

Dachshunds 101 (Everything You've ever wanted to know about Dachshunds)



Did you know that according to AKC (American Kennel Club), Dachshunds are the 10th most popular dogs in America? These long-bodied dogs have been in existence for the longest time now and have recently begun to get more popular. If you are a dog lover or are simply interested in getting a dachshund, stick around to get all the juice about this dog.

You will discover new and surprising things about this dog breed, including why thousands of Americans are adopting them as pets.

And all you will learn from this article will help you and other dog lovers form a deeper understanding of Dachshunds.

History of Dachshunds (What were Dachshunds bred for?)

These long-bodied short-legged dog breeds originated in Germany as hunting dogs. "Dachshund" combines two German words; "Dach," and "hund," which literally translates to badger and dog respectively.

Dachshunds or Weiner dogs are undoubtedly cute. Their pettiness and intriguing body shape are all the reasons you need to cop one as a home pet. However, these features aren't the only fascinating thing about them.

These scent-hound dogs were bred in Germany many years ago and were specifically used for hunting badgers. Their small size and shape(short legs, long bodies, and powerful muscles) made it easy and suitable for hunting as they could easily dig through the ground to catch the prey of the hunters.

Although they were primarily bred to hunt badgers, they eventually changed and became more versatile. They started hunting rabbits and foxes and even aided the hunter in finding injured deers. Now, they are widely becoming popular ([ranking 10th among the most popular dogs in America in 2021](#)).

While people still use them for hunting purposes (particularly in Europe), they have also become a common family dog pet in America.

The General Characteristics of Dachshunds (What do Dachshunds look like?)

Dachshunds have interesting characteristics that make them one of the most popular dogs in Germany and America.

The first thing that may come to your mind when you hear about dachshunds is "they are short and have long bodies." While you may be right, that is a preliminary analysis of this dog breed. There is much more to Dachshunds than their short legs and long bodies.

Here are their unique physical characteristics.

Weight Range	9 to 32 pounds
Coat Types	Wire coated, smooth, long-haired
Colors (one-colored) (two-colored)	Chocolate, black, gray, red Blue and tan, chocolate and tan, black and cream, chocolate and cream, wild boar
Patterns	Piebald, brindle, dapple, double dapple, sable
Sizes	Miniature, standard, kaninchen

Dachshunds Coat Types (do dachshunds shed?)



Smooth coated dachshund

Long-haired dachshund

Wire-haired dachshund

Dachshunds come in three coat varieties: smooth-haired, long-haired, and wire-haired coated.

The smooth-haired are common and are the most recognized coat varieties among dachshunds.

They have shiny and silky hair. This type of dachshund will be suitable if you do not like grooming.

The long-haired dachshunds have flowy, sleeky, and wavy hair. They have the most hair on their ears, necks, bellies, and tails, and Unlike the smooth-haired dachshunds, their hair requires more maintenance to prevent tangling.

Wire-haired dachshunds are somewhat new. They haven't been in existence as long as the other two. They have middle-length hair that is coarse and fairly wavy. Generally, their coating makes it easier to withstand harsh temperatures.

You should know that although dachshunds do not generally shed too much, long-haired dachshunds do. In fact, they are the biggest shedders amongst the three coat types. They shed twice a year, in spring and autumn.

Dachshunds Sizes

There are three types of dachshund sizes. They include miniature, standard, and kaninchen. The miniature and standard dachshunds are more common and widely recognized. However, the kaninchen dachshunds are only recognized by the World Canine Federation, containing kennel clubs with 83 member countries.

According to the AKC, the weight of a standard dachshund is between 15 to 32 pounds and 8 to 9 inches tall. The miniature dachshund can weigh 11 pounds or less and is 5 to 6 inches tall. Lastly, the kenichen weighs between 8 and 11 pounds.

Dachshund Patterns

The Brindle: although brindle dachshunds are uncommon, you may occasionally stumble upon them around. They have a uniform red or brown body with dark stripes spread throughout their body, similar to the pattern of a Zebra.

Dapple: a dapple dachshund is a type of dachshund with dappling patterns (patches of colors on the base coat). They often come with spots, swirls, and patches of color. Dapple dachshunds have merle genes which are responsible for the patterns on their bodies.

Double Dapple: a double dapple dachshund occurs from breeding two dapple dachshunds. The double dapple dachshund usually has blue eyes and white markings. However, it may also have a blue eye and a dark eye or two dark eyes.

