They can be somewhat protective of their environment and may bark when they sense a potential threat.

Routine Care

As with all dogs, they require a proper nutrition, a clean environment, routine veterinary care with vaccinations and dental care to maintain

optimal health. Heartworm, flea, and tick prevention is always recommended. Consult with your vet to see what is right for you and your dog. Select a dog food that is well balanced for your Dachshund. It is easy to over feed (and give too many treats!!) An overweight Dachshund is not a healthy one. They can face similar problems as overweight humans such as diabetes, joint problems, decreased stamina and possibly back problems. Your Dachshund should never be allowed to run free. A fenced yard will provide him/her a safe place to exercise and avoid injuries from cars and other animals. (The Dachshund is not aware of how small he/her is!) Remember the Dachshund is a hunting breed so it is not uncommon for them to catch a scent and take off regardless if you are screaming or not.

Grooming

Dachshunds are generally very clean dogs with little to no body odor. Minimal grooming requirements include clipping the nails, cleaning the inside of the ears, bathing when necessary and removing tartar from the teeth at least twice yearly. Wirehaired and Longhaired dogs may require professional grooming with frequent brushing of the coat.