Dachshund Secrets:
The Ultimate Guide
to Make Your Dachshund
Happy, Healthy And
Obedient!
**Introduction**

After all the frustration to find out the truth on how to make a Dachshund healthy, happy and obedient, I have created ‘Dachshund Secrets’.

I spent over 2 months just communicating with over 100 Dachshund lovers (some are owners) to get their input and learn from their experiences.

Then, I searched the internet, some days from dusk till dawn, to read articles and forum posts to find out more. And, of course, I did not forget about the tips I’ve gathered from books I’ve bought from the local bookstores.

It was a lot of work! But it was worth it because I finally got my answers. It’s no longer a secret to me how to make a Dachshund happy, healthy and obedient the way you want it.

This is unlike ANY dog book you see on the shelf because it’s a researched book from people who personally own Dachshund dogs. This is information gathered that you can use and apply to your Dachshund.

With that said, it’s time for to start reading ‘Dachshund Secrets’ and see improvement in your dog!
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What Is A Dachshund?

Dachshunds are some of the most awesome dogs you could ever hope to own! They are very lovable and just a good all-around breed.

Dachshunds are by nature hound dogs and are so categorized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). They have been trained as hunting dogs and watch dogs, and have been known to fight on their hind legs – boxing with their front paws! They were bred to use their scent to hung animals that dwell in holes. They are the elongated breed of the hound family.

Dachshunds are very intelligent and loving. They have their aloof moments, but most of the time they are trustworthy and loyal dogs. Dachshunds are known to be scrappy, funny, and very smart dogs that carry a great love for their humans.

No doubt the Dachshund breed makes for great working and watch dog, but the greatest advantage to owning one is that a Dachshund can be your most outstanding companion on four legs and a great source of personal fulfillment.

By the way, the AKC registered over 150 different breeds totaling nearly one million dogs in 2003. To put that in perspective, the animal shelters in America rescue up to 12 million homeless dogs and cats every year and 25% of these are purebreds.
This little book is meant as a quick guide for Dachshund owners like you to better understand your wisely chosen pet, how to take care and love it, make him happy, keep him healthy, so that he will better understand you and listen to you, love you and make YOU a better person during your incredible life journey together!

Devoted and glad owners of Dachshunds have come up with a long list of attributes and traits of their favorite pet that include:

- Alert
- Aloof
- Boisterous
- Brave
- Courageous
- Devoted
- Dignified
- Exuberant
- Family dog
- Friendly
- Highly trainable
- Hound dog
- Intelligent
- Intuitive
- Keen judge of character
- Loving
- Loyal
- Lively
- People dog
- Poor swimmer
- Playful
- Quick learner
- Rash
• Self-assured
• Smart
• Soulful
• Spirited
• Sometimes shy
• Stubborn (in a good way 😊)
• Vigilant
• Wonderful pet

And you can add to the list…
History

Dachshunds (commonly pronounced “dock’sun”) date back to 15th century Germany. We have already mentioned that the Dachshund is by nature a hound dog and a true hunter. They were commonly called badger dogs because of the way they hunted badgers in their holes in the ground. Their long bodies, short legs, and hound ears helped them to hunt.

Dachshunds were bred in both long and short haired varieties, and wire-haired Dachshunds became the third variety in 1890. After some cross breeding between the wire-hairs and smooth-hairs, it was decided that this was a bad idea due to the significant problems it caused.

Larger Dachshunds weighed about 30-35 lbs, and were used to hunt both badgers and wild boars. The smaller Dachshunds weighed about 16-22 lbs and were used to track foxes and hares. Today Dachshunds are available in standard and miniature sizes and they are one of the most popular breeds in America.

Appearance

Dachshunds are known to be very low to the ground in their appearance. Their bodies are elongated and this has led to many nicknames, such as “wiener dogs” or “sausage dogs.” They have a very muscled appearance, thanks in part to their four short legs. Their skin is flexible, not very wrinkled, and they are well-balanced and
coordinated. Dachshunds walk with a confident posture, almost cocky, as they hold their heads up high. They not only look intelligent and alert, they actually are!

