

# The COAT of the DACHSHUND

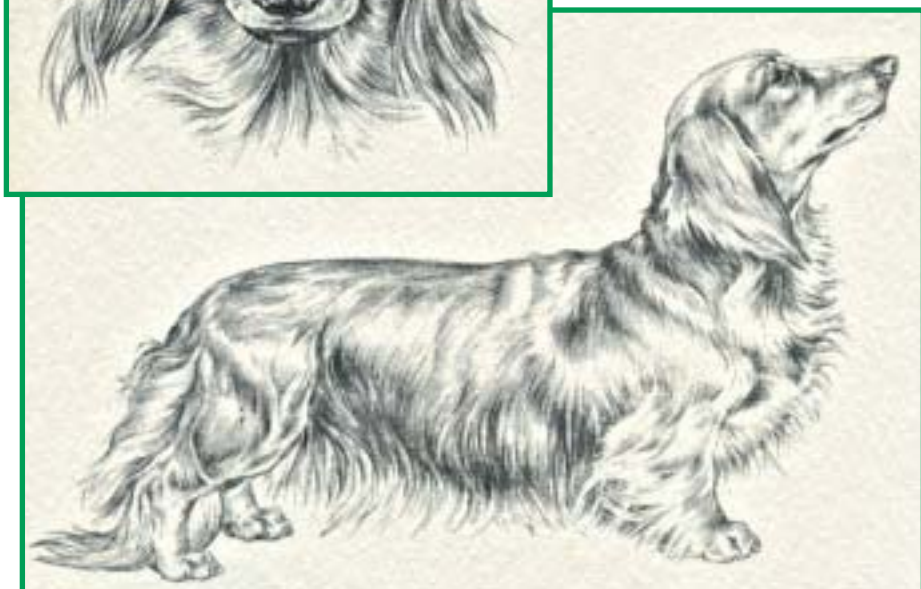
There are six sub-varieties in Dachshunds, differentiated by coat and weight. At a first glance all six varieties would appear to have the one basic dog as mould, only differentiating in weight or coat. This in effect is not quite so, eg a perfect smooth would not make a perfect long hair just by adding furnishings.

The three coat varieties are smooth-, wire- and long-haired, the smooth being the most popular and numerous by far in Australia and England. This is not the case in Europe, where the wire and long-haired varieties outnumber the very few and poor types of smooth haired



Presented by  
The Dachshund Club of NSW

Drawings by  
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## The Long Haired Dachshund

With this variety especially, one could not take a perfect smooth haired Dachshund and tack on the required furnishings etc and expect a perfect long.

The short, close coat of the smooth hides nothing of the outline of the body, where as the fuller coat of the long haired must detract in some measure from the apparent length of the head, neck and body. To counter that we need extra length in those parts, to give the impression of length, lowness and symmetry.

A smooth can possibly get away with a little stuffiness, particularly if black and tan, but in a long haired this slight stuffiness would appear an obvious fault. The long hair on the ear bases will accentuate any thickness of skull or shortness of head and the frill on the sides of the neck make even a reasonably long neck appear cluttered and stocky.

In this variety length is of special importance, as in fineness of head. Overlowness to ground in a smooth can be "got away with"; not with a long hair, as the long coat would trail in the dirt.

The bone of a long hair must be very heavy, otherwise the dog will appear effeminate and fragile. His weight may be a little heavier than the smooth. At any rate, the long hair variety is about the only one in Australia, which still retains the heavy bone and beautiful thick, padded feet that all varieties should have, but have all but lost.

The standard describes the coat as follows: soft and straight or slightly waved, of shining colour (must appear to be slightly oily and wet R.S.), longer under the neck, on the underparts of the body and particularly on the ears and behind the legs, where it should develop into abundant feathering and reach the greatest length on the tail, where it should form a flay. The feathering should extend to the outsides of the ears, where short hair is not desired.

Too heavy a coat gives an appearance of undue plumpness and hides the outline. The coat should resemble that of an Irish Setter, giving the dog an appearance of elegance. Too much hair on the feet is ugly and useless.

The colour of the coat is black and tan, dark brown with lighter shadings, dark red, light red, dapple, tiger marked or brindle. In black and tan, red and dapple dogs the nose and nails should be black; in chocolate dogs they are often brown.

The long haired variety is sometimes used for hunting water birds, as its thick oily coat seems to make the dog impervious to rain and water generally. As with the wires, the ideally coated long hair may be slow in acquiring a coat.



## The Smooth Haired Dachshund

The coat must be short, dense and smooth, but strong. The hair on the underside of the tail coarse in texture, skin loose and supple, but fitting the dog closely all over (like a glove), without much wrinkle; it should be slightly oily in appearance, which helps to protect the dog in all weather.

The colour:- any colour other than white (except a white spot on breast); nose and nails should be black. In red dogs a red nose is permissible but not desirable. I think our show dogs have come a long way, that we would no longer have to consider such an animal for a prize. In chocolates and dapples the nose may be brown or flesh coloured.

In dapples large spots of colour are undesirable and the dog should be evenly dappled all over. Although colour in Dachshunds is of minor importance according to the standard, pure, rich colour adds much to the general appearance of the exhibit.



## The Wire Haired Dachshund

The coat of the wire haired Dachshund is unique. With the exception of the jaw, eyebrows and ears, the whole body is covered with a completely even, short, harsh coat and undercoat. There should be a beard on the chin and the eyebrows are bushy. The hair on the ear is almost smooth!

The wire should, when viewed at a short distance, appear smooth except for his furnishings. To the touch the coat feels harsh, strong and pliant. When rubbed the wrong way the coat will fall back into place when one takes one's hand away. If it does not, then the length and textures will not be correct.

The body coat is completely even, no appearance of roughness and raggedness. The coat should only be longer over the eyes, on jaws, sides of neck, front of chest, back of forelegs.

The coat must be double. Beneath the wiry top coat there should be a close, dense undercoat. This may be seen by raising the top coat, when it will appear as a rather softer, shorter, paler covering, so dense that the skin cannot be seen. A double coat of this kind is an efficient protection against underbrush and scrubs.

Wherever the slightly longer coat is permitted, it should still be harsh and fairly short. A good coat needs little trimming.

The ideal harsh, short, flat, double coat must be bred. A single coated dog must be heavily penalised and a judge must run his hand through the coat to assess if the wire has the correct coat. The correct coat may take up to two years to come and at one year the dog may appear to have almost the coat of a Smooth by sight, but the "feel" should be correct.