history of the Dachshund

From whence cometh the Dachshund? The answer to this question is intriguing, complex and varied. When all is said and done, there is no definitive answer. The exact origin of the breed is difficult to ascertain and has been a subject of much speculation. There are as many different opinions as there are experts on the breed.

It is probable that short-legged dogs used for hunting co-existed in France, Germany, and other western European countries centuries ago and that these evolved in their native lands along separate lines. It appears that there were many dogs that fulfilled the function of hunting badgers, without necessarily meeting the Dachshund's description, as early as the Middle Ages. The name, Dachshund, meaning badger dog, seems to have been first used near the end of the seventeenth century when the term, badger dog, definitely designated both the smooth and the longhaired varieties known today. Though doubts still remain concerning the original home of the ancestral stock from which the breed evolved, to Germany must go the credit for having stabilized the type we know today.

In the German all-breed stud book in 1840, there were 54 Dachshunds registered. By 1879, the first breed standard was developed. It was quite a detailed standard and it is worthy to note that few changes have been made in the standard since that time. The first Dachshund breed club in Germany was established in 1888. In view of the fact that the Germans often referred to Dachshunds using the term, "teckel," it was called the Berlin Teckelclub. In 1890, the first stud book devoted solely to Dachshunds was published. There were 394 Dachshunds listed in it.

The development of the Dachshund in England occurred almost simultaneously with the establishment of record-keeping in Germany. The first Dachshund came to England in 1840. In show records, they first appeared in 1860 and were exhibited as German Badger Hounds. They were entered in the English stud book in 1874 as Dachshunds, but this term was followed by German Badger Dog in parenthesis. The English Dachshund Club was formed in 1881, thus it preceded the Berlin Teckelclub by eight years.

Interestingly, Dachshunds seem to have appeared on the scene in the United States within a time frame similar to when the time records of Dachshunds in Germany and England first appeared. According to AKC records, Dachshunds were recognized as a breed in 1885 and eleven were entered in what is now Volume I of the AKC Stud Book. In 1895, the Dachshund Club of America became a member club of the AKC.
History of the Dachshund

By 1914, Dachshunds were among the top ten breeds exhibited at the Westminster Kennel Club show. However, with the start of World War I, the popularity of Dachshunds declined rapidly because of their association with Germany. During this time, German breeding and breeding stock became almost non-existent. Fortunately for the breed, there were dedicated individuals under whose guidance Dachshund breeding was reestablished in the United States and its popularity extends to the present as evidenced by the Dachshund being consistently among the top ten most popular breeds registered by the American Kennel Club.

The Longhaired variety has existed long before the breed was officially recognized and is thought to have been created from the original smooth Dachshund by selective breeding. It has been noted from earliest accounts that there was a variance in the amount and texture of Dachshund coats, leading to the theory that those inclined toward long hair were bred to others of similar tendency to produce the Longhaired variety.

The Wirehaired Dachshund is a relatively recent development when compared to the smooths and longhairs. In the early 1800s, a Wirehaired Dachshund was described as taller in leg than the smooth variety with forelegs curved but less bent than in the smooth. It is speculated that the Wirehaired Dachshund was derived from the Smooth Dachshund and the rough coated Pinscher, with a Dandie Dinmont outcross eventually to procure more depth of body and greater length.

The original purpose in breeding Miniatures was to create a very small Dachshund with which to combat the rapid rise in the rabbit population in parts of Germany during the 1800s. These dogs were bred for their hunting talents alone, with little concern for type and confirmation. In a combined class for all coats and both sexes, the first Miniatures were exhibited in the United States at the Dachshund Club of America specialty in 1934. Four exhibitors competed with nine entries. During the ensuing years, the Miniature Dachshund has grown steadily in popularity and at the same time, has been established as an important member of the Dachshund breed.

The history of the Dachshund is rich and varied. His future lies in the hands of present day fanciers and with those in generations yet to come.
General Appearance

Low to the ground, long in body and short of leg with robust muscular development, the skin is elastic and pliable without excessive wrinkling. Appearing neither crippled, awkward, nor cramped in his capacity for movement, the Dachshund is well-balanced with bold and confident head carriage and intelligent, alert facial expression. His hunting spirit, good nose, loud tongue and distinctive build make him well-suited for below-ground work and for beating the bush. His keen nose gives him an advantage over most other breeds for trailing.

Note: Inasmuch as the Dachshund is a hunting dog, scars from honorable wounds shall not be considered a fault.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Bred and shown in two sizes, standard and miniature, miniatures are not a separate classification but compete in a class division for “11 pounds and under at 12 months of age and older.” Weight of the standard size is usually between 16 and 32 pounds.
Temperament

The dachshund is clever, lively and courageous to the point of rashness, persevering in above- and below-ground work, with all the senses well-developed.