Dachshunds come in all different colors, and some even have spots. Most of the time they do not have white coats, but sometimes will have a small patch of white, usually on their chests. Their noses and nails are black, unless they have a chocolate/tan or chocolate/spotted coat; then their nose and nails can be brown.

**Dachshunds as Pets**

Pet Dachshunds, although low-maintenance, do require your regular attention, exercise, human interaction, consistent obedience training and lots of love. They are good apartment dogs, and great for traveling, but do have grooming needs and are generally not a good mix with very small children or large dogs.

**How to keep your Dachshund out of trouble**

Their high prey drive (some owners called it play drive) needs proper outlets or they could get destructive as house pets, and tend to fight among themselves. The female is actually more aggressive than the male.

Keeping your Dachshund busy is the best way to keep him out of trouble. Taking him on good, long walks at least two times a day is a good start. Give him plenty of exercise and play with him.
often. This helps your Dachshund to be stimulated enough to keep him from being bored, and release his pent up energy before it turns into frustration.

**What some proud owners say about their pet Dachshunds:**

* “Having a Dachshund is like having another human in a dog body with you. You can talk to Dachshunds and they would understand. They demonstrate feelings just like human does. If they are loved, they will love and protect you.”

* “My Dachshunds bring me up when I am down. Dachshunds are the most loyal companions. They are the only dogs for me.”

* “They are a gift! The two I have are always smiling and they cheer me up when I’m not too happy. They can be your friends for life!”

* “My Dachshund can take up my moods or lay quietly by my feet for hours.”

* “Dachshunds are so intuitive, so easily bored and heartbroken. They are the definition of devotion and courage. When I am sad, she comforts me. When I am happy, she celebrates with me.”

* “If I treat my Dachshund puppy as an intelligent animal and talk to him almost like he's human, he is more responsive and better behaved, as though
he's picking up on my sentiments by the way I am speaking to him.”

* “Dachshunds can be very manipulative. They are a lot smarter than they look! Don’t get taken in by their innocent-looking face or let them walk all over you no matter how much their eyes make them look like they are truly sorry.”

* “Bringing a puppy or even an older dog into your home and your life is a major decision. It brings with it responsibility and commitment, but it also renders supreme joy, laughter, and sadly, but inevitably, tears. Not one of us who has ever shared his life with a Dachshund would have it any other way.”

* “Dachshund dogs think they are human. Treat them like one - love them, talk to them, cuddle them and value them and you will get your love back unconditionally 10,000 times.”

So are you ready for a Dachshund?

The answer is “no” if you are the type who mostly leave your dog on a chain. Dachshunds require much of your love, attention and companionship although they are easy to take care of.

One Dachshund-lover even said to never get one as pet if you work full-time!
Another point to consider is that the costs for food, training, grooming, medical care, toys and other supplies do add up.

Still, for many years now, the Dachshund has ranked in the top favorite purebreds by the American Kennel Club.

**Choosing your Dachshund**

An easier and more pleasant journey with your chosen Dachshund starts with checking out the parent dogs for unbecoming traits like aggression, hyperactive and extreme shyness.

This is easier to do when you get your Dachshund from a reputable breeder or from a pet shop that get their animals only from known breeders.

Exercise prudence if you are getting your Dachshund puppy from pet stores, which often get their supply from breeders of unknown reputation.

These “puppy mills” as they are called are not known to put much emphasis on the quality and health of pups they are producing.

Reputable breeders would adhere to the accepted standards for Dachshunds in terms of uniformity in the breed, good health, temperament, size and color.

Reputable breeders would be able to show the pedigree and registration papers and/or pictures of the parent dogs that may reside somewhere else.
Professional breeders are also there to produce dog show champions or prospects.

Even if you are not looking to raise a show champion Dachshund, known breeders can provide you with some “best buy” puppies because not all the puppies in a litter are show prospect/champion materials.

But the full litter would have had benefited from the same proven bloodlines, nutrition and medical care. So you can choose from among the good-looking brothers or sisters of potential champion for a bargain.

