

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of **THE DACHSHUNDS**

Produced by
National Dachshund Council (Australia)
in conjunction with
The Australian National Kennel Council

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Country of Origin ~ Germany

THE THREE COAT TYPES



Long Haired



Smooth Haired



Wire Haired

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HISTORY OF THE BREED

Originating in Germany, the Dachshund, (*Teckel*) was bred to hunt small game, predominantly badger, that goes to ground. The dog was required to scent, track and pursue game into burrows. The dog was required to move over all types of terrain, including dense undergrowth and water. The Dachshund was required to have intelligence, strength, endurance and versatility, a long body with relatively short legs and three different coat types all of which combine to enable it to fulfil its purpose. Miniature Dachshunds were bred to have the same attributes as Standards, but were used to hunt smaller game

● GENERAL APPEARANCE

Moderately long and low, with no exaggeration, compact, well muscled body, with enough ground clearance to allow free movement. Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to the rear of thigh. Bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.

Exaggeration of any form is to be avoided. The Dachshund is not a breed where “more” is “better”. Exaggeration of length, lowness to the ground, or too level a back can all lead to health problems (IVDD) – slipped disc) and create a dog that is not fit for its original purpose. 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. Low (to ground) means lowness from the withers, compared with other breeds, not a lack of ground clearance. There must be sufficient ground clearance to enable the dog to track over rough ground.

While a long and low dog is good, the longest or lowest dog is not necessarily the best. The overall conformation of the dog must fit within the requirements of the entire standard and all exaggerations should be avoided.

What is required is a dog appearing long in proportion to his height off the ground, with ample bone and giving an appearance of strength and agility without any suggestion of coarseness or at the other extreme – fragility.

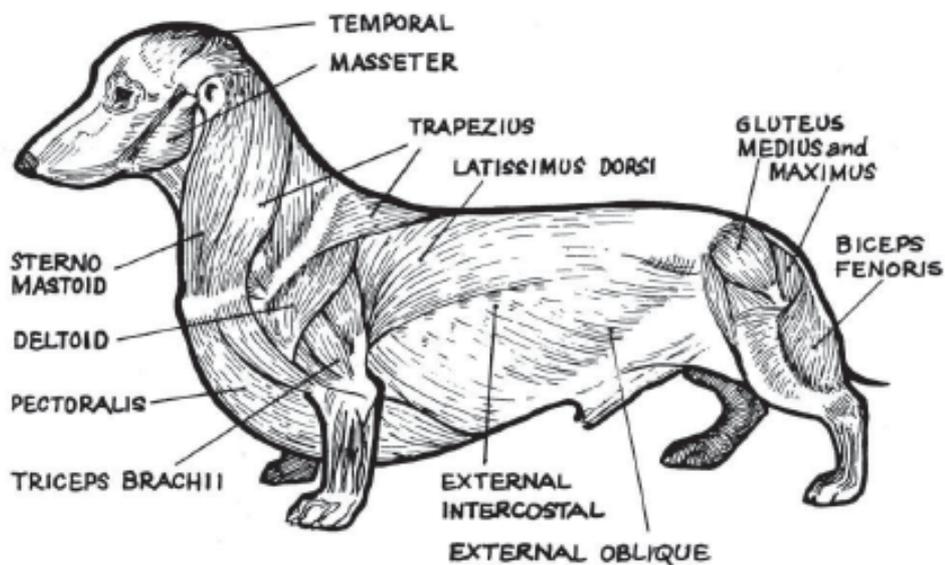
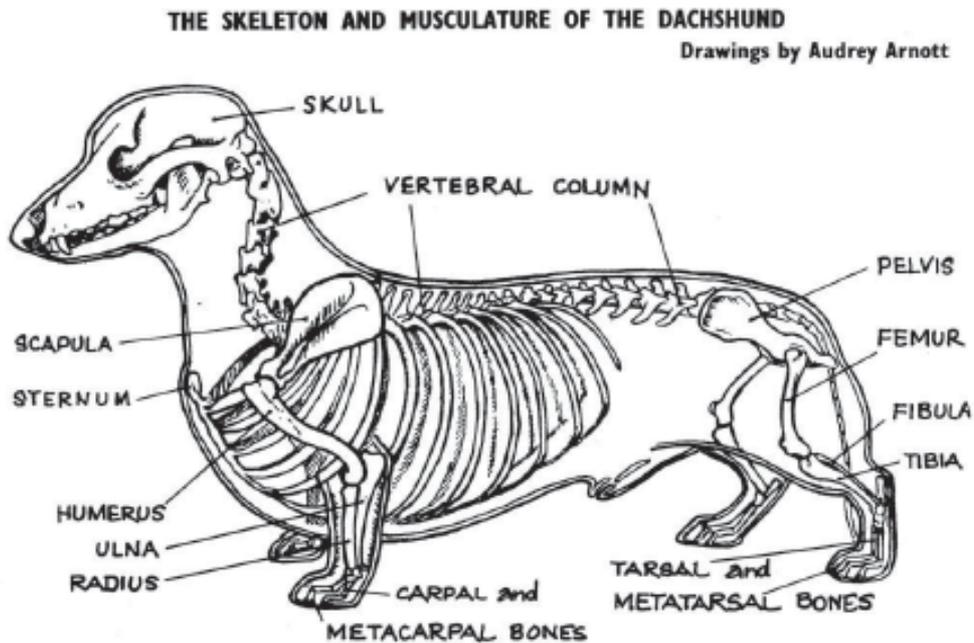


