



Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ

DRBC Guide to Dachshund Ownership

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Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ

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Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ

ABOUT OUR RESCUE

DRBC Mission

The mission of **Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ** is to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home all dachshunds and dachshund mixes in PA, NY, NJ, DE, MD and the surrounding areas.

The following goals have been established to achieve this purpose:

1. Acquire land, build and operate a no-kill animal sanctuary by 2024;
2. Supplement the cost of emergency and routine veterinary care for homeless and rescued dachshunds and dachshund mixes;
3. Provide financial assistance for veterinary care and other related costs for the pets of local residents affected by adverse financial circumstances, regardless of breed or species;
4. Educate the public about issues affecting the welfare of animals; and
5. Partner with other non-profit groups, civic groups, and government agencies to more effectively fulfill our mission.



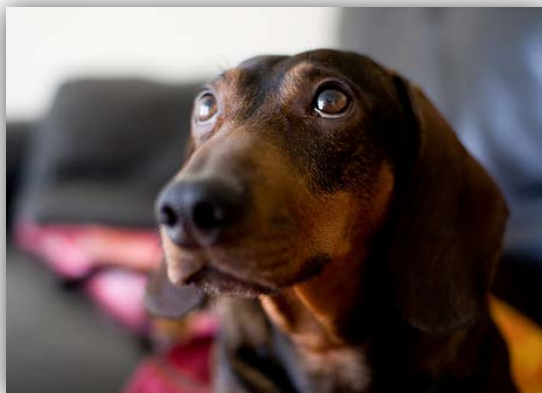
DRBC Adoption Area

Think global. Act local.

DRBC is a regional rescue based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania assisting the dachshund breed doxies the PA, DE, NY, NJ, MD and surrounding areas.

Our '**think global**' philosophy allows us to bring the very best in medical care to the dachshund breed as we draw on the best the veterinary arena has to offer. Always eager to learn we will leave no stone unturned in the care of our charges.

DRBC has been established as a regional rescue. Acting locally means a personalized and continuing form of support unsurpassed by other rescue groups. Our placements are always within reach for support.



DRBC Web Presence

The DRBC website is the definitive guide to the breed, the rescue process and the most common medical issues faced annually by the dachshund breed. Visit us at:

www.doxierescue.com

DRBC's Doxie Boutique also provides ongoing support for adopters and the general public providing supplies and more. All proceeds benefit dachshunds in need.

<https://store.doxierescue.com>

DRBC History and Future

Founded in 1984 by Bucks County, PA and New Jersey dachshund lovers, DRBC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported completely by donations. Our all-volunteer organization works tirelessly to provide an experience for both the adopter and adoptee that helps guarantee a life-long match.

Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County is located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The DRBC Volunteer Corps

DRBC is completely staffed by volunteers. Each member of our organization has a passion for animals and a giving heart. Their commitment and dedication is what makes the continual success of our rescue possible.

DRBC Support & Funding

The work of Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ [DRBC] is supported entirely by the donations. Through the generous hearts and hands of people like you, we can ensure that animals who come into the care of DRBC will never again be alone, hungry, sick, afraid or in pain. We invite you to join us in helping to bring about the time when there will be No More Homeless Pets.

DRBC Sanctuary

Most of the animals that find their way to DRBC have special physical or behavioral needs, and our expert staff of veterinarians, trainers and caregivers offer them all the help they require. Relinquished dachshunds or older dachshund rescued from shelters who are too old or too sick, or who have suffered extra trauma, find a home and haven at our sanctuary, and are given loving care for the rest of their lives.



Dachshund Ownership Guide

The History of the Dachshund

Dachshunds were first bred in the early 1600s in Germany. The goal was to create a fearless, elongated dog that could dig the earth from a badger burrow and fight to the death with the vicious badgers.

The breed became popular in the U.S. during the early 1900's, but fell out of favor during World War I. After the war, a few U.S. breeders slowly rebuilt the gene pool by importing German stock, and the breed began to increase in popularity again.

The dachshund is a member of the Hound Group and was AKC-recognized in 1885. The dachshund—or 'doxie' as they are commonly called—was listed as the No. 5 most popular breed in the United States in 2009.

Dachshund means 'badger dog' in German. This is a lively breed with a friendly personality and keen sense of smell. Known for their long and low bodies, they are eager hunters that excel in both above- and below-ground work.



Dachshund Sizes

The American Kennel Club recognizes two sizes of dachshund: the mini and the standard. Thanks to puppy mills and other improper breeding programs, a third, non-recognized size has emerged, the 'tweenie.'

Miniature Dachshund: Up to 11 pounds

Tweenie Dachshund: 12-20 pounds

Standard Dachshund: 20+ pounds

Note: Both weight and body conformation determines size classification. Weight-inappropriate doxies do not change size categories!

The Dachshund Coat

The dachshund coat will be one of three types as described below



The Smooth or Short-Hair Coat

The smooth coat dachshund is the most common coat for the breed and may come in a variety of colors. This easy to manage hair length is almost maintenance free requiring only the occasional bath, ear cleaning and nail trim.

The Long Hair Coat

The long haired dachshunds are known for their elegance and loving characteristics. The coat may come in a variety of colors and requires slightly more maintenance. Keeping the pads of this doxie's feet trimmed is critical to good health for this coat type.



The Wire Hair Coat

The wire haired dachshunds are also known as the 'clowns of the breed' and are most commonly seen in the red or black and tan colors. Their coats may be bristly [terrier-like] or soft [long hair doxie type]. This is a result of the breeding that created the coat, as terrier-like characteristics

were introduced to the dachshund lines. This coat is AKC-recognized and requires a trip to the groomer every 6-8 weeks.

A Note About Allergies...

The dachshund is the second-most hypoallergenic breed, due to its low shed rate and absence of dander. Only the Bishon Frisee outshines the dachshund in this category!

Dachshund Colors

Dachshunds are a colorful breed from the appearance of their coat to their endearing personality. Much like a snowflake, no two are alike! The types of color have been segregated by number of colors below.

One-Color Dachshunds

When people think of the dachshund and its color it is the single color dachshund that comes to mind. Here are the colors for those monochromatic doxies:

- Red [not Brown]
- Cream

Two-colored Dachshunds

Add a second color and the number of combinations grows! This second color is usually seen in the eyebrows, ears, snout, chest and underside of the coat. The most popular two-tone doxie colors are:

- Black & Tan
- Black & Cream
- Wild Boar
- Chocolate & Tan
- Isabella [Fawn & Tan]
- Brindle [Black Striped]



Tri-colored Doxies

The most colorful of all the variations are the tri-colored dachshunds. A result of inbreeding and puppy mills, tri-color or dapple-colored dachshunds have unfortunately become popular in the past few years. The number of colors is endless, but here are the most commonly seen:

- Black, Tan & White
- Red-on-Red [these doxies develop a third color—black or white—as adults, age 4-5 yrs]
- Piebald or Double Dapple [blue eyes]

Note: Some coat colors such as the Piebald will have a higher incidence of veterinary issues including blindness, deafness and cardiac issues.

The Dachshund Temperament

Curious, lively, charming and brave, the Dachshund is similar to a terrier in his demands to be in on everything.

This comical clown loves to play games and has a great sense of humor. He is a loyal little dog, very attached to his family, and he firmly believes that sleeping under the bedcovers is in the Dachshund Bill of Rights.

Dachshunds attract devoted followers who would never consider having any other breed. Indeed, Dachshunds are often kept in pairs, which is A-OK with them, since they seem to recognize and prefer being with other "wiener dogs."

Though the Dachshund makes a great pet, he does need his daily walks (on-leash! Dachshunds are chasers who will take off!)—and plenty of companionship. Loneliness will lead to excessive barking.



You'll also hear his sharp, persistent bark when people approach, for most Dachshunds are alert watchdogs who do not take kindly to strangers intruding on their domain.

Though bright and clever, Dachshunds like to do things their own way. In other words, they're stubborn. Cheerful praise should be offered freely, as Doxies are proud little dogs who resist force. They become irritable when pushed too far, and they may respond defensively (growling or snapping) if jerked around, handled harshly or teased.

In general, Miniature Dachshunds are more active than the larger Standard Dachshunds. Comparing the three coat varieties:

- Wirehaired Dachshunds tend to be the most energetic, the most mischievous and the most obstinate (probably stemming from their strong terrier heritage).
- Longhaired Dachshunds tend to be the quietest and sweetest-natured (probably stemming from their spaniel heritage).
- Smooth Dachshunds are most apt to attach themselves to one person, and are often more aloof with strangers.

But remember, these are just generalities!

Do You Really Want To Own A Dachshund?

So you have decided you want to own a dachshund. Owning a dog can either be the beginning of years of happiness or the beginning of overwhelming responsibility for which you may not be prepared.