Your other source option is animal shelters that in the US alone receive up to 12 million homeless dogs and cats every year, and about 25% of them are purebred. Paying the adoption fee is a lot cheaper than the price you will pay to a breeder or pet store, and you will be saving a life.

Be sure to choose Dachshunds that appear healthy. Adult Dachshunds should have a shiny coat, lively eyes, and a friendly demeanor. Make sure when he walks and runs there is no limp or skip in his gait.

It’s also a good idea to visit the Dachshund more than once, as the first visit may be during his sleepy time and he may be lethargic. The next time he may be wide awake and enjoying playtime. If he is a puppy, take him away from his mom and siblings to see how well he bonds with you.
Dachshunds Crave Attention

Dachshunds need constant attention and love to be babied. Treat your Dachshund as your best friend and play, play, play with him.

Dachshunds simply love attention. Shower them with love, affection and attention as well as some treats. If you leave your Dachshund to himself for very long, he may become very destructive if he feels lonely, bored, or ignored.

Bringing your Dachshund Home

Before you bring your Dachshund home, cover all electrical outlets and fill all spaces that are dangerous for him to worm his way into. You can also get a spray bottle and fill it with bitter apple spray or something similar from a pet store. This can be used to spray on objects you don’t want your Dachshund chewing on.

When you bring your Dachshund home, have a comfortable, well-sized crate ready as well as a couple of toys. Plan to spend a couple of days bonding and allowing your Dachshund to explore his new surroundings.

Don’t think of a crate as a “doggy jail”. A Dachshund doesn’t see a crate as a cage or a jail. He sees it as his den and this can be a very good thing. You have your space, he has his. For him, it’s a nice, quiet space to hang out when things get
too rambunctious for him. The crate is also a great way to travel with your Dachshund.

Here are some tips to help your Dachshund think of his crate in a positive way:

- Make sure the crate is sturdy, and only big enough to sit, stand, and turn around, and lie down in.
- At first, put a dog treat in the crate and allow him to eat it inside. Close the door briefly. Gradually increase the amount of time the door is closed, working up to 2-hour increments.
- Place the crate near the rest of the family, where your Dachshund can see and be near everyone. You can even feed your Dachshund in his crate.
- Never use his crate for punishment. You want to keep it a “happy place.”
- Don’t let children play in his crate. This is “his” space.

How long should you leave your Dachshund in his crate?

Below are guidelines for leaving him in his crate:

9-10 weeks approx. 30-60 minutes
11-14 weeks Approx 1-3 hours
15-16 weeks Approx 3-4 hours
17+ weeks Approx 4-5 hours (6 hours maximum)
If you want your Dachshund to have a little more freedom, you can use exercise pens and baby gates to section off the rooms that are off limits.

You should leave your Dachshund in an enclosed area whenever you aren’t there to provide supervision. If you let him have too much freedom in the house, you are setting yourself up for housebreaking accidents.

Your Dachshund will be more comfortable if he sleeps near his “pack”, so setting up a crate in your bedroom for him to sleep in can be very rewarding for both of you.

**Dachshunds and the Family**

Dachshunds are very family-oriented and always love to be around people. Treat them as family members. Never underestimate their need for human companionship, which is a most notable trait of this breed.

The Dachshund is happiest when it is with people. It can adapt to most any environment as long as it is with people.

They love being with their "families" and don't like to be alone. Include them in your gatherings when company is around.

They love to be your shadow. Dachshunds are intelligent and are quite capable of participating in many family adventures.
Dachshund dogs are like humans and they need lots of love to feel like a part of the family.

Accept them for what they are and give them time to show how loyal they could be. They are very sensitive animals so never hit them.

**Dachshunds and Kids**

Most Dachshunds are very small, between 11-32 lbs, and can be a good pet for children. Be aware though, it is possible that any tiny dog, even a Dachshund, could reach up and bite a child who is squeezing him. With that in mind, this breed may not be the best fit for families with very young children who do not understand the difference between “hugging” and “hurting” the dog.

Introduce the Dachshund to the children early, as this will bond Dachshund and child and stop jealousy. You may find the Dachshund will be more protective towards that child.