Fig. 1

● **CHARACTERISTICS**

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. Essential that functional build is retained to ensure working ability.

Fig. 2



The Dachshund is a sporting or hunting dog. He was bred for the purpose of hunting small game that goes to ground. The Dachshund must have the build to track, go to ground and work all day. To be a successful hunter the Dachshund must be alert, courageous and tenacious, with good scenting powers and fairly keen eyesight. He also requires a bark penetrating enough to be heard from below ground, and the lung power to both breathe and bark for long periods in the confined space of the burrow or den. The long-haired is also suitable for water retrieving. The wire-haired, on account of his harsh strong coat, is very fitted for hunting in dense cover. The Dachshund makes an intelligent house pet.

The miniature varieties were evolved, not as lap dogs, but to hunt smaller game in as brave a manner as their larger relatives.

As a judge, it is not possible to evaluate whether the dog in front of you possesses a keen nose or would be courageous in the hunt. Most of these desirable Dachshund characteristics will have to be taken for granted by the judge, and providing that the dog is not seen to be cringing in fear or falling asleep in the ring it must be assumed that, given the right stimulus, the dog would behave in the correct manner.

We know that a dog can be trained to appear alert perhaps, even to the extent of masking his true temperament. We are aware that any dog continually exposed to the same routine, in this case, the show ring, will eventually become bored and his performance will therefore lack zest.

● TEMPERAMENT

Faithful, versatile and good tempered.

The following two extracts from “The Show Dachshund” by Robert Cole and Dr Sylvia Kershaw pp 7-9 summarise the temperament of the Dachshund.

“The Dachshund has been described as the most likeable of dogs. They are particularly faithful and friendly and at the same time intelligent and teachable. In the house they are clean and well behaved and outside faithful, alert and reliable watch dogs. For the hunter the Dachshund is the indispensable companion, to some extent the universal dog.”

“The Dachshund is “most fitted for hunting ... and when trained, their courage and pluck are superior to any breed, will not tire easily and will follow the chase for many hours without a break”.

Dachshunds can be obstinate but once trained, excellent guard and house dogs, peaceable with their own variety and can be kept in groups.

● HEAD & SKULL

Long, appearing conical when seen from above; from side tapering uniformly to tip of nose. Skull only slightly arched. Neither too broad nor too narrow, sloping gradually without prominent stop into slightly arched muzzle. Length from tip of nose to eyes equal to length from eyes to occiput. In Wire haired, particularly, ridges over eyes strongly prominent, giving appearance of slightly broader skull. Lips well stretched, neatly covering lower jaw. Strong jaw bones

not too square or snippy, but opening wide.

This is fairly well described for all varieties. The main points to bear in mind are the conical shape of the whole head whether viewed from above or from the side. CONICAL must not be confused with WEDGE-SHAPED

The tapering from the back of the skull to the nostrils is gradual and the muzzle is fairly filled in under the eyes, not hollowed out leaving the eye protruding. The stop, which is that part between the skull and the foreface approximating the bridge of the human nose, should not be marked by a dip. There are bony ridges over the eyes. The skull and the foreface should lie as much on the same plane as possible. Roughly, the head should be the same length from the back of the skull to the eye as from the eye to the nostril. The muzzle arches slightly to the nose. The lips are not pendulous or loose but lie neatly along the mouth following the gradual slope of the muzzle and almost covering the lower jaw. There are many different types of heads.