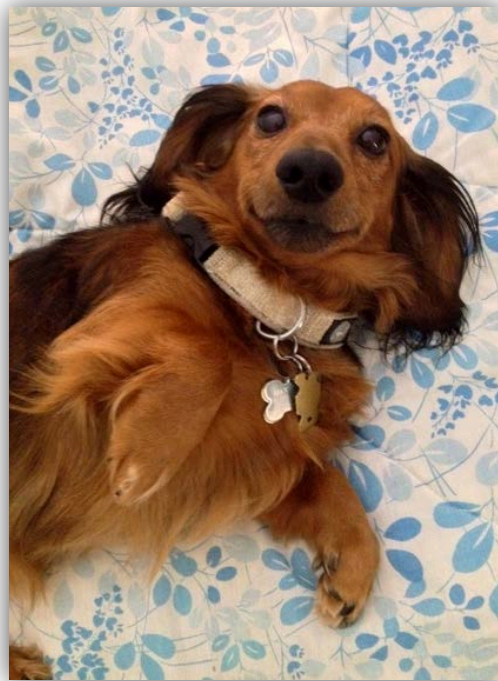
First, ask yourself some serious questions to determine if you are ready to become a dog owner. Answer the following questions honestly to insure you and your dog have the future you both deserve.

- Do I really want a dog?
- Can I afford to keep a dog?
- Do I have time to spend training, grooming and exercising a dog?
- Will a dog fit into my lifestyle and my home?

Dachshunds are loyal, loving and intelligent. They are fun and love to play with you as much as they love to curl up with you on the couch. They are happiest in your bed under your blankets.

Dachshunds are a wonderful breed, but they aren't for everyone. They are stubborn little guys who like to get their own way. They can be hard to housetrain because they would much rather pee on the rug in the warm dry house than go outside in the rain or snow. They seem to weigh the consequences all the time, and pleasing you might not be as important to them as their own comfort.

Dachshunds can be trained, but it takes time, patience, consistency and discipline to achieve any training goals with a dachshund dog!



Dog Ownership = Responsibility

Take the time now to examine the statements below to make an educated decision. You and your dog will be happier for it.

You are at work for 10 hours each day

Dachshunds have strong pack instincts and like to be with their pack. They do not like to be left alone. If you plan to have a pet and are away all day, consider a dog sitter.

You have young children

All children should be supervised with any dog at all times. A dachshund can make a great companion for a child, if both the child and the dog are trained to respect one another. Dachshunds will not stand for being teased and may snap if provoked.

You are proud of your white carpets

Dachshunds are not the most reliable dogs when it comes to house training. Be aware that few dachshunds are 100% reliable when it comes to accidents in the house.

You can't afford pet insurance

It costs a lot of money to own a dog, but with dachshunds there is an extra likelihood of large vet bills. Dachshund spines are not designed for life in a world of couches, stairs and human beds. There is a good chance that your dog will require vet care due to a back injury sometime in his life.

You are a pushover

Give a dachshund an inch and he will take over your house. Dachshunds are smart and crafty, and they have a look that will melt your heart. If they don't feel like you are in charge, they will gladly take charge of you.

You want a quiet dog

Dachshunds are hounds and have a hound-sized bark. People will comment that they can't believe such a loud bark can come from such a small dog. Dachshunds were bred to be loud barkers so that their owners could find them in badger burrows and pull them out. Dachshunds are territorial and will let anyone walking by know that they are passing a dachshund's home.



Being a Good Dog Owner

Each year rescue groups, shelters and private owners place these loving creatures in what we hope are loving homes with good owners, and then the wondering begins. We pray we have made the right decision and that the owner will be a good dog owner. But what makes a good dog owner? Here is part of that definition:

Every animal should be treated with respect.

This creature is a dog, and each dog has a specific need and purpose in this world, just like us. And part of that need is to have someone care for it:

Being a good and responsible dog owner means:

- being responsible for providing the dog with good dog food;
- being responsible for the dog's health and medical care;
- make sure the dog is safe toward others and itself;
- being responsible for its reproduction, such as spaying, neutering, or breeding;
- being responsible for its training and behavior toward other animals and people;
- being responsible for knowledge about the dog's breed, such as temperament, purpose, habits, characteristics, etc.; and
- being responsible for the dog in the family, such as training the dog to behave with younger children and training younger children to respect the dog's boundaries.

Good owners cannot be labeled as good just because they do one little something. It is because they love their dogs and do the best they can for them to make their lives better.

Remember...

God spelled backward is Dog, his favorite pet!



Veterinary Care

The importance of annual or semi-annual veterinary visits must not be underestimated and are a key part of dachshund ownership. This care is your responsibility as an owner. DRBC urges you to find veterinary care that includes a comprehensive approach, which includes the following:

- Annual to Semi-annual health checks
- Heartworm preventative [12 months]
- Flea/Tick Prevention [6 months]
- Weight Management Discussions
- Dental Check-ups
- Annual vaccinations compliant with the American Veterinary Medical Association [AVMA] guidelines

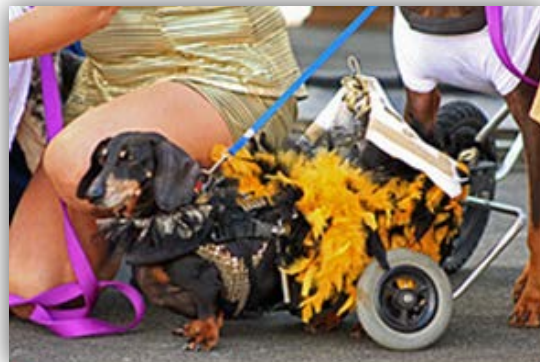
Sounds like overkill? Please rethink pet ownership.

The 2014 AVMA survey on the average cost per year reveals that pet owners will spend \$785 per year across the life of their pet. While some years may be less expensive than others, the average dachshund owner will spend over \$7,000 in general care as responsible owners. Pet insurance can lessen this cost, but a savings account for your pet may not be a bad idea!

Health Issues of the Dachshund

Generally, the dachshund is blessed with good health. There are a few genetic disorders, including Cushing's disease that you should discuss with your veterinarian.

And then there is IVDD or Intervertebral Disc Degeneration. One in five dachshunds will require neurosurgery, and two in five will experience some form of spinal injury. Causes of IVDD are twofold: genetics and trauma. Discuss a program that lessens your doxie's chances of being a statistic, including: weight management, supplements, crate training and reduced jumping.



The Dog Bill of Rights

- 1.** We have the right to be full family members. We need to be in the house with you where we can learn how to behave. Our sense of security and well-being depends on being close to you.
- 2.** We have the right to social stimulation. We need to go places of interest and learn new things and meet new people, so that we don't become fearful or aggressive or depressed.
- 3.** We have the right to regular exercise. We thrive on play and activity and it helps us to be healthy and young.
- 4.** We have the right to training (our form of education). We need to be appropriately corrected. Without training we can become confused, fearful and aggressive, and become a danger to ourselves and to you! We are not happy unless we know what the rules are.
- 5.** We have the right to good nutrition. Not all things work for all dogs, and while cost is an issue, we need to eat a healthy diet.
- 6.** We have a right to appropriate medical care. Spay/neuter us so we won't roam and come to harm. This will also keep our population down so there can be wonderful homes for all of us.
- 7.** We have a right to move with our family. We are the only family members who can be rejected by current laws. We need you to fight for us and to change those laws so that the family can stay together.
- 8.** We have the right to make mistakes. No matter how well we are trained or how old we get, sometimes we just do things wrong... it is nature. It won't happen often if we are properly trained.
- 9.** We have a right to be ourselves. Our heritage influences who we are, our training helps shape us, but some characteristics will remain. Please understand this when choosing us.
- 10.** We have a right to live with dignity and to die with dignity. Please do not keep us alive for selfish reasons. This is the last act of your love for us.



Dachshund Rules of Ownership

The personality and charm of a dachshund is something that few can resist. Understanding their temperament can best be understood by their list of rules for their human owners. Read below.

1. Because I like it, it's mine.
2. Because it is in my mouth, it's mine.
3. Because I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
4. Because I take it from you, it's mine.
5. Because it is mine, it must never be yours.
6. Because it looks like mine, it is mine.
7. Because I saw it first, it is mine.
8. Because you are playing with something else and put it down, it's mine.
9. Don't get confused either, because if I chew something up, all of the pieces are mine.
10. Because it used to be yours...get over it, now it's mine.
11. OK. Now it is broken, it's yours.

Some Closing Thoughts

This guide attempts to give an honest overview of the dachshund as a potential family member and we hope you have found it to be informative as you make a decision about adding one of these colorful characters to your life.

A wise dachshund owner once said:

"If you have ever owned a dachshund, no explanation is necessary; if your have never owned one, no explanation is possible."

Intrigued by that?

Talk to us about learning more about the dachshund dog and our rescue.

You will be glad you did!

Ask Us

Adoption is a journey, not a destination. Remember, all of us here at DRBC are here to help make sure that trip is a safe and happy one. Please, approach us with your questions; it is just one of the reasons we are here.



Life Cycle of the Dachshund Dog

The Beginning: Gestation and Birth

63 Days

The normal gestation period for the dachshund is 63 days. Litters average 3-7 pups for the dachshund.

The Start: Puppyhood

Age 0-5

Dachshund puppies are born completely blind and are dependent on their mother for nourishment, warmth, cleaning, attention and more!