Some owners found their Dachshunds love to be around children more than adults.
Dachshunds and Discipline

Most would agree that the day you bring the Dachshund puppy home, you must already pick the direction in which you want to go with him.

Disciplining one is a matter of thinking and working a step ahead of your Dachshund. Do it with love, gentleness but firmness as well.

Also, a Dachshund that is well behaved today may not remain so forever. Dog’s behavior constantly changes; new problems can always develop and existing ones could get worse. So make the discipline constant.

Training your Dachshund is the most important thing you will do for him and for yourself in order to have a much better relationship together.

A trained Dachshund will listen and can safely be allowed freedom more than an untrained one.

A disciplined and well-trained Dachshund is more confident and makes a wonderful companion that is smart, soulful, most people-oriented dog and blessed with boundless energy - a pleasure to live with.

A poorly trained dog can be an annoying and destructive nuisance around the house that weighs on you more like a commitment and responsibility rather than a blessing.
Teach them young when the Dachshunds don’t know any better rather than stressing them out when they are older and more difficult to control. Remember, they are intelligent but also highly stubborn. They can be harder to train than most other dogs due to their independence.

Start the training some place that is familiar to your Dachshund, where there is minimum distraction.

Never substitute a cat collar on a Dachshund. You could lose him because these collars have a breakaway feature that allows the pet to snap away from you.

Gradually introduce your Dachshund to a collar and be sure it is not too tight or too loose (you should be able to put one finger inside the collar).

A harness is also the answer to the Dachshund slipping out of the collar. Follow the same rules for fit as for a collar.

Most dog trainers recommend a 6-foot-long leash for training since it is short enough to control, but long enough to train your dog. Don’t start out with a retractable leash.

At first you can let him lead you on the leash until he gets comfortable being on it. Then it is time for you to lead him. Show him a treat and have him take a few steps with you. Treat him and increase the number of steps, later changing direction to teach him to watch and follow you at
all times. Treat him often and give lots of verbal praise and petting.

So after both of you are skilled at several obedience commands, start taking him to different areas for practice, where there are increasing amount of distractions present. Examples are near a supermarket, busy parking lot and a busy park on Sundays. This may seems like starting all over again but you’ll have a superbly trained dog at the end of it. So it's worth the effort.

**Keep in mind Dachshunds are intelligent.**
Being an intelligent dog has its own advantages and drawbacks.

Understand Dachshund’s intelligence/stubbornness, handle it well, and you can avoid problems in disciplining and training them.

As owners, you must maintain respect between you and your Dachshunds. Respect goes both ways.

Respect their intelligence. Love them. Set the rules for behavior. Trust them. There is no need for extreme measures to show Dachshunds that you are the top dog.

Handle their hard-headedness with patient and don't give up on their training. Be consistent. It will pay off later!

**Utilize their high play drive** for more effective obedience training.
Conduct “play training” where by the training tasks are made into fun games and the Dachshund’s high play drive is used as motivation. There are a lot of really good books available on this type of training.

Basically Dachshunds are intelligent and could be stubborn. So you have to outwit them!

While training your Dachshund, you have to make him WANT to do what you want him to. You can't make him do stuff unless it is FUN. Otherwise you are wasting both your time and his.

Your Dachshund's favorite activities should become training, so that training becomes his favorite activity.

Dachshunds LOVE to play! You will have the happiest Dachshund in the world and most obedient if you will just spend some time, giving them your undivided attention everyday. Otherwise they feel ignored, bored and may tear or chew things up and will not listen to you.

Some tried and proven tactics you can use to make your Dachshunds listen to you more.

* When playing with your Dachshund puppy, play at his level.

If play is encouraged at ground level, this builds your role as the dominant or top dog when you are standing and training your puppy. If the puppy is allowed to jump up and initiate play, then this can
lead to unwanted jumping up as the Dachshund gets older.

It can also be fun to teach your Dachshund to obey simple commands of raising a paw in a handshake, giving a hand lick for a kiss or doing a roll over to show his submission to you. Most Dachshunds love performing these simple tricks (obedience commands) for you.