Any display of shyness is a serious fault.

Head

Viewed from above or from the side, the head tapers uniformly to the tip of the nose.

Eyes

are of medium size, almond-shaped and dark rimmed, with an energetic, pleasant expression; not piercing, very dark in color. The bridge bones over the eyes are strongly prominent.

Wall eyes, except in the case of dappled dogs, are a serious fault, and a disqualification in Piebalds.
**Visualization of the Official Dachshund Standard**

**Ears**
are set near the top of the head, not too far forward, of moderate length, rounded, not narrow, pointed or folded. Their carriage, when animated is with the forward edge just touching the cheek, so that the ears frame the face.

**Skull**
is slightly arched, neither too broad nor too narrow, and slopes gradually, with little perceptible stop, into the finely-formed, slightly arched muzzle, giving a Roman appearance.
**Nose**
Black is the preferred color of the nose.

**Lips**
are tightly stretched, well covering the lower jaw.

**Nostrils**
are well open.

**Jaws**
opening wide and hinged well back of the eyes, with strongly developed bones and teeth.

**Teeth**
Powerful canine teeth that fit closely together in a scissors bite.

*An even bite is a minor fault. Any other deviation is a serious fault.*

**Neck**
Long, muscular, clean-cut, without dewlap, slightly arched in the nape, flowing gracefully into the shoulders without creating the impression of a right angle.
Trunk

The trunk is long and fully muscled. When viewed in profile, the back lies in the straightest possible line between the withers and the short very slightly arched loin.

A body that hangs loosely between the shoulders is a serious fault.

Abdomen

Slightly drawn up.

Trunk is long and fully muscled.

Short very slightly arched loin.
Forequarters
For effective underground work the front must be strong, deep, long and cleanly muscled.

Forequarters in detail

Chest
The breastbone is strongly prominent in front, so that on either side a depression or dimple appears. When viewed from the front, the thorax appears oval and extends downward to the midpoint of the forearm. The enclosing structure of well-sprung ribs appears full and oval to allow, by its ample capacity, complete development of heart and lungs.

Keel
The keel merges gradually into the line of the abdomen and extends well beyond the front legs. Viewed in profile, the lowest point of the breast line is covered by the front leg.

Shoulder Blades
Long, broad, well-laid back and firmly placed upon the fully developed thorax, closely fitted at the withers, furnished with hard, yet pliable muscles.

The front must be strong, deep, long and cleanly muscled.
Oval when viewed from front... breastbone prominent... well-sprung ribs.

**Upper Arm**
Ideally the same length as the shoulder blade and at right angles to the latter, strong of bone and hard of muscle, lying close to the ribs, with elbows close to the body, yet capable of free movement.

**Forearm**
Short; supplied with hard yet pliable muscles on the front and outside, with tightly stretched tendons on the inside and at the back, slightly curved inwards. The joints between the forearms and the feet (wrists) are closer together than the shoulder joints, so that the front does not appear absolutely straight. The inclined shoulder blades, upper arms and curved forearms form parentheses that enclose the rib cage, creating the correct “wraparound front”.

**Feet**
Front paws are full, tight, compact, well-arched toes and tough thick pads. They may be equally inclined a trifle outward. There are five toes, four in use, close together with a pronounced arch and strong, short nails. Front dewclaws may be removed.

**Disqualification**
Knuckling over of front legs.
Hindquarters
Strong and cleanly muscled. The pelvis, the thigh, the second thigh, and the metatarsus are ideally the same length and form a series of right angles. From the rear, the thighs are strong and powerful. The legs turn neither in nor out.

Metatarsus
Short and strong, perpendicular to the second thigh bone. When viewed from behind, they are upright and parallel.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Dachshund fanciers use the term “Hock” to describe the entire lower section of the leg from the hock joint through the foot.

“Short Hocks” are desirable.
Hindquarters are strong and cleanly muscled. . . thighs are strong and powerful. . . Legs turn neither in nor out.

Hind paws smaller than front paws. . . foot points straight ahead . . . Tail set in continuation of the spine . . .

**Feet**

Hind paws are smaller than the front paws with four compactly closed and arched toes with tough, thick pads. The entire foot points straight ahead and is balanced equally on the ball and not merely on the toes. Rear dewclaws should be removed.

**Croup**

Long, rounded and full, sinking slightly toward the tail.

**Tail**

Set in continuation of the spine, extending without kinks, twists, or pronounced curvature, and not carried too gaily.
Diagram of Dachshund Technical Terms, and so on...

