

## NOTICE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DACHSHUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. TO AKC JUDGES REGARDING ACCEPTABLE DACHSHUND COLORS AND PATTERNS

As AKC Dachshund judges are aware, a revision to the breed standard became effective on March 1, 2007. A detailed discussion of the changes to the standard appeared in the Spring, 2007 "AKC Judges Newsletter." Some changes to the standard relate to colors and patterns in the Dachshund. These changes have generated many questions from judges regarding the judging of double-dapple and piebald Dachshunds, patterns which display areas of white and which have appeared with regularity in the show ring. Prior to this revision, the breed standard allowed for white only as a small spot on the chest, and on Dachshunds displaying the double-dapple (double-merle) pattern. With this revision, the membership of the Dachshund Club of America voted to remove the double-dapple pattern from the standard, and also firmly rejected the option to add the piebald pattern to the standard. Thus, the ONLY white now permitted by the breed standard is stated three times as "a small amount of white on the chest [which] is acceptable, but not desirable." White anywhere other than on the chest is NOT acceptable. The "AKC Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards," (recently revised but first published in 1987,) states that "In breeds where multiple colors or color combinations are acceptable, but not all colors are permitted, the complete list of all acceptable colors and color combinations must be included in the standard. In such cases, any colors or color combinations not mentioned are unacceptable, and judges are to pass judgment on this basis." Therefore, as such decisions are at the discretion of the judge, the Dachshund Club of America strongly recommends that conformation judges EXCUSE any Dachshund that displays an area of white anywhere other than on the chest and write "Excused: color" in the judge's book. Judges are asked to remember that "single" dapple (merle) Dachshunds are permitted to have a larger area of white on the chest, but nowhere else. Also keep in mind that the Dachshund is a working hound and therefore white hairs resulting from honorable wounds should never be faulted. A word of caution: the dapple pattern has lighter-colored areas contrasting with the darker base color, and in some instances these lighter-colored areas can be very light. Please do not confuse "very light" with white and penalize any dog whose lighter areas are not actually white. Judges are advised to excuse any Dachshund exhibiting a color, pattern, or combination of patterns not specifically mentioned in the breed standard. (Write "Excused: color" in the judge's book.) The allowed base colors in one-colored Dachshunds are red and cream. Allowed base colors in two-colored Dachshunds are black, chocolate, blue (gray) or Isabella (fawn), each with either rich tan markings or cream markings. (White does not exist as a genetic base color in the Dachshund, but appears as the result of genes for unacceptable patterns such as piebald or double-dapple.) Allowed patterns are brindle and dapple, which may appear on any of the allowed one- or two-colored dogs. Sable and wild boar are acceptable and are described in detail in the breed standard. It is the hope of the Dachshund Club of America that the preceding information will help to clarify the concerns that judges have expressed regarding the judging of Dachshunds according to the revised breed standard.

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Members of the DCA Judges Education Committee are happy to answer questions about the judging of the Dachshund.

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To purchase a copy of the "Visualization of the Official Dachshund Standard", go to <http://dachshund-dca.org/publications.html> If you already have a copy and wish to order the stick-on sheets to make it current with the new breed standard, they are available at the same page on the DCA website.

## RECOGNIZING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ACCEPTABLE DAPPLE PATTERN AND UNACCEPTABLE DOUBLE-DAPPLE AND PIEBALD PATTERNS IN DACHSHUNDS

The parent club realizes that situations may arise in the conformation ring where it might be difficult for the judge to be sure if a particular Dachshund displays the acceptable dapple (merle) pattern, or the unacceptable double-dapple or piebald pattern. The pictures below are provided to help judges recognize the difference. Each of these patterns can occur on the smooth, longhaired or wirehaired Dachshund.

Please remember that the recommendation is to excuse Dachshunds with **white** anywhere other than on the chest, and that some dapples have very light areas that are not actually white.

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Dapple Dachshunds: (**Acceptable**; described in the breed standard)



CHOCOLATE DAPPLE



BLACK-AND-TAN DAPPLE



BLACK-AND-TAN DAPPLE

Please note that all of these dapples have areas that are quite light. The dog in the middle displays light areas that result from the merle gene, and also some places that are actually white. The white areas on this dog are acceptable because they appear on the chest. If such areas of white appeared elsewhere on this dog, they would not be acceptable.

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Double-dapple Dachshunds: (**Unacceptable**; not included in the breed standard)



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Piebald Dachshunds display markings similar to those of Beagles and Bassets. These markings are not acceptable according to the Dachshund breed standard, and the areas of white are quite easy to discern.

Piebald Dachshunds: (**Unacceptable**; not included in the breed standard)