There is no need for extreme measures to prove you are the boss. Obedience training should be fun and rewarding for you and your Dachshund.

* From the very beginning, make sure your Dachshunds know you are the master. This makes them feel safe and secure.

* The Dachshund must always eat after you do.

This is the easiest way to show to your Dachshund who is the boss. But this is easier said than done when there are many people in the family and not all would respect the rule.

* Very active young Dachshunds have short attention spans.

It is best to have many short 5 to 10-minute lessons than a single, long 30-minute lesson. Keep the training session short and sweet. Lengthy session easily becomes dull, boring and tedious for both you and the Dachshund.
* Start the training at quiet places familiar to your Dachshund with very few things and people around to distract him.

Gradually move the training to places with more and more distractions so he will learn to obey your commands despite the distractions.

* Speak to your Dachshund strongly but not in an angry voice.

Be kind but be firm while training and never give in to what they want. It seems cruel but in the long run you will have a much better relationship with you Dachshund.

* Celebrate after every training session for a good job done.

Have a big play by running and throwing his favorite toys. If you give them a lot of playtime with yourself they’d listen to you more.

* Use only one word like “sit,” “down,” “drop” and “stay” when teaching Dachshunds commands. For example, when your Dachshund gets on the lounge with you, say “sit - down” and he should sit then lay down on your lap.

* To keep a Dachshund from charging the front door, put up a door/gate that he can’t see through or hop over.

* Finally, no matter how well trained you think your Dachshund is, he has an attention span of seconds!
**Dachshunds and Obedience Class**

Discipline is one of the most important aspects of owning a Dachshund.

It can be fun and worthwhile to take a class with your Dachshund.

Puppy school is for the Dachshunds to help develop good habits right from the start. Wait until your Dachshund is at least 6 months old before putting him through any serious work.

Trainers with extensive experience and knowledge can deal with just about any behavior problems your pup might come up with.

Choose a trainer who is purposeful and patient. The well-trained Dachshund is a sight to behold going through his paces in the class. Their innate intelligence makes many Dachshunds great successes in the obedience ring.

Talk with the trainer about her philosophy. Does she use food rewards? If so, she might be a good trainer for a Dachshund. If she is old-fashioned and uses the jerk-and-pull method, you and your Dachshund aren’t going to enjoy this kind of obedience class.

Ask the trainer what experience she has had training *small* dogs. Ideally you want someone who has either owned small dogs or worked with lots of them.
Observe the trainer’s class for yourself before enrolling. Is the whole family able to participate? It helps your Dachshund to perform better if everyone in the household gives him the same rules and the same commands.

Most important, is it a place that is safe for your Dachshund? A large class of big, untrained dogs isn’t a safe place for your Dachshund.

Of more importance is for you as owner to continue to practice the obedience lessons with your Dachshund.

They will best remember the lessons when you incorporate them into your everyday routines with your dog.

For example you can tell your pup to “heel” while he follows you around the house, and to “sit” and “stay” while you prepare his dinner. As your wake up greeting in the morning he can do a “roll over”. Tell him to “go find the ball” while you get dressed and “go get the leash” before you go for walks together.

**Potty-Training Your Dachshund Puppy**

Even though you may have successfully house-trained 5 other large dogs when they were young puppies, that’s not likely to happen with your Dachshund (or most other toy breeds). In general, small dogs have more housetraining problems
them large dogs. In fact, the number one reason people give up their Dachshunds and turn them over to animal shelters is because of housetraining difficulties. That being said, don’t Panic! It CAN be done with patience and consistency…and the rewards are HUGE!

For the best and fastest way to potty train your Dachshund, see the Fast Track System for step-by-step instructions.

**Reprimanding the Dachshund**

Talk to Dachshunds like you would to children when they do something wrong.

Tell them “no” and show them immediately what the correct behavior should be and reward them for doing it right. After a few times they'll know how to do it right.

For example, tell him “NO” when you catch him chewing the shoes. Then immediately give him his own toys to chew and cheer him on to chew on the toys. Praise him for doing so.