Some faults are:

- Too pronounced a dip at the stop
- A thin pinched muzzle
- Too broad between the ears
- A bumpy course skull
- A short foreface or a heavy squared-off muzzle with sloppy lips

● **EYES**

Medium size, almond-shaped, set obliquely. Dark except in chocolates, where they can be lighter. In dapples one or both 'wall' eyes permissible.

There is little to add to this description. It must be remembered that the set of the eye and the expression conveyed by it does much to aid the appearance of the dog, and reinforces the special Dachshund characteristics as required by the Standard. Faults are large round eyes with a soft expression, and in reds and black and tans, a light or yellow eye which gives an unpleasant staring expression.

● **EARS**

Set high, and not too far forward. Broad, of moderate length, and well rounded (not pointed or folded). Forward edge touching cheek. Mobile, and when at attention back of ear directed forward and outward.

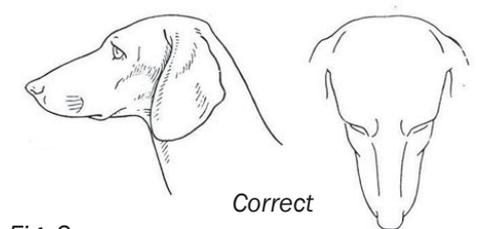
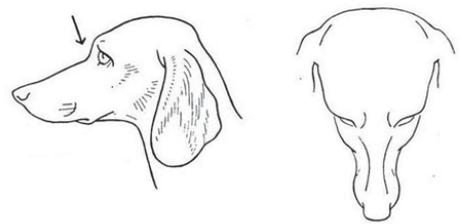
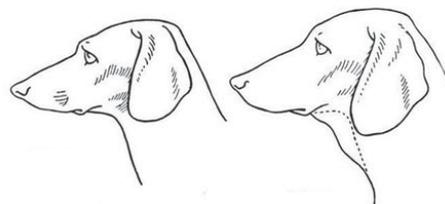


Fig. 3



Pronounced dip

Too broad in skull, pinched muzzle



Short foreface

Too heavy



Correct

Round



Incorrect

Fig. 4

Faults are low set droopy ears which are often folded or pointed and not very mobile. A short small ear set on in a terrier manner. The ear should end a little below the jaw line and it is very untypical if the inside edge of the ear does not lie close to the head.

● MOUTH

Teeth strongly developed, powerful canine teeth fitting closely. Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Complete dentition important.

The Standard is very definite on this point. Many mouths are faulty to some degree. The most common fault seen is the overshot mouth, where the upper jaw protrudes over the lower jaw, giving the teeth a ‘buck-toothed’ appearance. An undershot jaw, where the lower jaw extends below the upper jaw is rarely seen in the ring.

The pincer bite, where the upper and lower teeth meet edge to edge, is not often seen. The pincer bite is not objected to in some countries and arguments in its favour have been advanced amongst Dachshund fanciers from time to time. Our Standard, however, demands a scissors bite. The teeth must be strong and white, not shelly or of a pearly texture. The jaw must not be so narrow that the teeth are overcrowded. Mis-marked or distemper teeth are occasionally seen and providing the teeth are correctly placed in the jaw, though unpleasant, this is not a disqualifying fault. Dirty and ill kept teeth are distasteful and reflect upon the general condition of the dog.

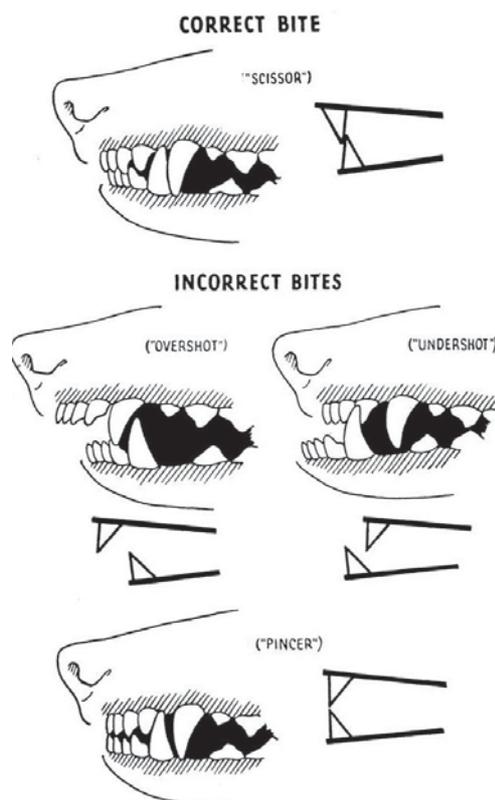


Fig. 5

● NECK

Long, muscular, clean with no dewlap, slightly arched, running in graceful lines into shoulders, carried proudly forward.