Puppies are introduced to solid food at 3-4 weeks and are weaned from their mother's milk by 8 weeks. During this time the puppies open their eyes and begin socialization by playing with their siblings. Following the weaning process, two additional weeks of socialization are provided to ensure a good personality for the dachshund puppy.



The puppy phase of the dachshund's life lasts approximately 3-5 years, as smaller breeds develop more slowly than those dogs of larger size. This means more work for the dachshund owner in the areas of housetraining and obedience.

The physical appearance of the puppy begins with a little ball of fluff and develops into a long and lanky shape during this stage.

Almost There: the Teenage Years

Age 5-7

Being a teenager is not easy for anyone, and the dachshund breed is no exception to this rule. This is a time for testing limits and exhibiting challenging behaviors. It is also the age category when a dachshund is most frequently surrendered to a rescue.



The proper spay or neuter procedure at 5 months of age lessens the impact of this terrible time in a doxie's life, but will not eliminate it. This is why early structure, guidance and consistency, blended with love and understanding, are the dachshund's best defense against the behaviors exhibited by the doxie during this period in the maturation process.

Physically, the body completes its development; the chest fills out and the body musculature is visible. Medically, this is the peak time for disk issues or IVDD, although this disease can strike at any age. Behaviorally, the dachshund may start nipping, marking or start down a path of defiance. All must be checked appropriately with the good structure established during puppyhood.

Arriving: the Adult Years

Age 8-13

When people tell us their dog was the best, just perfect or never a problem, we know they are remembering adulthood for their doxie.

Dachshunds that have reached the adult period of their life are great companions, obedient friends and outstanding family members. All the work invested into making them the very best dog they can be has finally paid off!

Considered old by some people, dachshunds have a long life span, making ages 8-13 years the best time in the dachshunds life. A proper diet and routine veterinary care insure that this is the healthiest time in your dachshund's life.

The Golden Years: the Senior Doxie

Age 13+

A greyed muzzle and set of paws, slightly sagging muscle tone and more than selective hearing are the telltale signs of the senior dachshund.

Still the best friend you could ever hope for, these doxies will need more medical attention as they enter their twilight years. A change in diet that is kinder to joints and kidneys will probably be in order, but well worth it, as the love this special age group has to share is immeasurable.



History and Temperament

The dachshund dog was originally bred to hunt badgers in Germany, Austria and surrounding countries. Over the years the breed has been modified from hunting dog to a cherished member of the family; however, the instinct to hunt and dig remains.

Dachshunds are stubborn, tenacious, protective and driven little animals. These characteristics make them both a challenge and a treasure for any family.

Warning: This breed believes they are human!



Physical Problems

The elongated shape and hound instincts of this breed make them prone to:

- **Obesity** – The dachshund needs a very regimented diet.
- **Spinal Issues** – The long shape and high energy of a dachshund of any age makes them susceptible to IVDD or ruptured discs.
- **Epilepsy** – Puppy mills and backyard breeders have made this the number one cause of death in the dachshund. Genetically acquired, good breeding could eliminate this problem.
- **Heart Disease** – Improper diets, obesity and a lack of interaction with your doxie will land you here.
- **Kidney Failure** – Poor diet and age are the biggest culprits here.
- **Cancer** – Failure to spay or neuter or late spay or neuter gives this disease a foothold.
- **Dental Issues** – The long snout of the doxie makes it prone to dental disease. Foods do not help, but daily brushing does.

Avoiding these problems is made easier when working with a good veterinary plan. Routine check-ups, not using diet foods, using a high-quality food and responding to the dachshund's natural drive for motion will help avoid many issues.



Houstraining

Introduction

You can easily teach your dog to eliminate in an acceptable location by keeping a close eye, recognizing important signals, understanding breed instincts and rewarding appropriate behavior.



You Should Know

Dachshunds are noted for being difficult to houstrain, but consistency, guidance and a positive attitude gets the typical doxie owner through this process quickly. Remember, they can't reach the treat jar.

Your best training tool for a doxie is not a treat; it is a pad and pen. Dachshunds learn quickly what will bring a treat and will expect the treat sooner and sooner in the training cycle, so please avoid the use of food for training of this breed. Praise is all that is generally needed.

It is important to keep the doxie in training in a restricted area, such as a crate or small penned area, during the houstraining process. Your carpets and family will appreciate this in the long run, and so, too, will your doxie.

Finally, keep in mind that this process requires strict attention to this task only. Do not attempt to train other commands such as "sit", "come" or "wait" until this is well behind you.

Let's Train

1. Begin by making everyone in the family part of the houstraining team. Choose a keyword for this behavior that everyone can agree on and will use. Keep a pad and pen in a place where everyone has access and will write out the steps taken and their result. Make two columns called: **Time** and **Event/Result**.
2. Prepare the crate or penned area. It should be comfortable and large enough for the doxie to turn around in and lay flat comfortably.



Note: Your doxie should be crate-trained prior to the start of the houstraining process. Need help? See **Crate Training**, pg 22.

3. Define an elimination area. Remember, when your dog sniffs the ground or circles around, quickly, but calmly, take him to the desired elimination area. Ideally, don't wait for these behaviors. Take your dog outside regularly, as described below.
4. Let's begin our instruction with the start of the day. Doxies always need to eliminate when they first awaken and it is a great way to get off to a positive start. Using a harness and lead, take the doxie to the door, say the predetermined command word, then take them to the elimination area and wait for the result. Give high praise when the desired behavior is achieved. Never let your doxie go out on their own during this time, as they will not focus on the task at hand: elimination.
5. Following this event, come in the house and record the time and result.
6. Feed your doxie a measured amount of food at the same time every day. When your dog walks away, or after about 10 to 15 minutes, pick up the bowl. Go back to the pad and record the time and the event. Put the doxie in the crate.
7. Ten [10] to thirty [30] minutes after feeding, take your dog to the selected place for elimination, using the keyword when you reach the door to go outside. Hopefully, the dog will eliminate. Success deserves high praise; give lots and lots. No result may mean your doxie is not ready. Go back in the house, record the result, place the dog in the crate and wait 15 minutes.

8. When the time has passed, go back outside. Praise successes, ignore failures and record it all on the designated pad. Repeat this process until the desired result is achieved.
9. When success is achieved and you have returned to the house, supervised freedom for no more than one hour is the reward.
10. Take your doxie out 5-6 times a day and note all the results. When your results have been positive for a while, you can extend the time out of the crate and can eventually stop the recording of this event; you will know when that day comes!

Bell Training

Housetraining some dogs can be especially challenging, because they do not learn to clearly signal when they need to eliminate. Teaching a dog to ring a bell when it needs to go outside can be a huge help when housetraining. It takes time, but it is relatively simple, if you take the following steps:

1. Purchase a small bell, and set it near the door. Ring the bell immediately before opening the door to go outside with the dog. Your dog should already be leashed, so that you can step outside as soon as you ring the bell. Do this every time you take your dog outside for several days.
2. Next, suspend the bell at the height of your dog's nose right next to the door. Gently touch the bell to your dog's nose, causing it to ring, every time you go outside. Repeat this step for several days.
3. Depending on how quickly your dog makes associations, they may begin approaching the bell on their own when they need to eliminate.

Once your dog begins ringing the bell on their own, you must take them outside every time to reinforce the positive behavior. It won't take long!



Closing Thoughts

Remember, it is your responsibility to prevent accidents! Prevention is the key to success, but if someone fails to prevent your dog from having an accident, don't scold the dog. Quietly clean up and deodorize the soiled area. Preventing accidents requires that you become aware of how often your doxie needs to eliminate. Young puppies (8 to 10 weeks of age) may need to be taken outside very 30 to 60 minutes.

Did You Know?

It is never appropriate to leave your doxie in a position where they cannot eliminate at least every 6 hours. It is unhealthy, can lead to bladder infections and bladder stones, and represents cruel treatment.



Crate-Training

Overview

Crate-training is a basic principle, based on your dachshund's basic instincts.

Dogs are den animals—they like having secure, clean, semi-darkened nesting spaces, away from distractions and elimination areas. Crate-training utilizes this instinct to aid housetraining, provide security when you cannot be around and to give your dog a safe haven when he is stressed out. Crate-training is not punishment, nor should it be used in this way.

Think of the crate as an addition to your home, as you have just added a very small bedroom for a very special member of the family! Once accustomed to the crate, your doxie will think of it as their own safe den. A crate is a place where your dog can go when stressed by any situation, such as visiting children, noisy adults or home activity increases. When in the crate, your dog should never be bothered—this is your dog's own little haven from stress and noise.

Who Should Be Crate-Trained?

DRBC crate-trains all of our dachshunds. We make this process a positive one for our charges, and know that should an illness or injury require crate rest, they are well-prepared. Additionally:

- Dogs that suffer separation anxiety are ideal candidates for crate-training
- Crate-training is also ideal for housetraining problems or busy households
- Crate-training also is idea for young puppies that don't have control over their bladder and bowels yet.
- Crate-training is required for doxies with spinal issues, regardless of treatment course.



What is the Right Age to Crate-Train?

There is no good or bad age to crate-train. Older animals may take slightly longer to adapt to having their own room, but if trained properly, they will adapt quickly to their new and safe environment.