Use sparingly those reprimanding words like “No,” “Stop that,” “get off” and “bad dog!” Instead use more praises to reward good behavior in your Dachshunds and only then the reprimands will take on stronger meaning.

A correct reprimand is short, sharp and immediate.
Only reprimand when you catch your Dachshund doing something wrong, and punish only with your voice.

Hitting, kicking, slapping or spanking your Dachshund could create more problems and usually makes existing problems worse. You may just end up with a barking and chewing dog, one that is leery, hand-shy, fearful or aggressive.

**Repetition and Rewarding Your Dachshund**

Repetitions in doing the right things and rewarding your Dachshund every single time are crucial in training.

The more often he is rewarded, the better and quicker he will learn. Create situations where your Dachshund can get plenty of practice at doing the right things.

Be sure to praise when he does a good job.

This is simple but not always easy to do. Bad behaviors like biting, constant yelping and barking and tearing the house apart get our immediate notice. What we easily forget to acknowledge are the good parts – when the Dachshund is lying down quietly, chewing on his own toys, leaving the carpet unsoiled.

Praise and reward are the most important part of maintaining your Dachshund’s good behavior and preventing him from getting into trouble.
Dachshund’s Games and Treats

Foods, treats or praise will bring out the best responses from your Dachshunds during training.

Treats can come in the form of their favorite food, toy or something the Dachshund really loves to do.

Whenever practicing any obedience training and upon finishing, one owner and his Dachshund will have a big play time by running and throwing his favorite toys. Other Dachshunds prefer to go for rides, enjoying the wind in their faces.

Some Dachshunds will take the commands in training with great joy knowing that they will get something to eat!

Grooming the Dachshund

Dachshunds are basically low to medium maintenance dogs that tend to keep themselves clean. You only need to bathe her occasionally and currycomb her every so often to tidy up her coat. If you have a long-haired or wire-haired Dachshund, she should be combed regularly. Run down her coat after a bath with a chamois cloth to make her coat very soft and shiny!!

Coat care is an obviously important part of Dachshund grooming, but there are other things to be considered as well…her teeth need to be
brushed, eyes and ears need to be cleaned, and her little toenails need to be trimmed on a regular basis. If you happen to cut too far down to the quick, don’t panic. Put some clotting powder on a moist cotton swab and hold firmly against the nail for several seconds. Always try to stop before you reach the quick, stop cutting just behind the point at which the nail begins to curve downward.

You must make the grooming experience a positive one…To do this, you should groom your Dachshund on your lap, on a table, or in a sink. This will require your Dachshund to be lifted up high, which can be a high source of stress and fear for her. Imagine a huge hand coming out of nowhere and lifting you up to the top of a five-story building in one sweep. Scary!

You must teach your Dachshund to like being picked up and give her plenty of warning before you do it. Give her a command, such as “Up Up” then slowly lift her up being sure to support her chest and rear. When you have picked her up, verbally praise her and give her a treat. Repeat this frequently so that she gets used to being picked up and associates it with being a good thing.

As you are grooming your Dachshund, provide lots of small treats so she learns this is supposed to be a positive experience. Collect your supplies ahead of time: Nail clippers, pin brush, comb, and scissors to trim feet and tidy up coat, nonskid mat for sink, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer, and towels.
Dachshunds can be bathed once every two months or as often as needed. Always thoroughly brush her before her bath to get her mats out of her coat. Dachshunds’ hair can easily get mats in it and they are harder to get out when they are wet. Mats also hurt when your Dachshund stretches or walks, depending on where the mat is located in the fur. Keep her coat combed, bathed, and trimmed to avoid the matting. When drying after a bath, gently squeeze with the towel rather than rub to avoid creating mats.

Blow dry your Dachshund after a bath, being sure to brush out his hair all over. Be extremely careful when brushing around his eyes, ears, nose, and genitals.

If you hear your Dachshund’s nails clicking when he walks, that means with every step his nails are pushing against his feet and it’s time for a trim. Position your dog’s paw in your hand and snip off the very tip of the nail. Their nails require regular trimming and could also get naturally worn down by a hard surface. Some Dachshunds are very sensitive about their paws and don’t let you touch them.