This description is clear. Faults are: a short, thick neck, a long thin neck without any crest on the nape (ewe neck); and too much baggy skin or dewlap under the throat.

● FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder blades long, broad, and placed firmly and obliquely (45 degrees to the horizontal) upon very robust rib cage. Upper arm the same length as shoulder blade, set at 90 degrees to it, very strong, and covered with hard, supple muscles. Upper arm lies close to ribs, but able to move freely. Forearm short and strong in bone, inclining slightly inwards; when seen in profile

moderately straight, must not bend forward or knuckle over, which indicates unsoundness. Correctly placed foreleg should cover the lowest point of the keel.

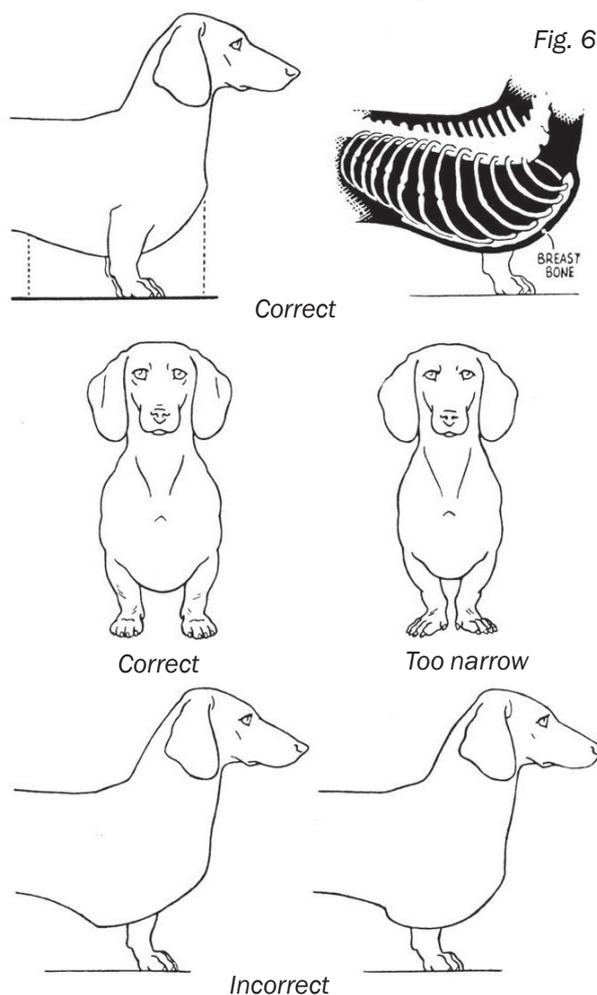
The forequarters are probably one of the most special characteristics of the Dachshund and deserve much consideration by the judge. The prominence of breast bone called for by the Standard, coupled with the overall length and lowness of the dog, requires an exceptional thoracic structure. With the preference decreed by fashion, rightly or wrongly, for straight front legs on the Dachshund, without any “crook” whatsoever, the shoulder placement has suffered to some degree. It is now a common fault to find the shoulder blades set so far forward as to be almost up the dogs neck. When the shoulder is forward set there is often little prominence of breast bone and, in actual fact, if it were possible to slide the shoulder blade back to the correct position, it would be seen that the dog was then short in body.

The upper arm, when correctly placed and set at the correct angle to the shoulder blade, curves slightly around the chest before the joint of the lower arm.

The whole front of the dog should represent an oval, with the lowest point of the oval being no lower than the dog’s wrists. Another common fault is the upright shoulder. In this instance the upper arm is shorter than the shoulder blade, and the angle of the joint of the two is not a right angle. The straighter the shoulder the more obtuse this angle and the greater the danger of the dog knuckling over at the wrists.

When the chest and the rib cage are too narrow in construction and the dog is “slab sided”, the forelegs often come too close together and the dog’s feet are forced to turn outwards unduly in order to support the weight of the dog.