1. HEAD long, uniformly tapered, clean cut
2. SKULL only slightly arched
3. STOP minimum
4. EYES almond-shaped
5. MUZZLE or foreface
6. NOSE black
7. BITE scissor
8. CANINE TEETH interlocking
9. THROAT clean
10. SHOULDER BLADE & UPPER ARM / Humerus long, broad, well-held back
11. BREAST BONE prominent
12. CHEST oval
13. FORECHEST, BRISKET long
14. KEEL merges gradually into the line of the abdomen and extends well beyond the front legs.
15. EARS set on high and well back, rounded
16. OCCIPUT
17. NECK long, muscular, with some arch
18. SHOULDER WITHERS clean of excess fat or skin
19. BACK neither sagged nor more than slightly arched
20. LOIN compact and strong
21. CROUP ramp rounded, no higher than withers
22. TAIL strong in line with spine, well covered with hair, not too gay
23. PELVIS
24. THIGH femur
25. SECOND THIGH or calf tibia & fibula equal in length at right angles
26. ACHILLES TENDON
27. HOCK JOINT turned neither in nor out
28. TARSUS & METATARSUS vertical
29. KNEE or STIFLE
30. TUCK-UP
31. AFTER-CHEST long
32. KEEL
33. ELBOW close to chest
34. FOREARM ulna & radius
35. WRIST & PASTERN straight, no wrinkles
36. FEET paws good-sized, firm, compact, pointing forward
37. TOES well-arched
38. NAILS black, and kept short
GENERAL APPEARANCE
Low to the ground, long in body and short of leg with robust muscular development, the skin is elastic and pliable without excessive wrinkling. Appearing neither crippled, awkward, nor cramped in his capacity for movement, the Dachshund is well-balanced with bold and confident head carriage and intelligent, alert facial expression. His hunting spirit, good nose, loud tongue and distinctive build make him well-suited for below-ground work and for beating the bush. His keen nose gives him an advantage over most other breeds for trailing.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE
Bred and shown in two sizes, standard and miniature, miniatures are not a separate classification but compete in a class division for “11 pounds and under at 12 months of age and older.” Weight of the standard size is usually between 16 and 32 pounds.
Gait
Fluid and smooth. Forelegs reach well forward, without much lift, in unison with the driving action of hind legs. The correct shoulder assembly and well-fitted elbows allow the long, free stride in front.

Viewed from the front, the legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but incline slightly inward to compensate for shortness of leg and width of chest. Hind legs drive on a line with the forelegs, with hocks (metatarsus) turning neither in nor out. The propulsion of the hind leg depends on the dog's ability to carry the hind leg to complete extension. Rear feet do no reach upward toward the abdomen and there is no appearance of walking on the rear pasterns.
Visualization of the Official Dachshund Standard

Viewed in Profile, the forward reach of the hind leg equals the rear extension. The thrust of correct movement is seen when the rear pads are clearly exposed during rear extension. Rear feet do no reach upward toward the abdomen and there is no appearance of walking on the rear pasterns. Feet must travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over, or interfere with each other. Short sloppy movement, rolling or high-stepping gait, close or overly wide coming or going, are incorrect.

The Dachshund must have agility, freedom of movement and endurance... for which he was developed.
Special Characteristics of the Three Coat Varieties

The Dachshund is bred with three varieties of coat: (1) Smooth, (2) Wirehaired, (3) Longhaired, and is shown in two sizes, standard and miniature. All three varieties and both sizes must conform to the characteristics already specified.

The following features are applicable for each variety.

Smooth, Wirehaired and Longhaired Dachshunds . . . bred and shown in two sizes — standard and miniature . . . standards usually weighing between 16 and 32 pounds . . . miniatures weighing 11 pounds and under, at 12 months of age and older . . .
Smooth Dachshund

Coat
Short, smooth and shining. Should be neither too long nor too thick. Ears not leathery.

Tail
Gradually tapered to a point, well, but not too richly haired. Long sleek bristles on the underside are considered a patch of strong-growing hair, not a fault.

A brush tail is a fault, as is also a partly or wholly hairless tail.

Color of Hair
Although base color is immaterial, certain patterns and basic colors predominate. One-colored Dachshunds include red (with or without a shading of interspersed dark hairs or sable) and cream. A small amount of white on the chest is acceptable, but not desirable.

Nose and Nails
Black.
Two-colored Dachshunds include black, chocolate, wild boar, gray (blue) and fawn (isabelle), each with deep, rich tan or cream markings over the eyes, on the sides of the jaw and underlip, on the inner edge of the ear, front, breast, sometimes on the throat, inside and behind the front legs, on the paws and around the anus, and from there to about one-third to one-half of the length of the tail on the underside. Undue prominence or extreme lightness of tan markings is undesirable. A small amount of white on the chest is acceptable but not desirable.