Always be gentle when grooming your Dachshund. Speak softly and sweetly or some people even sing. Making grooming time the highlight of the day! Your veterinarian can be a good source of information about grooming, or you may even want to locate a reputable groomer in your area.
Feeding Your Dachshund

From the time a puppy is weaned from his mother’s milk until he is three months old, he must be fed four times a day. From three months until six months, feed him three times a day. After age six months, feed him twice a day (morning and evening). The evening meal should be 2-3 hours before bedtime to avoid housetraining accidents. Never feed Dachshunds once a day as they have small digestive systems and they are likely to better digest and absorb their food if they have two small meals instead of one large one. Hypoglycemia is also common in Dachshunds, so eating two meals a day helps to keep their blood sugar levels more even through the day.

Never leave a dish down on the floor all day for your puppy or dog to snack from. It is better to feed regular meals for several reasons:

• You will know when your Dachshund is sick (she will eat less at meals or not at all).
• You can plan your days better and be on a better schedule.
• This better schedule will help with housetraining your Dachshund.
• It is easier to control your Dachshund’s portions better, thereby controlling her weight better.

You can start out feeding your Dachshund in her crate or elsewhere in the kitchen. Just make sure
she has a safe place to finish an uninterrupted meal.

Be sure to buy high quality food for your Dachshund. The better the quality of ingredients that go into your Dachshund’s food, the better for your dog. Dachshunds don’t eat a lot of food, so you don’t necessarily need to spend extra money to get premium brand for your dog. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) sets standards that most pet foods meet.

Don’t give your Dachshund a cooked bone of any kind. Any cooked bone can be deadly, but chicken and turkey bones are especially dangerous. However, raw bones can be very healthy for your Dachshund and help keep his teeth healthy and strong.

**Foods to avoid**

Grapes and raisins  
Chocolate  
Coffee  
Alcoholic beverages  
Avocados  
Macadamia Nuts  
Moldy Food  
Onions  
Yeast dough

**Keeping your Dachshund Safe**

It is important to remember that a Dachshund can dart out an open door in an instant so be sure to
keep identification on him at all times. Using both ID tags and a microchip can help your chances of getting your little guy back, should he ever run off.

For traveling, the safest way for your Dachshund to travel in the car is in a crate in the back seat, seat-belted in. Although it is tempting to hold him in your lap, the airbag could easily kill the little guy should you be involved in an accident. The crate is not only safer but so much more comfortable for him in traveling.

**Never leave your Dachshund in a closed car on a hot day. The heat and insufficient air circulation can quickly lead to heat stress and even death.**

**How to Keep Your Dachshund Healthy**

- Feed him a **balanced diet**.

- Keep him **comfortable** so his immune system can remain strong.

- Give Dachshunds lots of **exercise** and regularly.

- Walk them three times a day or have play sessions. Provide plenty of space for them to bounce around. You want to keep their spirit up and not break it or they won’t be the dogs you fall in love with in the first place. Healthy and happy Dachshunds are a joy to live with.
• **Make a breeder your friend.**

• Keep in touch with the breeder who sold you the Dachshund. The breeder can advise you about care and health matters that are unique to the breed. Any Dachshund breeder, for that matter, can be an invaluable ally to you throughout your Dachshund's life.

• **Guard your Dachshund from fleas.**

• Dachshunds catch fleas from other animals. It is an every day problem that, at some time or another, you can expect to encounter in your Dachshund.

• The fleas only go to the Dachshund to feed on its blood.

• Fleas mostly live and multiply in your home. The comfortable living - central heating, double-glazing and, best of all, the fitted carpet – we create for ourselves and our Dachshunds also work best for the fleas.

• **De-worm** your puppy your adult Dachshund at the intervals advised by your veterinarian.
Taking Care of Your Sick Dachshund

All dogs are susceptible to different health problems. Dachshunds are generally healthy, but they do have some serious health concerns that can affect them.

- Skin allergy
- Food allergy
- Cancer
- Hip dysphasia
- Diabetes
- Heart ailments
- Hypothyroidism
- Fleas
- Worms
- Cataracts

There are also some other health problems that are common in small dogs that owners should be watchful for.