The shoulder of the dog is attached to the body only by muscle and ligament and it is required that the whole shoulder should move freely about the dog’s chest as he moves. From a front view, the points of the elbows should not be seen either when the dog is moving or standing still. If the shoulder is upright and short the elbows tend to swing out, and it sometimes happens that a great deal of unnecessary lumpy muscle builds up over this region to compensate for the engineering weakness. Whole “hard and plastic” muscle is called for. It should be a



smooth flowing muscle that does not distort the blending of one part of the body with another, or mar the graceful curving outlines of the Dachshund.

The unwritten law, mentioned earlier, which has decreed that the Dachshund shall have straight front legs is not written into the Standard. In discussing both the lower arm and the feet, the Standard uses the word “slightly”. The lower arm is “slightly inclined inwards and the feet may be “slightly” turned outwards. Anything more than “slightly” in both cases means that the weight of the dog will not be evenly distributed on the feet.

● **BODY**

Moderately long and full muscled. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably level, blending harmoniously between 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.

This clause re-emphasises that the Dachshund’s length should not be exaggerated. The Dachshund’s length is in the body, not in the back. About a third of the dog should be in front of the elbow, given correct front angulation. 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, 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. The underline should not be tucked up to the abdomen (like a Greyhound). A very deep chest is a fault as insufficient ground clearance will restrict a 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 “knee”. Judges should not be afraid to reward dogs showing greater ground clearance than this. The slight depression at the shoulder should not be more than the continuation of the slight slope off from

Fig. 7

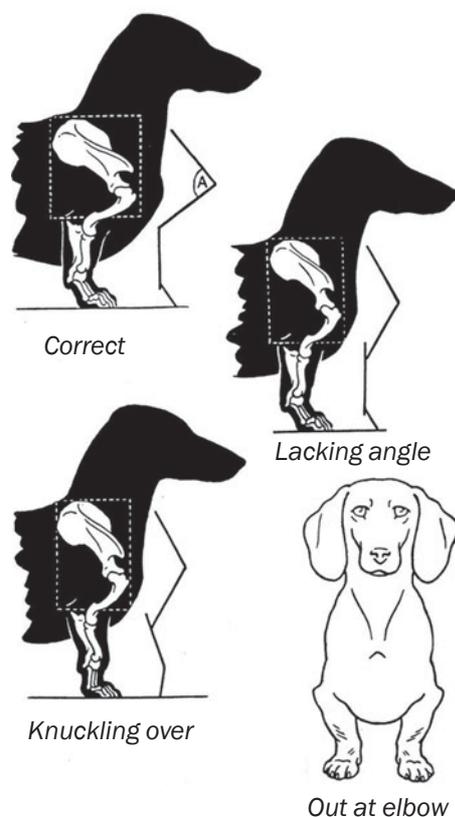
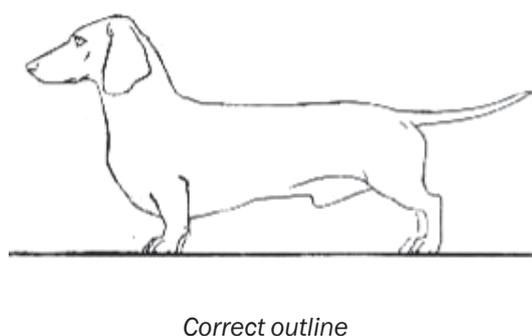
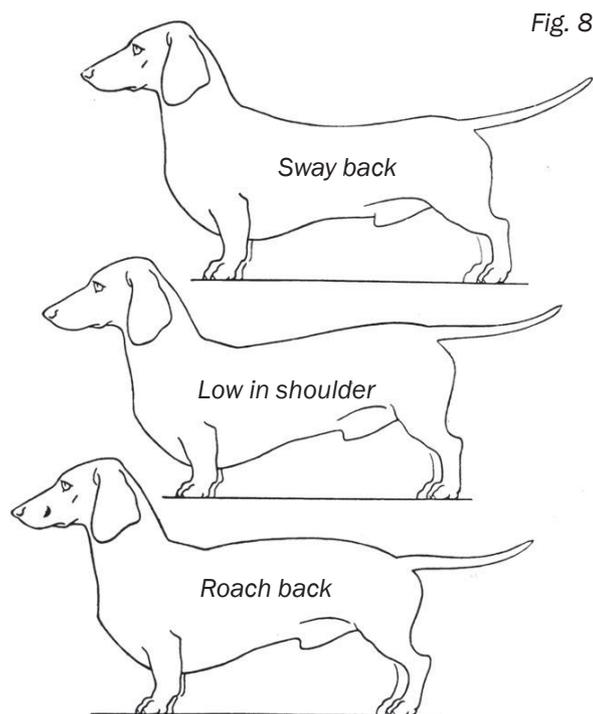