Steps To Successful Crate-Training

Introducing your dog to the crate should involve a desensitization period; praise and rewards should be associated with the crate; and plenty of patience on your part. Your dachshund must view this as a natural part of their daily routine.

- 1.** When you bring your crate home, leave it somewhere your dog can investigate it at their leisure for several days with the door open.
- 2.** Next, encourage your doxie into the crate with 1-2 pieces of dry kibble. Praise them when they enter the crate.
- 3.** Once your doxie is comfortable and maybe excited to enter the crate, close the door over, but do not latch the door. Apply praise. Remember, this is a positive experience. Don't worry if they push the door open.
- 4.** Continuing the technique described above, have your doxie enter the crate, close the door and latch it. Stay within the dog's view. Unlatch the door after 10 minutes. Repeat several times a day for 1-2 days.
- 5.** Next, with your doxie in the crate and the door latched, leave the room. Let the dog stay in the crate for 15-minute intervals and repeat this process several times a day for 1-2 days.
- 6.** Almost time for graduation! Repeat step #5 and leave the house for 15 minutes.
- 7.** Now you need only lengthen the time you are away from them. It will not take long for them to adapt to the crate as a new and positive part of their routine.

Crate-training normally takes about a week to complete and requires planning and patience on the part of the dachshund parent. The first steps are the hardest—for you, not them. Remember, this is not a cage, but a special space they can truly call their own. The long-term effort is always worth it.



One warning... it is possible to do a crash version of this process by crating and leaving. But, being hounds, this will be very difficult for them and anyone within earshot of them.

Not willing to use a crate? The same steps can be followed for a small, restricted area, such as a gated kitchen or bathroom; however, this will never be appropriate, should your animal need crate rest from a disc injury, as it represents too much movement. Work toward the crate. It will benefit you and your doxie over time.

What kind of crate works best?

The DRBC hands-down winner is a metal or wire crate. Easy to clean, with a removable top section, this type allows your doxie a view of their world. Likewise, you can see what they are up to at a glance.



Wire Cage

What about crates for travel?

Here we shift over to a plastic crate. Trips to the veterinarian and travel everywhere is far less stressful from the confines of a crate. The confinement of the crate also allows for safety from sudden movement and stops.



Fiberglass Cage

Crate Sizes

The rule of thumb here is that the crate should be large enough for your dog to lie comfortably in and turn around easily. Here are the common dimensions we use:

Metal or Wire Crates [Approximate]

One Doxie Dimensions: 18L x 12W x 14H

Two Doxies Dimensions: 24L x 18W x 21H

More Doxies: Add 6L x 6W x 7H per dog

Do's and Don'ts

Here is a list of our Do's and Don'ts. We hope they help you get your doxie to move into their own dorm room with style and grace.

Do:

- Make sure that the bedding inside the crate is soft, clean and laundered frequently.
- Make sure water is available, if you plan to be gone for several hours.
- Get your doxie out to eliminate before crating
- Develop a keyword that helps your doxie to identify their new room and praise them for responding to this new command.

Don't:

- Use the crate in a negative manner or as a punishment.
- Leave your doxie crated for an inordinate amount of time, 8 hours or more.
- Use excessive treats to accomplish this task. Doxies are quick to learn and even quicker to up the stakes, especially when food is associated with behavior.



Troubleshooting

Every system needs a little customization and setbacks are always possible when training a stubborn breed, such as a dachshund. Here are the most common issues we have experienced:

Puppy Training Issues

A doxie puppy will have too much room in the crate that will be the best fit for them as an adult. Use a partition made of anything they will not destroy to create a smaller area until they are fully grown.

Barking and Howling

Patience is required to complete this, and many other types of training for this breed. Ear plugs work well. Do not give in to their antics. You will be glad in the long run, and the training period is really not as long as it seems.

Destruction and Defecation

Sometimes bad attention is better than no attention. Doxies that destroy their bedding or use their crate as a place to potty are frustrated about something, but generally not the crate. Look for the underlying cause. What has changed in their lives? They know this is a good way to get your attention. Now that they have it, what are they telling you?

Call DRBC if you need some guidance on this one, but don't assume it is the crate.



Microchipping

What is a Microchip?

A microchip is a small device implanted between the shoulder blades of your dachshund for the purpose of identification should they become lost. Several companies offer this option to veterinarians, rescues and shelters to assist in the identification and security of your pet.



Please note that although technology has come a long way, this device is not a GPS and cannot track a lost dog.

The Microchip Process

The microchip is very small, about the size of a grain of rice and has a unique number embedded on it. This number, when registered, is then linked to the owner of the pet and the facility that implanted the device. This form of identification comes in handy if your pet gets lost and loses its tags and/or collar.



Inserting a microchip does not require surgery or, in most cases, even sedation. It is inserted deep under the skin between the shoulder blades with a large needle. Most commonly offered to new doxie puppies at the time of spay or neuter, there is no maximum on the age of the animal for this procedure.

Most owners will choose to have this procedure done at the same time as a spay or neuter surgery so their pet

does not have to feel the big needle required to insert the microchip. I have witnessed many microchip insertion procedures and although it is a big needle, most animals including small breed dogs and cats do not even flinch when the microchip is being inserted, so if you are interested in this procedure do not feel you have to have your pet sedated for it.

Safety

Microchip pet identification is used in cases where collars and ID tags have been lost. Both the AVMA and AKC endorse the use of microchipping as a safe and valuable procedure. Many responsible breeders and rescue groups have started having microchips inserted in their dachshunds before they go to new homes as a primary means of identification.

Think about the speed of the dachshund breed and their ability to maneuver under fences and through bushes, and it is easy to understand that a collar can be lost, but a microchip goes along for the ride. Animals with microchips are more readily reunited with their families, as police, shelters, rescues and veterinarians can all read and trace the chip.

Travel

Traveling with your dachshund represents special risks that a microchip can address. Imagine that you stop as you travel and your dachshund gets away from you; the microchip may be the only way local authorities have of identifying you doxie.

Leaving the US for vacation or business? Many countries require microchipping as a means of identification.



Microchip Technology

Microchips have a unique number. When a handheld scanner is moved over the body of the animal, the scanner is able to read the number on the microchip. The microchip company is then called and the number given to the operator. The operator is then able to look in their database for the owner's information.

Cost

Microchips are not as expensive as many people believe. The insertion cost varies by animal clinic, but most are between \$30 and \$40. The microchip number then needs to be registered with the microchip company—that cost is usually between \$15 and \$20. The registration fee is generally a one-time fee, unless information needs to be changed or updated.

How Can I Get Microchipped?

The most widely-used microchip companies in the U.S. are AVID and HomeAgain. These companies are both widely-recognized. Most veterinarians carry one or the other, but not both. The local animal shelters are generally able to scan for both chips, if they scan an animal with an AVID scanner and a HomeAgain chip has been inserted in the animal, the scanner will alert the handler that a chip is present.

So, regardless as to which microchip you choose to use, your pet can be found with a scanner, and when a veterinarian decides to carry microchips, the microchip company will give a scanner to the veterinarian and the local shelter.

Microchips are important, but they do not replace collars, ID tags and rabies tags—these are still the primary means to getting your pet back when they are lost. Microchips become more important in cases where an animal is stolen and you need a means to positively identify the pet or in cases where the collar has broken away and the shelter has picked up the animal.



Vaccinations

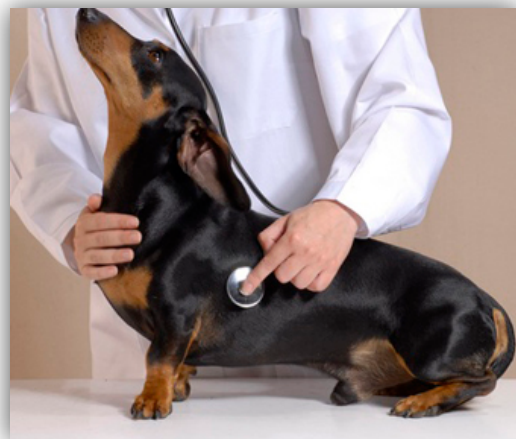
The DRBC Vaccination Program

Vaccinations are a critical component to preventive care for your dog. Thanks to the development of vaccines, dogs have been protected from numerous disease threats, including rabies, distemper, hepatitis and several others. Some of these diseases can be passed from dogs to people—so canine vaccinations have protected human health as well.

Recently, studies have shown that vaccines protect dogs for longer than previously believed. There have also been improvements in the type of vaccines produced. Additionally, there is an increased awareness and concern that a vaccination is not as harmless a procedure as once thought. These factors have led to a growing number of veterinarians who recommend reduced frequency of vaccinations while at the same time tailoring vaccine recommendations to specific risk situations.

The American Animal Hospital Association [AAHA] has issued a set of canine vaccine guidelines to assist veterinarians with making vaccine recommendations for dogs. Developed by a group of infectious disease experts, immunologists, researchers and practicing veterinarians, these guidelines were first released in 2003 and revised with new information in 2006.

One of AAHA's key recommendations is that all dogs are different — and thus vaccine decisions should be made on an individual basis for each dog. Issues to consider include the age, breed, health status, environment, lifestyle and travel habits of the dog. You can work with your veterinarian to tailor an immunization program that best protects your dog based on his risk and lifestyle factors.



