

The Revised UK Dachshund Breed Standard – A Guide for Breeders, Exhibitors and Judges.

Background

The Kennel Club issued a revised Breed Standard for Dachshunds to come into effect from 1st January 2009 as an “interim” Standard, allowing for consultation until June 2009.

All Breed Standards now contain the following mandatory text:

‘A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.’

The changes to our Breed Standard are based on recommendations made by the Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee who worked with several experienced breeders to identify changes that would both clarify the existing Standard and address potential health and welfare issues.

This paper summarises the changes and offers further guidance on their interpretation. It should be read in conjunction with Sayer's Illustrated Standard of Points of the Dachshund, available from The Dachshund Club.

Amendments to the previous Breed Standard are underlined, deletions are shown in brackets

General Appearance

The Revised Standard	Guidance
<p><u>Moderately</u> long and low <u>with no exaggeration</u>, compact, well muscled body, <u>with enough ground clearance to allow free movement</u>. <u>Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to the rear of thigh</u>. Bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.</p>	<p>The aim of these changes is to ensure exaggeration of any form is avoided. The Dachshund is not a breed where “more” is “better”. Exaggeration of length, lowness to ground, or too level a back can all lead to health problems (IVDD – slipped disk) and create a dog that is not fit for its original purpose.</p> <p>The guidance on height to length ratio is intended to avoid having dogs that are either excessively long, or that are too low to ground. Dogs that are shorter than 2:1 are to be preferred over dogs longer than this ratio.</p> <p>Low (to ground) means lowness from the withers, compared with other breeds, not a lack of ground clearance (See also “Body” below). There must be sufficient ground clearance to enable the dog to track over rough ground.</p>

Characteristics

The Revised Standard	Guidance
<p>Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness, obedient. Especially suited to going to ground because of low build, very strong forequarters and forelegs. Long, strong jaw and immense power of bite and hold. Excellent nose, persevering hunter and tracker. <u>Essential that functional build is retained to ensure working ability.</u></p>	<p>The change here is to emphasise that the Dachshund should be able to do the job for which it was originally designed. Any of the exaggerations referred to above would mean a Dachshund that was not “fit for purpose”. The Dachshund must have the build to track, go to ground and work all day.</p> <p>Although unchanged, this clause also emphasises important aspects of the Dachshund's temperament. Dogs that are nervous, or aggressive, should be severely penalised by judges.</p>

Body

The Revised Standard	Guidance
<p><u>Moderately</u> long and full muscled. [Delete ‘back level’]. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably <u>level, blending harmoniously between</u> withers and slightly arched loin. Loin short and strong. Breast bone strong, and so prominent that a depression appears on either side of it in front. When viewed from front, thorax full and oval; when viewed from side or above, full volumed, so allowing by its ample capacity complete development of heart and lungs. Well ribbed up, underline gradually merging into line of abdomen. Body sufficiently clear of ground to allow free movement.</p>	<p>This clause re-emphasises that the Dachshund's length should not be exaggerated. The Dachshund's length is in the body and not the back. Ribs should go well back and loin should be short, to give strength. Too long a dog may result in a weak back, with associated health risks.</p> <p>The line of the back from withers to rump should be reasonably level. There needs to be a slight arch to the loin for strength. A “dead flat” topline is not what is required.</p> <p>The underline should not be “tucked up” to the abdomen (like a Greyhound).</p> <p>A very deep chest is a fault as insufficient ground clearance will restrict the dog's movement and ability to do a day's work. At its lowest point (between the forelegs) it should be no lower than the wrist (knee). Judges should not be afraid to reward dogs showing greater ground clearance than this.</p>

Hindquarters

The Revised Standard	Guidance
<p>Rump full, broad and strong, pliant muscles. Croup long, full, robustly muscled, only slightly sloping towards tail. Pelvis strong, set obliquely and not too short. Upper thigh set at right angles to pelvis, strong and of good length. Lower thigh short, set at right angles to upper thigh and well muscled. Legs when seen behind set well apart, straight, and parallel.</p>	<p>The deletion of the reference to hind Dewclaws is in response to the fact that many veterinary surgeons will no longer remove Dewclaws from puppies.</p>

[Delete - Hind dewclaws undesirable].

Colour

The Revised Standard	Guidance
<p>All colours <u>permitted</u> but [delete '(except in dapples which should be evenly marked all over)'] no white permissible, save for a small patch on chest which is permitted but not desirable. <u>The dapple pattern is expressed as lighter coloured areas contrasting with the darker base. Neither the light nor the dark colour should predominate. Double dapple (where varying amounts of white occurs all over the body in addition to the dapple pattern) is unacceptable.</u> Nose and nails black in all colours except chocolate/tan and chocolate/dapple <u>where they are brown.</u></p>	<p>There are potentially "lethal" health risks associated with mating two Dapples together. So called "Double Dapples" are at risk of being born blind and/or deaf.</p> <p>Dogs with large patches of white are no longer acceptable.</p> <p>Note that the nose and nails of Chocolate/Tan and Chocolate Dapples should be brown, not pink.</p>

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