Fig. 8



the top of the shoulder, after which the line flows fairly level with a slight, well muscled, rise over the loin. The slight muscled arch gives a pliability of the hindquarters. When in full gallop this area comes into great play as the dog's hind legs are gathered under the body before hitting the ground and propelling or pushing the dog forward. The "tabletop" or dead level backline is undesirable, as in this instance the back is too rigid and the tail, which is a continuation of the spine, runs straight off the rump of the dog, and is often carried away from the body in a hook shape known as the "steer tail". This type of topline is frequently seen. The roach back, in which the spine arches up directly behind the shoulder and runs in an arc to the croup, is fortunately not often seen in the ring.



As mentioned under the heading 'forequarters' the rib cage is oval and the ribs should extend right back to a short loin. A long ribcage is most important, but it must not be flat on the sides so that the dog is narrow or "slab-sided". Round or "barrel ribs" are not required.

The underline is at its lowest point at the wrists and then follows a smooth gentle curve into and along the belly. A sudden cut up in underline just behind the front legs is most undesirable. It denotes a short ribcage. If the dog is carrying a fair amount of weight, this cut up may not be readily seen until the dog is handled.

In the case of the faulty dog which stands higher at the rump than at the shoulder, the topline is very incorrect. The cause of this defect generally lies in the construction of the hindquarters. A sagging or hollow back often comes with an over-long loin or shortness of the ribcage, and in some cases general lack of muscle tone.

It is necessary, to be a typical specimen, that the body or trunk of the Dachshund must be long in proportion to height off the ground, but the trunk must also be strong and with no suggestion of slackness.

● HINDQUARTERS

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.

The angles at which the bones are joined to each other, and the actual length of each bone, is the basis of a correct hindquarter. The whole hindquarter with the correct angulation must be well muscled and give an impression of great power. The pelvis is fairly long and set at a slight slope with the upper thigh bone (femur). The lower thigh bone (tibia) forms a right angle at the stifle or knee joint with the upper thigh bone. The lower thigh bone must not only be set at the correct angle but also must be of sufficient length to place the dog's hock bones clear of his rump.

An imaginary line dropped from the rear of the rump should fall along the inside edge of the hock bone (tarsal bone). The hock bones which are short (and not to be confused with the hock, which is a joint), are vertical to the ground, and as seen from behind must be parallel to each other. These hock bones must be far enough apart to support comfortably the well-muscled rump, but not so far apart that the dog seems to have a leg on each corner and moves with a straddled, ungainly action.

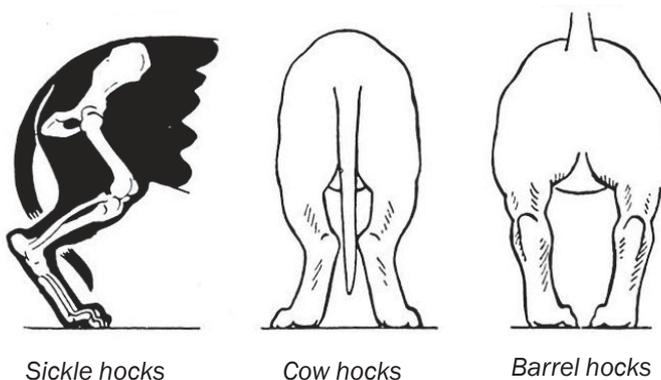
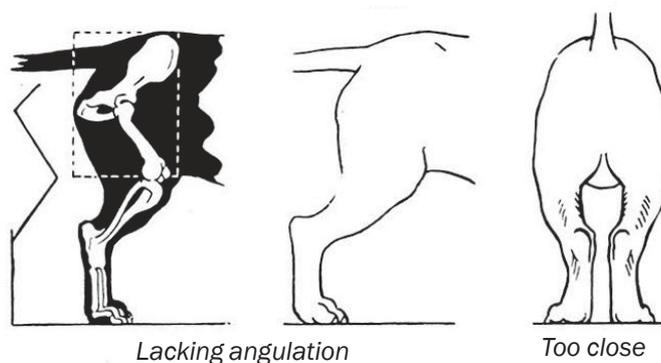
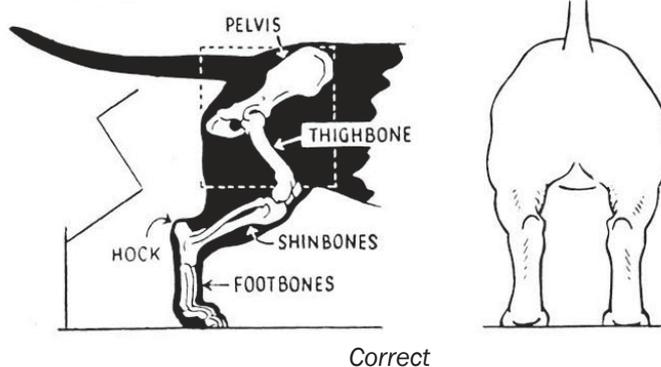
Fig. 9