Vaccination Guide

Core Vaccinations

Core vaccines are generally recommended for all dogs and protect against diseases that are more serious or potentially fatal. These diseases are found in all areas of North America and are more easily transmitted than noncore diseases.

The AAHA guidelines define the following as core vaccines:

- Distemper
- Adenovirus
- Leptospirosis
- Parvovirus
- Parainfluenza
- Rabies

Distemper, Adenovirus, Leptosporosis, Parainfluenza and the Parvovirus vaccinations are commonly referred to as the 'Distemper Combo.'

Non-Core Vaccinations

Non-core vaccines are those reserved for patients at specific risk for infection due to exposure or lifestyle. The AAHA guidelines classify the following as non-core:

- Kennel Cough
- Lyme disease
- Canine Influenza

DRBC does provide the kennel cough vaccination as part of its vaccination regiment and believes that all dogs which visit pet stores, dog parks and those exposed to public situations receive this vaccine. Additionally, the Canine Influenza vaccination is being given to all DRBC dogs in 2014.



Vaccination Risks

Risks to Your Pet

Vaccination against disease is a medical procedure and, like all medical procedures, carries some inherent risk. As in any medical procedure or decision, the benefits must be balanced against the risks. Veterinarians recommend that needless risks should not be taken and that the best way to accomplish this is to reduce the number and frequency of administration of unnecessary vaccines.

As is the case with any medical decision, you and your veterinarian should make vaccination decisions after considering your dog's age, lifestyle and potential exposure to infectious diseases.

Vaccine Reactions

Vaccine reactions, of all types, are infrequent. In general, most vaccine reactions and side effects (such as local pain and swelling) are self-limiting. Allergic reactions are less common, but if untreated can be fatal. These can occur soon after vaccination. If you see such a reaction, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

In a small number of patients, vaccines can stimulate the patient's immune system against his or her own tissues, resulting in diseases that affect the blood, skin, joints or nervous system. Again, such reactions are infrequent but can be life-threatening.

There is a possible complication of a tumor developing at the vaccination site in a small number of pets, most frequently cats. Please contact your veterinarian for more information.

Vaccine Manufacture

Vaccinations produced in today's market are made at the same quality grade as human vaccines. Distributors follow stringent shipping guidelines and veterinarians maintain the quality of the product by utilizing proper storage methods. All of these steps insure that your pet receives a vaccination aimed at minimizing risk. Still many pets experience reactions.

Allergic Responses to Vaccines!

Many dachshunds are mislabeled as vaccine-sensitive and are prescribed unnecessary medications before or after receiving these immunizations.

There are some animals that will experience true allergic responses to certain vaccines; however, these are very few.

The DRBC protocol shown in this guide has allowed almost all of our adoptees to have the unneeded label removed from their medical file.

Minimizing Risk

DRBC administers vaccinations on a modified schedule for 1st time vaccination rounds. This method lowers the risk of reaction while providing needed protection. Vaccinations are scheduled at 2-week intervals as shown below:

Visit 1: Rabies & Canine Influenza

Visit 2: DAP2iL & Kennel Cough #1 [Yes Lepto]

Visit 3: Kennel Cough #2 & Lyme #1 [Lyme Optional]

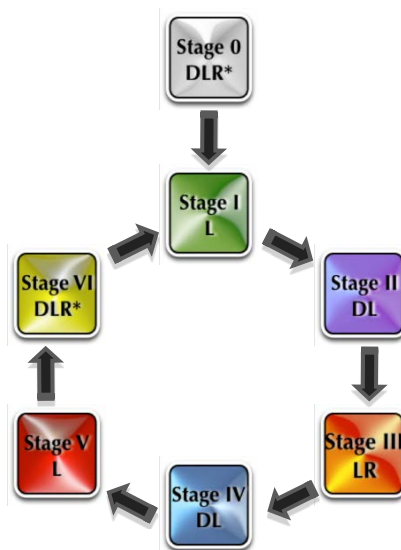
Visit 4: Lyme #2 [Optional]

Visits 2-4, which included Lyme as an option in this example, are not full exams and should be charged as such. Talk to your veterinarian about this modified format, if your pet is receiving first-time vaccinations.

Remember, the schedule shown above relates to pets that have never received vaccinations! As always, discuss your pet's vaccination needs with your veterinarian at your annual health visit.

DRBC Adult Vaccination Cycle

DRBC sanctuary residents and members personal pets follow the schedule shown below. This schedule is designed to avoid over vaccination while still providing the protection we all seek.










*Note: Non-Core vaccinations are administered on case-by-case basis and in accordance with manufacturer’s instruction, veterinary advice and DRBC policies.

Puppies

This vaccination schedule does not apply to puppies. Puppies require a specialized series of vaccinations that are given as the puppy grows and its immune system evolves.

Decoding the Schedule

Icon	Vaccines	Frequency
	D = Distemper Combo L = Leptosporosis R= Rabies	Distemper = 2 Years Lepto = Annually Rabies = 3 Years <i>Rabies and Distemper Combo w/ Lepto Given 2 weeks apart</i>
	L = Leptosporosis	Lepto = Annually
	D = Distemper Combo L = Leptosporosis	Distemper = 2 Years Lepto = Annually <i>Given as 1 Vaccine</i>
	L = Leptosporosis R= Rabies	Lepto = Annually Rabies = 3 Years Given 2 weeks apart
	D = Distemper Combo L = Leptosporosis	Distemper = 2 Years Lepto = Annually <i>Given as 1 Vaccine</i>
	L = Leptosporosis	Lepto = Annually
	D = Distemper Combo L = Leptosporosis R= Rabies	Distemper = 2 Years Lepto = Annually Rabies = 3 Years <i>Rabies and Distemper Combo w/ Lepto Given 2 weeks apart</i>

Talk to Your Veterinarian about Leptosporosis!

Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ vaccinates annually for this deadly disease, and believes it should be part of every dog's immunization program.

Why? Doxies that live in our region encounter squirrels, birds and other critters that carry the Lepto virus. While the vaccine is only effective in protecting against three of the five strains of Lepto, DRBC doxies are more likely to survive a battle with this potent killer if vaccinated.

Talk to your veterinarian about this important vaccine. Separating the Lepto vaccine from Rabies when given will lower the risk of an adverse reaction, and there are other approaches which help to reduce what was once thought of as a risk in the vaccination process.

Contact DRBC for additional information.



Adult Diet for the Dachshund Dog

The Importance of a Well-Balanced Diet

Given a choice, our doxies would live forever. They are our best friends and cuddle bugs, and we want only the best for them. That's every responsible dachshund owner and that begins with a well-balanced diet.

The DRBC brochure and our website talks about several different diets:

- 1. The Standard Commercial Diet**
- 2. The Commercial Diet for Weight Loss**
- 3. The Home Cooked Diet**

Although each is different in content, the basic intent is the same: a good, well-balanced diet, aimed at improving health and longevity for the dogs we love. As you read through the diets in this handout you will see that each contains vitamin and nutritional supplements. Explanations of which ones, how much of each and why we utilize them are located with each diet.

DRBC Products List

One of the biggest questions we are asked here at DRBC concerns the products we use for our rescues and personal pets. Keep in mind that there are many good commercial foods available, including Wellness and Flint River Ranch.

Foods we cannot and will not endorse include Old Roy and Hill's Science Diet. Having said that, here is our winner:

Dry Dog Food Royal Canin JS [Mobility Support]

DRBC and Royal Canin

Royal Canin became the brand of choice for the rescue in 2008 during a major dog food recall. As time went on, Royal Canin continued to provide excellence in the dog food arena and became our exclusive offering.

The result? The National average lifespan for the dachshund breed is 12-15 years. DRBC dachshunds average 16-19 years with over 20 exceeding age 20!



Weight Categories

It is important to establish the weight and health of your doxie for this discussion. Please use the guide below the picture to determine if your dachshund is weight appropriate.

- Mini Doxies: Weigh between 6 and 12 lbs.
- Tweenie [small standards]: Weigh up to 20 lbs.
- Standards [full-sized]: Can weigh up to 30 lbs.

These weight ranges apply to dogs, which are fit and trim. Your dachshund should not appear to look like a sausage! Overweight doxies experience neurological problems and stress the other organs in their body.

The picture shown at right is a beautiful example of a dachshund that is weight-appropriate. Notice the sweeping line that can be seen beginning at the chest, which sweeps up over the hip. Although not available, a look down at the top of this dog would reveal the definition of a figure eight with the chest protruding out the waist indented and the hips slightly wider. There are no hip points visible and no bones visible.



Feeding Time

Feeding time should be as consistent as possible. Developing a consistent feeding time not only impacts metabolism, but aids in housetraining. The DRBC policy is to feed a very small amount for breakfast and then one main meal a day, but many people feed twice a day dividing the volume into equal portions. Whatever frequency you choose, be consistent and remember the following rules:

- A dog will digest what he is fed in 3-4 hours. If you do a morning feed, be sure you will be there 3-4 hours later to let the dog out.
- A dog will drink and process that fluid in 20-30 minutes. Be sure that you are available to let him out when he needs to go, or you will assume he has a housebreaking problem.
- If feeding twice a day, split the mentioned volumes so that the daily total equals the recommended amount. Do not feed the amount recommended twice.
- The very small amount for breakfast is equivalent to 1 tablespoon of food. Just a little something.

