

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 pleasing curving outlines of Dachshunds.

The unwritten law, mentioned earlier, which has decreed that the Dachshund shall have straight front legs is not written into the Standard in any variety. In discussing both the lower arm and the feet, the Standard uses the word '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.** Long and muscular, the line of the back slightly depressed at the shoulders and slightly arched over the loin, which should be short and strong; outline of the belly moderately tucked up. What is required is a general levelness of the back, the hindquarters (the rump) not being higher than the shoulders."

Here again the word 'slightly' is used twice. The slight depression at the shoulder should not be more than the continuation of the slight slope off from the top of the shoulders, after which the line follows fairly levelly with a slight, well muscled rise over the loin. This slight muscled arch gives a pliability to 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 dogs, and is often carried away from the body in a hook shape known as a '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 I mentioned under the heading 'Forequarters', the rib cage is oval and the ribs should extend right back to a short loin. A long rib cage 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 rib cage. If the dog is carrying a fair amount of weight, this cut up may not be 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 rib cage, 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 he trunk must also be strong and with no suggestion of slackness.

**HINDQUARTERS.** Rump round, full, broad; muscles hard and plastic; hip bone or pelvic bone not too short, broad and strongly developed, set moderately sloping, thigh bones strong and of good length, and joined to pelvis at right angles; lower thighs short in comparison with other animals; hocks well developed and seen from behind the legs should be straight (not cow-hocked). The dog should not appear higher at the quarters than at the shoulders."



The angles at which the bones are jointed 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.

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 hock bone is not vertical to the ground but slopes so that the feet are under the body (in this instance the hock bone is generally too long and the hind action lacks drive); barrel hocks, in which 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 dog to be higher at the rear than at the shoulder.

**FEET.** The front feet should be full, broad and close-knit, and straight or very slightly turned outwards, the hind feet smaller and narrower. The toes must be close together, with a decided arch to each toe, with strong, regularly-placed nails and firm pads. The dog must stand true, ie equally on all parts of the foot.

There is not much to add here except to touch upon some faulty types of foot 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).

Dewclaws are permitted on the front feet but not on the hind feet.

**TAIL.** Set on fairly high, strong and tapering, but not too long and not too curved or carried too high.

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.

**COAT.** Smooth-haired – 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, without much wrinkle.

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 I do not think a little 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 except for the longer hair as stipulated in the coat description.

Long-haired – Soft and straight or slightly waved, of shining colour. Long 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 a short hair is not desirable. 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 correct coat of this variety is very beautiful. Its soft and 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, apart from some difference in weight, the coat is the one thing that distinguishes them from the Smooth, but true

Dachshund conformation must not be sacrificed for the coat.

**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. 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.

The first paragraph in this section is all-important and a personal preference must not be allowed to mar 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 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 that he appears sombre.

**WEIGHT.** Dogs should not exceed 11.34kg (25lbs). Bitches should not exceed 10.43kg (23lbs), (Smooth-haired). It is recommended that dogs weigh from 9kg (20lbs) to 10kg (22lbs) and bitches from 8kg (18lbs) to 9kg (20lbs), (Wire-haired). As a rule Long-haired Dachshund are classified as follows: Middle weight up to 7.71kg (17lbs) for bitches and 8.16kg (18lbs) for dogs. Heavy weight over 7.71kg (17lbs) for bitches and over 8.16kg (18lbs) for dogs. The middle weights are best suited for badger and fox drawing and the heavy weights for tracking or hunting larger animals and for water work. The last named are also very useful for retrieving rabbits and waterfowl, (Long-haired). Weight must not exceed 5kg (11lb), (Miniature Smooth-haired).

It will be noted that there are different weight requirements for each of the standard varieties. The heavy weight bracket in Long-hairs sets no maximum limit. This cannot be carried to ridiculous lengths, such as a 23kg (50lbs) dog. Long-hairs are generally acceptable at about the same weight as Smooth-haired.

The miniatures of all coats are strictly limited to a maximum of 5kg (11lbs). Miniature Long-haired are given an ideal weight of even less – "from 3.17kg – 4.57kg (7-9lbs)". However, in Australia, where scales are not in use in the ring, the miniature weight can only be guessed at, and this can often put the judge in a quandary. At no time should Dachshund type be sacrificed to size and a good but perhaps slightly overweight dog should be favoured before a poor specimen of under 5kg (11lbs). However, because of their very nature, miniatures must be small . . .

### To the Dachshund Judge

A Dachshund's life is lived quite low,  
And when he's standing there on show  
His vantage point is down to earth  
And thus he views with little mirth  
The judge who swoops to have a feel  
Of length of rib or depth of keel.  
He doesn't know if friend or foe  
Is reaching down to have a go,  
And so, of course, he feels inclined  
To shy from what might prove unkind.

So if a Dachie's on the ground  
And that's the time you're duty-bound  
To check the way his shoulder's laid  
Or see just how his hocks are made,  
Keep your reputation pure  
And your Dachshund entries sure;  
Prove you're au fait, show you're able:  
Put that Dachie on the table.

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