Faults commonly seen are:-

“cow-hocks”, in which the hock bones are not parallel to each other but slope inwards so that the hock joints are close together and the feet spread apart;

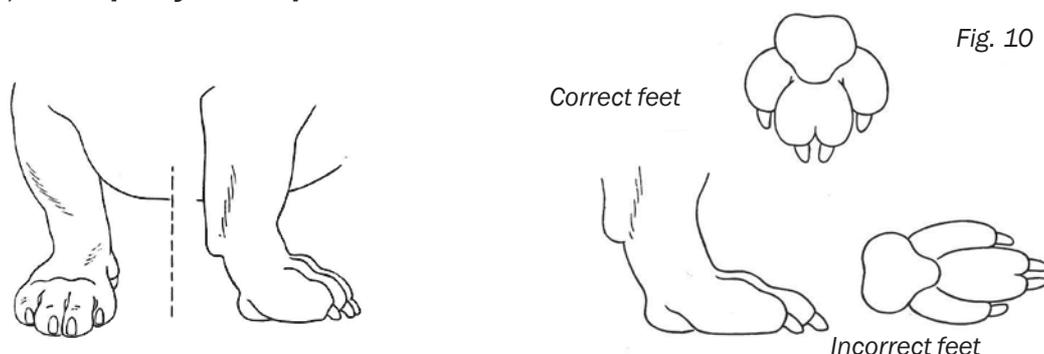
“sickle hocks”, in which case the rear pastern is not vertical to the ground but slopes so that the feet are under the belly. In this instance the rear pastern is generally too long and the hind action lacks drive;

“barrel hocks”, in which case the hock joints are so far apart and the feet so close together that the dog appears bandy. It frequently happens that the bones forming the hindquarters are too short and the angles, particularly between the tibia and the femur, are too obtuse. This gives a stilty appearance and can cause the dogs to be higher at the rear than at the shoulder.



● FEET

Front feet full, broad, deep, close knit, straight or very slightly turned out. Hind feet smaller and narrower. Toes close together, with a decided arch to each toe, strong regularly placed nails, thick and firm pads. Dog must stand true, i.e. equally on all parts of the foot.



There is not much to add here except to touch upon some faulty types of feet such as long thin feet which spread out at the toes. Sometimes the dog will be slack in pastern through lack of exercise, and the weight of the dog will then not be evenly distributed, but will press down on the back of the foot causing toes to turn up and the pads to become visible. The feet may be slightly turned outwards but should never turn towards each other (pin toed).

● TAIL

Continues line of spine, but slightly curved, without kinks or twists, not carried too high, or touching ground when at rest.

The tail set should follow the very slight drop of the croup and follow behind the dog in a gentle curve. If the tail is set on too high it is often carried too gaily which very much spoils the general appearance. In this case the tilt of the pelvis is also to blame, the whole rear end of the dog being at an incorrect angle. Roughly, the tail should just reach the ground if pulled down while the dog is standing.

● GAIT/MOVEMENT

Should be free and flowing. Stride should be long, with the drive coming from the hindquarters when viewed from the side. Viewed from in front or behind, the legs and feet should move parallel to each other with the distance apart being the width of the shoulder and hip joints respectively.

Movement is the acid test of all construction and a Dachshund should move with powerful ground covering strides showing forward reach and hind thrust while keeping the same outline it presented when standing. All too often the moving dog bears no relationship to the stationary one. The forechest disappears, the topline alters or the hind legs move forward under the dog, but not back beyond the perpendicular. Movement should not be only on the "out and back" method. A dog may present true both ways, but that is not much use if when viewed from the side it appears to be going nowhere fast with short restricted steps and frequently a different outline.

The Miniature varieties should present as a **Dachshund in Miniature** not merely a **Miniature Dachshund**. There is a big difference. A cute little dog that scuttles around the ring like a wind up clockwork toy just does not equate with Dachshund type.