- What looks small to you is not really small for the digestive system of a dog that weighs only a fraction of what you do. It sometimes helps owners to understand how much they are feeding if they put it into a volume equal to what they would require. The average dachshund weighs 15lbs; it would take 10 times the volume to feed a person that weighs 150lbs. Measure it out for your weight. Is it still a small amount? Probably not.



Body Condition Chart

Wondering what the 'right' weight for your dog should be? The number is not as important as the shape. Looking down the dog along the spine a figure 8 should be visible. The side view should show a sweeping line beginning under the chest and sweeping up over the hip.

Our thanks to the folks at the Ralston Purina Company for this Body Condition Chart. Pet owners, rescue folks, shelters and veterinarians agree this one scale helps each of us understand proper conformance for our animals.

1 - Emaciated

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences form a distance. No discernable body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2 - Very Thin

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3 - Thin

Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

4 - Underweight

Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evidence.

5 - Ideal

Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked when viewed from the side.

6 - Overweight

Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernable viewed from above, but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7 - Heavy

Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be absent.

8 - Obese

Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9 - Grossly Obese

Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



A Word About Supplements

All of the dogs at the rescue receive supplements in their diet, as we believe in enhances their lives and addresses longevity. Here is a list of what we use, when and why:

Multi Vitamin Drops – Our favorite brand is Hi-Vite Drops by VetIQonol.

- Standard Commercial Diet – A few, 2-3 drops, are added to the main meal to fortify the vitamin content for dry foods. Vitamins can lose potency as the bag stands. The addition of a few drops means the meal is well-balanced.
- Home Cooked Diet – These diets require the addition of a multi vitamin supplement. Although vegetables may be added, they may not contain the RDA content [recommended daily allowance] required for a balanced meal. Individual amounts are indicted within those specific diets.



Vitamin C – Chewable Vitamin C has long been use by veterinarians as a urinary acidifier, but recent research at several veterinary centers has shown that it may benefit orthopedic issues and act as an anti-oxidant. The small amount used in our diets has a big benefit.

Glucosamine/Chondroitin and Hyaluronic Acid Complex – Fighting disc disease and arthritis are important keys to a long and happy life for you and your doxie. These supplements are used in a preventative manner daily and have been shown to aid doxies in their recovery from IVDD injuries.

- Glucosamine, Chondroitin and Hyaluronic acid sulfate are naturally occurring components that act as building blocks for the functioning of healthy cartilage and flexible joints. These organic supplements work by minimizing cartilage damage and swelling, increasing joint lubrication, helping to rebuild the cartilage that cushions and protects joints, and enhancing new cartilage production.
- Numerous studies on the effects of these supplements have found them components to be critical nutrients that assist in supporting flexibility, comfort, and range of motion — for pets as well as for humans.
- Chondroprotectants (chondro=cartilage), such as glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate and Hyaluronic acid, are being prescribed increasingly by conventional, as well as holistic, veterinarians. The combination of these supplements has been found helpful in relieving inflammation and may even reverse the degenerative process in some dogs.
- These supplements work by nourishing the cartilage and increasing viscosity of the synovial fluid (the joint's lubricating system), thereby reducing friction and pain. Glucosamine, chondroitin and Hyaluronic acid

attract fluid into the joint's cartilage system and help the body repair damaged joints while keeping the cartilage-destroying enzymes under control — all with equal or better results than anti-inflammatory drugs.

- In short, chondroprotectants:
 - Help to lubricate joints
 - Provide a mechanism for nutrient absorption
 - Produce an anti-inflammatory effect on joints
 - Regulate activity on cartilage
 - Inhibit enzymes that break down cartilage

DRBC's Commercial Diet Overview

The diet you choose for your dog should be a balanced one. There are many excellent dog foods available on the market today. The goal is to provide sound nutrition while maintaining stable weight.

DRBC utilizes a mix of wet and dry food for all its dog food based diets. Our recommendation is:

- **Food**
 - Dry: Royal Canin Mobility Strength [JS]*
 - Moist: Discontinued Use—no longer recommended
 - Warm Water: Added at a volume equal to the total volume fed
- **Volume**
 - Mini: Up to 6 oz of food per day
 - Tweenie: Up to 8 oz of food per day
 - Standard: Up to 16 oz of food per day
- **Additives**
 - Vitamins: Hi-Vite Vitamin Drops, 2-3 Drops per day
 - Vitamin C: Paxon or 250mg per day, chewable
 - Joint Supplement: Glucosamine with Chondroitin and Hyolinic acid
 - Warm Water: Added at a volume equal to 1/3 – 1/2 the total volume fed

**This formulation is preferred due to the chicken base. Smarter for heart and other organ systems, chicken is the base choice in almost all of our diets.*

A word about additives:

- A small amount of a multi vitamin is added to our diet to replace the vitamin content dry foods experience on standing. Vitamin C is used as a urinary acidifier and antioxidant for females.
- The Joint Supplement is added as part of our overall spinal health program. Bag label claims due not contain sufficient levels for the dachshund breed.
- Warm water is added directly to the food to hydrate and is part of our overall kidney failure prevention program, although other organ systems benefit as well.

Help, My Dog Needs a Diet!

Congratulations on recognizing this problem in your dog. Fixing it is easier than you might imagine. Trust us, it's all in the wrist action; your wrists. The dog didn't get heavy on their own, they had help.

The biggest problem we face as a rescue is overweight dogs. Our largest ever was a 53 lb. Tweenie named Hansel. We knew he did not get to that weight overnight, and he wouldn't lose weight if not properly supported from a nutritional standpoint. Your dog is no different.

So how did we diet Hansel to his eventual weight of 20 lbs.? We fed him a proper diet. We did not use a diet food, as they lack the proper nutrition and contain excessive fillers. Using a diet dog food is a temporary fix; DRBC addresses the underlying cause with our standard diet. It took time, but normal, healthy proportions were the secret to our success. It works every time.

Start with a trip to your veterinarian to make sure your dog's health is tip-top. Ask them to help by letting you stop in for weight checks throughout your quest. Download the Purina Weight Standard from DRBC; try the recommended diet volumes in this handout for your size of dachshund; and watch for the great outcome.

Remember, it will take time and your dog may plateau once or twice during this process, but stick to it!

DRBC's Commercial Diet

Dinner Reccomendations

Ingredients:

Warm water
 Quality dry food - Royal Canin Mobility Support
 2-4 drops HiVite Vitamins
 1 Scoop Clenzadent
 1 Flexadin Supplement

1. Fill bowl 1/2 way with warm water and add dry food.
2. Add vitamins and supplements.
3. Meal should have the consistency of a warm stew.

Serving and Additive Volumes:

Standard Dachshund	1/2 bowl Warm Water 1 cup dry food 4-5 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females] 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules 1 Flexadin Chew
Tweenie Dachshund	1/2 bowl Warm Water 1/2 Cup dry food 2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females] 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules 1 Flexadin Chew
Miniature Dachshund	1/2 bowl Warm Water 1/3 or 1/2 cup dry food 2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females] 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules 1 Flexadin Chew

Place ingredients in dog bowl and watch food vanish!

Commercial Diet Breakfast Recommendations

Serving and Additive Volumes:

Standard Dachshund	1/4 Cup Dry Food Enough Warm Water to Cover
Tweenie Dachshund	2 Tablespoons Dry Food Enough Warm Water to Cover
Miniature Dachshund	2 Tablespoons Dry Food Enough Warm Water to Cover



Home Cooking for your Dachshund

Cooking for your dog is an evolving trend for many doxie owners. This trend has seen its greatest growth since the recalls of dog food in 2007. Many pet owners began to distrust commercial dog food, questioning what they were buying for their dogs to eat. Food was recalled from all kinds of manufacturers: the gourmet foods, the cheapest foods, the most popular foods, canned and kibble. Many doxie owners began to feel that it wasn't safe to feed their dogs anything that was commercially made.

DRBC has been using a home cooked diet in our senior home since 1998. It was initially developed to assist one of our doxies with pancreatic damage and quickly expanded for animals in good or questionable health. DRBC has been fortunate to have worked with a nutritionist from the University of Pennsylvania's Veterinary School. Our diets are well balanced and nutritional and have helped to extend the lives of those we hold most dear.