- Luxating patella
- Dental problems
- Hypoglycemia
- Broken bones
- Ear infections
- Eye infections

**Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder**

When your Dachshund is between 2 and five years old, she may develop epilepsy or a seizure
disorder. With all dog seizures, you should seek veterinary care IMMEDIATELY!!

Dog seizures are usually due to abnormal electrical conduction in the brain that usually results in a loss of consciousness, and different physical signs that can be associated with the seizure.

These dog seizures can usually last between 30 seconds to 2 or 3 minutes; and if they last more than 5 minutes you should see a veterinarian!

If the seizure lasts for 10 minutes or longer, or she has more than one within 24 hours, you need to seek emergency care immediately!

Physical signs of dog seizures
- Falling over to one side
- Legs “paddling” or generalized trembling/twitching
- Urination
- Defecation
- Salivation
- Vocalizing
- Eyes “rolled back”

If your Dachshund experiences a seizure, don’t panic! Be sure to stay right by her side to keep her calm. Pet her and speak softly to her in a calming tone. Keep children away from her during the seizure. Place thick blankets between her head and any hard surfaces. Animals don’t swallow their tongue like humans so don’t put your hand in her mouth, unless you want her to bite it!
Once the seizure is over, your Dachshund will be groggy and confused. Soothe and comfort him, offering some water to drink. Keep him away from any stairs until he is fully alert. If he isn’t fully recovered after 30 minutes, consult your veterinarian or an emergency vet facility.

**Dachshund Allergies**

Dachshunds, like humans, can also suffer from allergies. About 20% of Dachshunds in the U.S. suffer from some type of dog allergy. The most common Dachshund allergies are itching of the skin. Causes could be skin allergies, flea allergies, inhalant allergies, contact allergies, or bacterial allergies. The respiratory tract can be affected causing coughing, sneezing, and/or wheezing. At times, the eyes and nose may develop a discharge. Also, the digestive system may be affected causing vomiting or diarrhea. For more in depth information on dog allergies, see the Dog Allergy book included in the ultimate package.

**Caring for your Senior Dachshund**

Just as humans are living longer and longer lives, so are our dogs. Dachshund’s usually live to be healthy dogs right into their teen years. Dachshunds can live up to 15 years or more, enjoying a long dog life.

The best way to take care of your senior dog is to be in regular contact with your veterinarian and
have your dog checked regularly to identify any problems early.

Your veterinarian may suggest that your Dachshund come in for exams twice a year instead of once. There are also blood tests that can be done to look for common problems in senior dogs. In addition, older dogs (especially female dogs) can begin having incontinence and have trouble controlling their bladder. Medication is available that is very helpful in treating this problem.

**Pet Health Insurance**

**Pet Insurance** - I can’t say enough about how affordable and smart this is. With the cost of vets going up... a $2,000 to $3,000 is just one accident away.

Did you know that **1 out of 3 dogs this year** will have to have emergency service? Fill out the form and get a quote... You’ll be shocked how affordable it is. This is the one we use... **Pet Insurance**

Several companies now offer healthy insurance for dogs. This can be good for older Dachshunds because a variety of problems in this breed can be expensive to treat.

If you opt for health insurance, choose a company that has been in business at least a few years. Pay most attention to coverage of expensive items like major surgery, instead of routine care. Figure out what is the best financial fit for your home and your finances. It is a difficult subject to tackle, but it is worth it to be a smart consumer.
Conclusion

In conclusion, spotting any ailment in your Dachshund before the condition becomes serious, and supported by routine checkups by the veterinarian, will help ensure you have a happy and healthy Dachshund that loves and is loyal to you.

In return, during your life journey together with your Dachshund, you also become a happier, healthy and loving person.

I hope you have gained new tips to make your Dachshund happier, healthier and more obedient now.

RESOURCES

American Kennel Club (AKC)
5580 Centerview Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 233-9767
www.akc.org
My Resources

Best Dog Food

Pet Insurance

Chew Toys