● COAT

Smooth-Haired: Dense, short and smooth. Hair on underside of tail coarse in texture. Skin loose and supple, but fitting closely all over without dewlap and little or no wrinkle.

Long-Haired: Soft and straight, or only slightly waved; longest under neck, on underparts of body, and behind legs, where it forms abundant feathering, on tail where it forms a flag. Outsides of ears well feathered. Coat flat, and not obscuring outline. Too much hair on feet undesirable.

Wire-Haired: With exception of jaw, eyebrows, chin and ears, the whole body should be covered with a short, straight, harsh coat with dense undercoat, beard on the chin, eyebrows bushy, but hair on ears almost smooth. Legs and feet well but neatly furnished with harsh coat.

Being a hunting dog the coat must be fairly thick and strong. A soft or velvety coat in smooths is faulty. Suppleness of the whole skin is called for, but overmuch wrinkle on the front legs is undesirable, although a little does not matter very much.

Wire-haired – With the exception of the jaw, eyebrows and ears, the whole body is covered with a completely even, short, harsh coat and an undercoat. There should be a beard on the chin. The eyebrows are bushy. The hair on the ears is almost smooth. The main fault seen in the Wire-haired varieties is an over-abundance of coat which is generally of an incorrect soft, fluffy nature. At a distance the Wire-haired should look like a Smooth-haired except for the longer hair as stipulated in the coat description.

Long-haired – Soft and straight or slightly waved, of shining colour. Longer under the neck, the underparts of the body and particularly, on the ears, behind the legs, where it should develop into abundant feathering, and reach the greatest length on the tail, where it should form a flag. The feathering should extend to the outsides of the ears, where short hair is not desirable. Too heavy a coat gives an appearance of undue plumpness and hides the outline. The coat should be flat, not obscuring the outline, thus giving the dog an appearance of elegance. Too much hair on the feet is ugly and useless. The correct coat of this variety is very beautiful. It's soft oily texture gives the dog quite a good waterproofing. This coat must never be curly, fluffy or so thick as to mask the body of the dog and make him appear clumsy or coarse.

In the wire-haired and long-haired varieties of Dachshunds, the coat is the one thing that distinguishes them from smooth-haired. The coat, whether it be long or wire should be given great consideration by the judge, but true Dachshund conformation must not be sacrificed to coat.

● COLOUR

All colours permitted but no white permissible, save for a small patch on chest which is permitted but not desirable. The dapple pattern is expressed as lighter coloured areas contrasting with the darker base. Neither the light

nor the dark colours should predominate. Double Dapple (where varying amounts of white occurs all over the body in addition to the dapple pattern) is unacceptable Nose and nails black in all colours except chocolate/tan and chocolate/dapple, where they are brown.

There are potentially “lethal health risks with mating two dapples together. So called “double dapples” are at risk of being born blind and/or deaf. Dogs with large patches of white are no longer acceptable. Note that the nose and tails of chocolate/tan and chocolate/dapple should be brown not pink. It’s important that a personal colour preference must not be allowed to mar the judgement. From a glamour point of view there is no doubt that a bright clear red is eye-catching but all shades of red, right through to a pale fawn, are permissible. With the proviso that the points are dark. In black and tans it is preferable that the tan be rich and bright but not spreading over too great an area. There should not be so little tan on the black and tan dog that he appears sombre.

● **SIZE**

Ideal weight: 9-12 kgs (20-26 lbs). Miniature ideal weight; 4.5kgs (10lbs). Desired maximum weight 5kgs (11 lbs). Exhibits which appear thin and undernourished should be severely penalised.

● **FAULTS**

Any departure from the foregoing points, including desired body condition, should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

● **NOTE**

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Illustrated Standard of Points of The Dachshund of ALL Varieties with explanatory notes by John Feetham Sayers and diagrams by J P Sayers published by The Dachshund Club UK 1939. Thanks to the Dachshund Club UK for permission to use the diagrams.

The Interpretation of The Standard of the Dachshund. A lecture prepared by the late Jacqueline Reading for the RAS Kennel Control Training Scheme. Published in The Dachshund Club of NSW 1973 Handbook.

The Show Dachshund Notes on its History an Correct Movement by Robert Cole and Dr Sylvia Kershaw 1992 Printed by Will Malin, Carmenthen ISBN 0-9520649-0-1.

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Eye illustrations by Paula Bockman-Chato