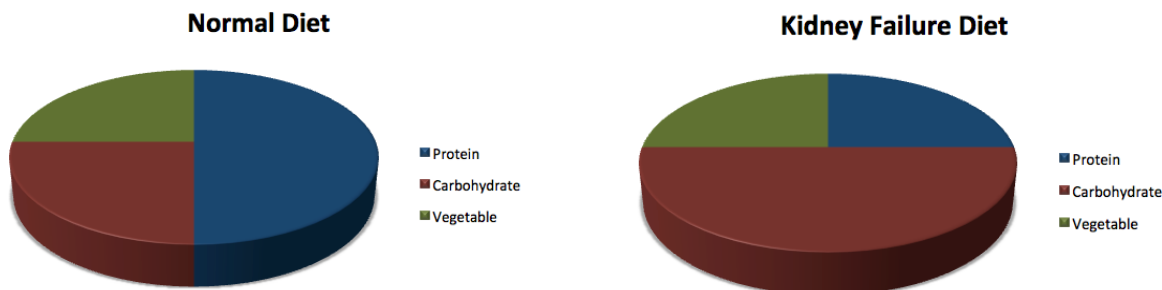
DRBC Home-Cooked Diets are easy to prepare and store well. Preparing home cooked meals have several advantages:

- The content and quality of meals prepared are directly related to the ingredients we buy; we know what is in that bowl and will not skimp on quality.
- Ingredients are human grade and meet FDA standards. These ingredients are far better than those found in commercial dog food.
- The process is controlled and the food is fresh.

There are a few drawbacks:

- Supplements are required to provide a balance of needed vitamins.
- You may like canned veggies, but dogs cannot tolerate them. Fresh or flash frozen only.
- The cost is slight higher on a week-by-week basis, although veterinary bills tend to be lower for pets on a home cooked diet. We believe that it is a trade off in cost.

Our meals are balanced, as shown below. Our diet is flexible and changes to accommodate various medical issues. The kidney failure shift is shown as well, but we can always alter, based on the individual medical needs of the dog.



Home Cooking Recipes

Chicken or Turkey Meatballs

Ingredients:

1 cup Chicken Stock	2 lbs Lean Ground Chicken or Ground Turkey
1/2 cup Couscous	1/3 cup Fresh Parsley
2T Extra Virgin Olive Oil	Water

1. Combine Couscous and Chicken Stock and allow to stand until stock is absorbed into Couscous, approximately 10 minutes. No liquid should be visible.
2. Coarsely chop parsley and add to the mixture and blend.
3. Add uncooked meat and blend thoroughly.
4. Heat pan with Olive Oil and prepare meatballs. Our sizes vary, but are generally 1-2 inches in diameter.
5. Place meatballs in oil and brown on both sides. Approximately 2-4 minutes per side.
6. Once browned, cover and allow to cook completely, approximately 15 minutes. Meatballs are cooked when no pink is showing in center.
7. Remove meatballs to container.
8. Deglaze pan with any remaining chicken stock or water. Refrigerate until use.

Serving and Additive Volumes:

Standard Dachshund

1/2 bowl Warm Water
6-8 Meatballs
4-5 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
1/2 Paxon [Females]
1 Scoop Clenzadent
1 Flexadin Chew

Tweenie Dachshund

1/2 bowl Warm Water
4-6 Meatballs
2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
1/4 Paxon [Females]
1 Scoop Clenzadent
1 Flexadin Chew

Miniature Dachshund

1/2 bowl Warm Water
3 - 5 Meatballs
2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
1/4 Paxon [Females]
1 Scoop Clenzadent
1 Flexadin Chew

Place ingredients in dog bowl and watch food vanish!

Note: We are feeding many dogs at DRBC and always make larger volumes, which are frozen and used as needed.

More Home-Cooked Dinner Recipes

Burgers & Pasta

Ingredients:

1/3 cup Fresh Parsley
 2 lbs Lean Ground Chicken or Ground Turkey
 1/2 cup Couscous
 Water

1. Coarsely chop parsley, add to the meat and blend.
2. Make a hamburger equal in size to what you might eat.
3. Grill burgers to medium well temperature.
4. Remove from grill and flake part. Meat should look like cooked ground beef. Store meat in plastic container until used.
5. Prepare pasta per package instructions. Do not salt the water.
6. Drain and place in plastic container. Refrigerate until use.

Serving and Additive Volumes:

Standard Dachshund

1/2 Bowl Warm Water
 1 Cup Meat
 1/2 Cup Pasta
 4-5 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females]
 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules
 1 Flexadin Chew

Tweenie Dachshund

1/2 bowl Warm Water
 1/2 Cup Meat
 1/4 Cup Pasta
 2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females]
 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules
 1 Flexadin Chew

Miniature Dachshund

1/2 bowl Warm Water
 1/3 Cup Meat
 1/4 Cup Pasta
 2-3 Drops Hi-Vite Vitamins
 1/4 Paxon Chew [Females]
 1 Scoop Clenzadent Granules
 1 Flexadin Chew

Place ingredients in dog bowl and watch food vanish!

Note: We are feeding many dogs at DRBC and always make larger volumes, which are frozen and used as needed.

Home Cooked Diet Recommendations

Serving and Additive Volumes:

Standard Dachshund	1/4 Cup Cooked Food Enough Warm Water to Cover
Tweenie Dachshund	2 Tablespoons [1/8 Cup] Cooked Food Enough Warm Water to Cover
Miniature Dachshund	2 Tablespoons [1/8 Cup] Cooked Food Enough Warm Water to Cover

Notes

History

Years ago, there were no commercial dog food and dogs were fed scraps as a means of feeding. These diets lacked nutritional balance. The onset of the commercial diet ended that trend and extended the life of our companions, but introduced new problems such as allergies. So where is the balance?

Lifespan

DRBC is pleased to have an average lifespan longer than the National average for the dachshund breed. While most dachshunds live 12-14 yrs, DRBC dogs exceed that enjoying 17-20+ yrs of life. One of the reasons for the higher average in age is improved diet and here, this is both a better commercial diet and a reliance on home based cooking. Currently, 2/3 of DRBC foster home cook for their doxies. It is easier than you might think.

Diet Content

We offer two diets at DRBC: one Beef- and one Poultry-Based Diet. Our diets have been developed under the guidance of a veterinary nutritionist, and our dogs have semi-annual visits to the veterinarian where diet is always discussed. We do not add components because we 'heard' they might be good, regardless of the source. Our diet is a balanced and nutritious one and we do not add unapproved additives.

Quality Components

Quality is paramount to our diet. We use lean meats only. The less fat, the better the outcome. Our cooking removes the excess fat and we recognize that by using lesser cuts of meat, we will drain off fat and pour money down the drain with it. Quality equals quantity in our diets. That said, here is our most popular home-cooked diet.

Making a change to a home cooked diet takes time to prepare but is no more difficult to feed than our recommended commercial diet. Consider a few of the benefits:

- Reduced stool volume—This is a direct result of less fillers and additives present in commercially prepared products. Pedigree recently latched onto this idea for consumers and now markets for consumers that want reduced stool volumes. DRBC has been there for a while with our home cooked meals!
- Improved health—Doxies eating our home cooked meals live longer and have a lower incidence of medical issues. There is a lower incidence of cardiac illness and they enrich our lives for very long periods even after being diagnosed with other systemic problems including renal [kidney] failure.

♥ DRBC Remembers Snoopy ♥



The DRBC Home Cooked Diet was originally started for the first DRBC rescue, Snoopy.

Snoop or 'Noop', as his closest friends called him, is pictured at left. He was physically abused at a young age, leaving his pancreas prone to infection due to scar tissue. His blood results indicated he was a borderline diabetic. By age 5 yrs, his future was uncertain. Then, this diet changed his life for the better.

Noop left us at age 20 yrs, never needing insulin and never having another pancreatic infection. Until his final months his energy level was better than dogs half his age. We miss him.

Not every dog is a Snoopy, but as the years have passed, we have watched as more and more dogs begin this regimen and experience great longevity and good health. Thanks Noop!

Trick or Treat

Introduction

OK, we are not talking about Halloween in this section, but instead want to build an awareness of a sound approach to the quantity and quality of the treats appropriate for your dog. Navigating through the vast amount of treats available is easier than you think. Let's apply some simple rules.

Quality

The rules for quality are simple:

1. You must be willing to eat one of the treats you are prepared to give your dog.

Why? We are both mammals, and although we look very different, many of the things that effect blood pressure and overall cardiac, liver and kidney function are the same. Many highly-marketed treats are high in sodium and contain preservatives and other chemicals that can be harmful to your dog over time.

2. The treat must be safe, easily digested and nutritious.

We are always asked 'what about...', so let's talk through some examples.

- Rawhide, Pigs Ears and Hooves—I can't think of a time of year that there isn't an opportunity for get togethers with family and friends. Imagine that instead of your normal array of snacks and appetizers, a can of lard and a bowl of toenails were left out for consumption. Ridiculous, right? Okay, what do you think pig's ears and rawhide are to the body? And hooves... when was the last time you saw a cow headed to the shower to wash off what they accidentally stepped in out in the field? Enough said.
- Freeze-Dried Meat Strips—Somehow you skipped rule one on this and are still thinking about giving them. Look at the sharp edges and strange shapes. I see GI surgery in your future. Please recognize that a GI perforation or blockage can be deadly. Wait, why did they call this a treat? Hmmm...

Quantity

Big sad eyes seem to be the rule for almost every dog we meet. So here are the most important rules to follow here:

1. Don't be taken in by 'the look', they are not that hungry.
2. Appropriate and nutritional treats in small quantities are best for overall health.

