

16 Tips For New Dachshund Owners

The Best 16 Tips For New Dachshund Owners:

1.Look After Your Dachshund's Back One in four Dachshunds suffers with Inter-vertebral Disc Disease, or IVDD as it's also known, so **looking after your puppy's back must be your top priority**. Do not allow your Dachshund to go up and down stairs or steps. Also stop them from jumping on and off things as much as you can. It's better to either use a ramp to help your puppy get up and down the bed or sofa, or simply lift them yourself. Puppies will obviously run around and do things you don't want them to do, and sometimes it can't be avoided. But you need to make a conscious effort to carry your Dachshund up and down any steps when you can, and block off your stairs using baby gates.

2.Lift And Hold Your Dachshund Correctly It's important to lift your Dachshund the right way. You need to put one hand under their front legs and the other under the bottom to support the back. When holding a Dachshund, keep their body as even and straight as possible and always be gentle and careful.

3.Don't Over-Exercise Your Puppy In The First 12 Months. Stick to the 5 minutes per month of age rule until their bones and muscles have fully developed. So, for a 3 month old Dachshund, that would be 15 minutes of leash exercise a day. And for a 6 month old Dachshund, that would be 30 minutes of leash exercise a day. This is just for the formal leash exercise though. You can still play with your Dachshund during the day in addition to this time.

TIP 4 – Feed The Best Dog Food You Can Afford You want to give them as much good nutrition as possible to keep their bones healthy and strong. Wherever you are in the world, check the ingredients list on the back of your dog food and go for natural ingredients when possible. Try to avoid things like meat-meal, grains, fillers, added salt, sugar, etc. Whenever you change your Dachshund's dog food, always do it gradually and slowly to avoid tummy upset. Do this by mixing his current dog food with his new dog food and then increase the proportion of new dog food over the next 7 days. **We have been feeding your puppy Royal Canin.**

TIP 5 – Learn Which Foods Are Toxic To Dachshunds It's important to be aware of the human foods that are toxic to Dachshunds as some may even surprise you! Foods Dachshunds must not eat include chocolate, garlic, onions, grapes, raisins, avocado, macadamia nuts, cooked bones, **xylitol** sweetener (found in many foods) and sweets. So, before you feed any human food, just make sure you double-check it's safe for Dachshunds to eat. Tomatoes, carrots, apples, blueberry's, and seedless watermelon are a few we have fed in the past that our babies love.

TIP 6 – Watch Your Dachshund's Weight You need to make sure your Dachshund stays at a healthy weight. If they become overweight, it'll put extra pressure on his already fragile back. Dachshunds **LOVE** food and are very skilled at manipulating owners to get what they want! Luckily, they also like crunchy veggies, such as small chunks of carrot and cucumbers. Try swapping out fatty store bought treats for healthier veggie options. Dachshunds are sadly prone to obesity. So just make sure your puppy has a visible tuck to their waist and you can feel the ribs with your hands.

TIP 7 – Dachshund Proof Your Home And Garden If you have a new Dachshund puppy, you'll need to adapt your home and garden to keep your puppy safe (and your things safe too!). Dachshunds were originally bred as hunting dogs to burrow down and flush badgers from their setts. They're excellent diggers, they love to chew and, like all puppies, can be into anything and everything. One thing you can do if they do start to dig or chew is sprinkle **cayenne pepper** or make a cayenne paste and put on the area you don't want them to tear up. An anti chew spray is also a great option as well. This can be found at your local pet store, amazon, and chewy.com.

TIP 8 – Decide On The Rules And Stick To Them Decide what you're going to allow your Dachshund to do and not do. Routines and consistency are really important when your puppy is young. If you don't want your Dachshund on the sofa, don't lift them up there. A quick cuddle will confuse your puppy and they won't understand when you say no in the future. It's better if you sit down on the floor and let them cuddle with you there. Dachshunds only understand black and white, so what you start, continue!

TIP 9 – Start Basic Dog Training Straight Away You can start basic dog training with your Dachshund at 8 weeks old. They learn most things in the first 16 weeks of their lives, so be sure to make time for training early on. Here are the basics to get you started. **Stopping your puppy from biting, potty training, and crate training.**

TIP 10 – Put A Garden Table On Your Lawn The vast majority of Dachshunds hate the wind and rain. When they're small, they can get a bit cold outside and prefer to potty indoors! If possible, put a garden table (or similar) on your lawn during the first few months. This is so your Dachshund always has a dry place underneath to pee. Having that cover and a dry patch of grass will really help when trying to establish the new potty routine.

TIP 11 – Start Socializing Your Dachshund Puppy Even though your Dachshund can't start going out until he's had all their **shots**, you can still begin socialization. Get your Dachshund used to noises like the TV, vacuum, plastic sacks, washing machine and music. We sleep with **thunderstorm sounds and the puppies have slept with it as well and that has helped our babies with the stress of fireworks and storms**. Carry your Dachshund around the block so they get used to all the different sights, sounds and smells. Take him for a drive so he gets used to being in the car with you. Ask friends and family to come over to see your puppy so they get to meet a whole range of different people. Think about the things you do in your normal life and try to expose them to those things bit-by-bit.

TIP 12 – Get Your Dachshund Used To Being Touched Some Dachshunds can be a bit funny about having their teeth, feet, nails and ears touched. While you're loving on your dachshund rub their feet and in between their toes, so when you are ready to do nail trims. They have no problem with you messing with their feet. So start getting them used to this while they are still young. If you give your puppy a bath, make sure you use dog shampoo (not human shampoo). We use dawn dish soap. Very mild and gentle for the babies and big dogs too. Dachshunds can be prone to skin issues so try to choose something natural and fragrance free.

TIP 13 –Make Contact With Your Local Vet When you get your new puppy, book them in for a health check at your local vets. It's good for the puppy to meet the vet when they are young so they have a positive association about going there in the future. You need to discuss flea, tick, and worming treatments and schedule their remaining vaccination appointments too.

TIP 14 – Get Pet Insurance For Your Dachshund Always get pet insurance for your Dachshund. One in four Dachshunds are prone to the painful and debilitating back condition IVDD. The cost of surgery runs into many, many thousands and ongoing treatment can be extremely costly. AKC offers insurance that you can purchase. When you take out new pet insurance you won't be covered for any claims during the first 2 weeks or so depending on insurance company you chose.

TIP 15 – Bring Your Dachshund Up Your Own Way There are many things Dachshund owners do agree on – but there are also many things they don't! After doing your own research, there are some decisions you're going to have to make yourself. So, if you start feeling overwhelmed or confused, that's totally understandable. There aren't always right and wrong answers and there are always pros and cons. It's best to do your own research, read the blog and make informed decisions that are right for you and your new Dachshund.

TIP 16 – Try Not To Worry and have lots of patients! Even though getting a puppy is all new and there's a lot to think about at first, try not to worry. Everyone starts where you're starting right now. No one knows it all to begin with but there's lots of time to figure things out. There's plenty of help if you need it too, so you're not on your own. You are always welcome to reach out if you have any questions. Things may not always go as planned with your new puppy, and that's OK too. If you start to lose your patience step away and take a moment to clam down. It's just like a child/baby. Day by day things will get easier as you settle into the new routine. Everyone goes through the puppy stage and comes out the other side. It may be hard and you may feel a bit overwhelmed at first, but this is normal and it's going to be fine. Dachshunds are smart and loyal dogs with so many amazing traits. All they really need you to do is LOVE them, so they can LOVE you right back in abundance. If you have a new Dachshund puppy and don't know where to begin, follow these 16 tips to learn how to look after your new Dachshund properly!