Sable Dachshunds: this dachshund has dark-band hairs at the end of its red base coat. They often have red legs and faces with a dark look around and on top of their back. Typically, the sable pattern is quite rare in dachshunds. However, you will find it in long-haired dachshunds.

Piebald: piebald dachshund is characterized by its dark-colored patches on a white coat. The patches or spots are usually one-colored; they can be black, tan, blue, or brown. Generally, piebalds are purebreds and are pretty common.

Dachshunds as Home, Family, or Apartment Pets (Are Dachshunds easy to train?)

Yes and no. Dachshunds are not the easiest to train but are also not the hardest to train. In simple terms, they are slightly difficult to train because of the original reason for their breeding, which was hunting. While some dachshunds are calm and want to obey their owners to the last command, others are stubborn and want things done their way.

But, make no mistake; dachshunds are excellent family pets.



Therefore, if you want to get a dachshund as a home pet, this is the green light you need to go ahead. But not before knowing why you've got the green light.

The personality of a dachshund

Dachshunds have great characters that make them good family pets. They are;

- Courageous
- Good with children
- loyal

- lively,
- clever
- affectionate
- playful
- loving
- intelligent
- excellent watchdogs.

These traits make them great home pets and companions. They also make good apartment dogs considering their size. It is also pretty easy to cuddle up and play with them.

However, while these are their general personalities, their temperaments can vary with their environment, level of training, heredity, and, most importantly, their coat types.

For example, wire-coated dachshunds have a strong personality and are feisty. They have an attitude and can be aggressive. They also tend to bark the most among the three coated breeds.

Long-haired dachshunds are less noisy and more friendly. They also tend to be more receptive to stranger dogs and are generally calm and sweet. And lastly, since the

smooth-haired dachshunds are the most common coated breeds, they have most of the general features of the dachshund breed. While different coat types play a significant role in the personality of a dachshund, how you train and raise it matters the most.

Dachshunds are defensive and agile in nature due to the purpose they initially served. Still, with the proper training (socialization, basic teaching behaviors, etc.), they will become the sweetest things on earth (figuratively).

The Health of Dachshunds (How long do Dachshunds live?)

Dachshunds may have brief legs, but that doesn't mean they will live briefly. Dachshunds have a lifespan of [12 to 16 years](#). In some cases, dachshunds owners say their dogs have lived up to 18 years. In essence, for their size and compared to many other dog breeds, dachshunds undoubtedly have a long lifespan.

However, as long as their lifespan is, they face several health issues, which makes them require much attention and care. Some of these health concerns include;

- eye problems (cataracts, glaucoma, [Progressive Retinal Atrophy](#) (PRA))
- skeletal issues ([Intervertebral disk disease](#), Patellar luxation, Teeth issues)
- cardiac issues ([Degenerative mitral valve disease](#))
- skin issues ([dermatitis](#), sarcoptic mange, food reactions)
- stomach issues (bloat, food allergies)

obesity

Dachshunds are susceptible to obesity due to their short legs and body shape. They cannot move around and exercise as much as they need to. And like human beings, being inactive can cause them to gain weight rapidly.

Obesity exposes dachshunds to the possibility of contracting other diseases like cancer, arthritis, back problems, and heart problems. If your dog is overweight, it is best to help them shed weight as fast as possible. See a Vet to help you with the process.

How to care for a Dachshund (Can Dachshunds eat Bananas?)



- Nutrition

People often ask if Dachshunds can eat bananas.

Caring for dachshunds involves feeding them right, and bananas are an occasional good addition to their nutrition. So, yes, Dachshunds can eat bananas. In fact, there are many other safe fruits they can eat from time to time. They include strawberries, blueberries, peaches, raspberries, watermelons (without seeds), etc.

Asides from fruits, you must feed dachshunds appropriately. Find out what foods suit their breeds and ensure to feed them well (at least three times a day), but not to the point where they begin to get overweight. You can visit a Vet to get accurate information about the dog's nutrition.

- Training

Dachshunds can be stubborn, so it is important to train them. Teach them basic commands like sit, stand up, jump, etc. while training them, exhibit patience, and always react positively to them.

- Keep them vaccinated
- Take them out for walks and exercise
- Clean and groom them often
- Take them for regular checkups
- Show them love and affection

Now that you know all that you've ever wanted to know about this long-bodied short-legged dog breed, including if they are good apartment pets, easy to train, etc., you can now go ahead and get one of these little creatures for yourself.

When you get one, ensure to care and love them, and never forget to remind those little creatures who's boss around the house.