Remember, two treats a day, given consistently is probably fine. Calories count and too many treats can help your dog become overweight quickly



decreasing the quality and quantity of the years you will have with your special friend.

DRBC Favorites

Our personal doxies and foster dogs all enjoy treat time. Here is what we use and recommend to you as a selection of nutritious treats:

- Fresh Tomatoes – 1/8 cup per day
- Baby Carrots – Two per Day
- Orange or Grapefruit Segments – 1/8 cup per Day
- Flour-based, Size-Appropriate Commercial Treats – Two per Day
- Green Bean – Four per Day
- Apple Bits – 1/8 Cup per Day
- Banana – 2 inches per Day
- Strawberries – 2 per Day
- Blueberries - 1/8 Cup per Day
- Watermelon - 1/8 Cup per Day
- Cucumber Slices - 6-8 thin slices per day



We avoid melons, due to the higher fiber content.

Grapes, raisins, prunes, plums, cherries and avocado are toxic to dogs and are off our list, as they may cause irreversible kidney failure.

Never use frozen or canned items! This should give you a healthier and more cost-effective approach to treat time.

Table Scraps: The Big Controversy

Introduction

Our years of rescue here at DRBC have taught us that when it comes to feeding, two things are controversial: the brand of dog food used and the debate over table scraps. This sheet may have confused the issue by outlining a home-cooked diet, so let's clear it up once and for all.

There is one golden rule to giving scraps here at DRBC:

There can be no spices, preservatives, grizzle, fat or bone. Additionally, the food cannot be canned or have been frozen prior to cooking.

As shocking as this seems, it is a good, common sense approach to scraps. There are a few exceptions, of course and these should be discussed as well.

Table Scraps

It will not take your doxie long to start begging at the table. Doxies are bottomless pits when it comes to anything edible. They are the only breeds that can eat themselves to death.

The decision to give table scraps is a personal one. We recommend you don't allow begging while eating, instead save a little bite from your plate. Wow, you must have a very bland diet! Dachshunds cannot have spices such as salt, pepper, onions or garlic. Also avoid dairy, gravy or anything fried and as we mentioned no bones or grizzle.

One last thing, statements such as: 'they like it' or 'it's not hurting them' are not fact based. What should be said is more along the lines of '...hasn't hurt them yet'. Please think before you indulge your pet from the table.

Safe Scraps

Here are some safe and healthy scraps they might love. They are low calorie, no fat and have lots of vitamins.

- Carrots [cooked or raw, never canned]
- Tomatoes [fresh]
- Orange Slices [one wedge only]
- Strawberries [no green stem]

Dangerous Scraps

- Grapes/Raisins/Prunes/Plums/Cherries/Avocado [red or white, no seeds] – May carry a fungus that causes acute renal failure
- Cantaloupe – The high fiber may damage intestinal function
- Onions, Garlic or Peppers – These spices can lead to bleeding ulcers
- Bones, ANY– Can lead to GI blockages or perforations

Manufactured Treats

The following foods can cause an upset in the digestive system, and remember, it is not OK to 'try' these out to see if your dog falls into this category; you will both suffer in the long run from the attempt.

- Lamb
- Pork
- Anything Fried
- Raw Eggs [Cooked OK]
- Milk [includes ice cream and most dairy]
- Chocolate



Hidden Dangers

Toxic Foods

The following foods can cause an upset to the digestive system or in some cases death. And remember, it is not OK to 'try' these out to see if your dog falls into this category; you will both suffer in the long run from the attempt.

- Lamb
- Pork
- Anything Fried
- Raw Eggs [Cooked OK]
- Milk [includes ice cream and most dairy]
- Chocolate
- Grapes/Raisins
- Prunes/Plums
- Cherries and Avocados

Did You Know?

Obesity in Dachshunds

As with humans, obesity—or excessive weight—in our pets places extra demands on virtually all of the organs of their bodies, resulting in numerous health risks. The risks of pet obesity are serious and often extremely costly, with disease and sometimes death as potential consequences. As is so often the case, it's much cheaper and easier to prevent issues than it is to treat and fix them.

The dachshund breed is genetically predisposed to being overweight, a predisposition that can be made worse by lack of regular exercise and/or overfeeding (including free feeding).

A weight control plan and/or premium weight management pet food diet coupled with regular exercise and plenty of fresh water available at all times, can result in long, healthy, pain and disease-free lives for your doxie companions, as well as the enjoyable absence of several-thousand-dollar surgery bills for you.

Specific Health Risks Associated with Obesity in Pets

Here's a quick look at some of the many health risks and potential consequences associated with obesity in cats and dogs:

Damage to joints, bones, and ligaments

The bones, joints, muscles, and associated tendons and ligaments all work together to give pets smooth and efficient movement. Excess weight places additional strain on these parts, which can quickly lead to damaged tissue and injuries. Arthritis can develop and the pain and joint changes associated with intervertebral disc disease ("slipped discs" or IVDD) can become markedly more severe. Approximately 25% of overweight dogs develop weight related IVDD.

Decreased stamina

Overweight dogs have less endurance and stamina. Carrying all that extra weight around takes a lot more work. The heart, muscles, and respiratory system are all asked to do more than they were designed for.

Difficulty breathing and increased surgical and anesthetic risk

In overweight animals, the lungs cannot function properly. The additional fat in the chest restricts the expansion of the lungs, while the extra fat in the abdomen pushes against the diaphragm, which separates the abdominal cavity from the chest. This also results in less space in the chest for the lungs to expand when breathing. Worsening matters, the increased quantity of tissue puts an increased demand on the lungs to supply oxygen. These changes are especially serious in dogs that may already have a respiratory disease or are genetically predisposed to developing respiratory disease.

The effects of obesity on the heart and lungs can also have serious ramifications during anesthesia. Cardiac arrest [heart stops] and poor circulation of oxygenated blood to the tissues can occur.

Increased risk of cancer and diseases

Numerous studies have linked obesity in pets with an increased risk of developing certain types of cancers, including cancer of the urinary bladder and mammary tumors. The risk of skin and hair coat diseases also increases in overweight dogs.

Decreased immune function

Excessive weight is also associated with decreased resistance to viral and bacterial infections. For example, both canine distemper and salmonella infections tend to be more severe in obese dogs.

Higher Likelihood of Developing Diabetes

One of the most common complications of obesity in dogs is the development of diabetes mellitus [sugar diabetes] due to an increase in the demand for and secretion of insulin. When the demand for insulin exceeds the ability of the dog's body to produce it, diabetes can develop. If the need for insulin increases over a long period of time, the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin can actually 'burn out.'

Heat intolerance

While fat tends to be an excellent insulator, excess fat in dogs can make life miserable (especially in the "dog days" of summer) and the dog much less capable of regulating its body temperature.

Digestive disorders and decreased liver function

Overweight pets have an increased risk of developing constipation and may also have more problems with intestinal gas and flatulence, a situation that tends to be unpleasant for both the pet and the pet's owner.

Additionally, obesity can lead to decreased liver function do to an increased amount of fat build-up in the liver (hepatic lipidosis). A fatty liver may not be as efficient at breaking down anesthetics and other drugs, which can make surgery more difficult (and thus more expensive) and can delay recovery in operations.

Dog Dishes

A hidden danger? Count on it. Doxie owners ask us about the 'best' dish almost as often as they ask us about the best foods. Dishes make our hidden danger list because of the bacteria they can harbor leading to GI upset and pancreatitis among other problems.

Pros and Cons by Dish Type

Dish Type	Pro's	Con's
Plastic	Lightweight, colorful, many sizes and types available	Easily chewed. Shards can lead to the vet's office for surgery
Metal	Vets and kennels use them.	Dent, can break teeth and rust. While this works well for vets and kennels, it gets a thumb's down from DRBC.
Ceramic	Heavy, colorful, many sizes and types available. Most like people dishes	Breakable. Didn't you see that coming?

The Best

Ceramic. Most like your dishes it has weight to keep it from sliding across the floor. Should it chip or ding it will be thrown away and replaced quickly. Most owners think nothing about cleaning it with their own dishes daily.

The Worst

Any dish that is not washed daily or is washed infrequently. Washed, not rinsed. This is how the growth of deadly bacteria can begin.



Can Lids/Food Stored in Cans

A big thumbs down from DRBC. The quality of the food is less and the fat content is usually higher.

Also, another great bacteria source. If you absolutely must, remove any unused canned food from the can and place in a clean storage container. Refrigeration will slow the growth of the bacteria that can thrive in cans and can lids, but will not kill it. The simple step of moving can leftovers to a plastic container reduces the risk of GI upset and pancreatitis. It is only one extra step; aren't they worth it?

Closing Thoughts

On behalf of all of us here at DRBC, we hope this guide helps you and your dog to a longer, happier and healthier life. The information presented is meant as a guide as you look for the proper nutritional program for your pet. The best program begins and remains with your veterinarian. Always include them in your discussion on diet or any other changes to your pets' lifestyle. And be sure to make that discussion a part of your semi-annual veterinary visits.

Please let us know if you are facing a special dietary challenge or if our program has helped you and your pet. We would love to share your story with others on our website. We can be reached at info@doxierescue.com and look forward to hearing from you.

Good luck!

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