Nose and Nails
In the case of black dogs, black; for chocolate and all others, dark brown, but self-colored is acceptable.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
This applies to long-haired, smooth and wire coats.
Dappled and Brindle Dachshunds

The dapple (merle) pattern is expressed as lighter-colored areas contrasting with the darker base color, which may be any acceptable color. Neither the light nor the dark color should predominate. Nose and nails are the same as for the one and two-colored Dachshunds. Partial or wholly blue (wal) eyes are as acceptable as dark eyes. A large area of white on the chest of a dapple is permissible.

Brindle

Brindle is a pattern (as opposed to a color) in which black or dark stripes occur over the entire body although in some specimens the pattern may be visible only in the tan points.

Sable

The sable pattern consists of a uniform dark overlay on red dogs. The overlay hairs are double-pigmented, with the tip of each hair much darker than the base color. The pattern usually displays a widow’s peak on the head. Nose, nails, and eye rims are black. Eyes are dark, the darker the better.

Wild Boar

Wild Boar (agouti) appears as banding of the individual hairs and imparts an overall grizzled effect which is most often seen on wirehaired Dachshunds, but may also appear on other coats. Tan points may or may not be evident. Variations include red boar and chocolate-and-tan boar. Nose, nails and eye rims are black on wild-boar and red-boar dachshunds. On chocolate-and-tan boar dachshunds, nose, nails eye rims and eyes are self-colored, the darker the better.

Piebald

Piebald is a pattern (as opposed to a color) with clearly defined areas and/or patches of white on any allowed one-color or two-colored dog. Two-colored piebald patterned dogs may show tan markings on the face and around the anus. There are no patches of lighter shadings within the colored areas as in the dapple pattern. Ticking in the white areas is acceptable. Eye color, eye rims, nose and lips are well pigmented and in accordance with the base color; eyes are never partially or wholly blue as distinguished from the dapple pattern. Eyes partially or wholly blue is a disqualification. Head must not be more than 50 percent white and color(s) other than white must cover both ears, back and front, and extend without interruption from the ears over both eyes. A head of more than 50 percent white or white on any portion of either ear, back or front or around the eyes is a disqualification. Pure white dogs with no body spots except on the head are to be disqualified. Nails may be partially or wholly white.
Wirehaired Dachshunds

Coat
With the exception of jaw, eyebrows, and ears, the whole body is covered with a uniform tight, short, thick, rough, hard, outer coat but with finer, somewhat softer, shorter hairs (undercoat) everywhere distributed between the coarser hairs.

The absence of an undercoat is a fault.

The distinctive facial furnishings include a beard and eyebrows. On the ears, the hair is shorter than on the body, almost smooth. The general arrangement of the hair is such that the wirehaired Dachshund, when viewed from a distance, resembles the smooth.

Any sort of soft hair in the outercoat, wherever found on the body, especially on the top of the head, is a fault. The same is true of long, curly, or wavy hair, or hair that sticks out irregularly in all directions.

Coat...a uniform tight, short, thick, rough hard outer coat...distinctive facial furnishings include a beard and eyebrows.

Tail...thickly haired, gradually tapering to a point.
Visualization of the Official Dachshund Standard

Tail
Robust, thickly haired, gradually tapering to a point.

A flag tail is a fault.

Color of Hair
While the most common colors are wild boar, black and tan, and various shades of red, all colors are admissible. A small amount of white on the chest, although acceptable, is not desirable.

Nose and Nails
Same as for the smooth variety.
Longhaired Dachshund

Coat
The sleek, glistening, often slightly wavy hair is longer under the neck and on the forechest, the underside of the body, the ears, and behind the legs. The coat gives the dog an elegant appearance. Short hair on the ear is not desirable.

Too profuse a coat which masks type, equally long hair over the whole body, a curly coat, or a pronounced parting on the back are faults.

Tail
Carried gracefully in prolongation of the spine; the hair attains its greatest length here and forms a veritable flag.

Color of Hair
Same as for the smooth Dachshund.

Nose and Nails
Same as for the smooth.

Coat...sleek, glistening, often slightly wavy hair is longer under the neck and on the forechest, the underside of the body, the ears, and behind the legs...gives the dog an elegant appearance...

Tail...hair attains its greatest length here and forms a veritable flag.
Disqualifications
Knuckling over the front legs. In the piebald pattern: eyes partially or wholly blue, or a head of more than 50 percent white, or white covering any portion of the ears, back and front, or around the eyes, or pure white with no body spots except on the head. Colors or patterns other than those specified above.

The foregoing description is that of the ideal Dachshund. Any deviation from the previously described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation keeping in mind the importance of the contribution of the various features toward the basic original purpose of the breed.

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