

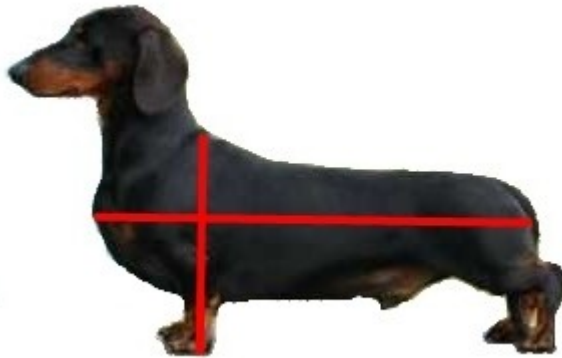
## Dachshund Breed Council

### A quick guide to judging the Dachshund

When looking at a Dachshund you should always bear in mind its working origins; it should be able to do a day's work. Exaggeration of any form is to be avoided. The Dachshund is not a breed where 'more is better'.

The Dachshund comes in two sizes: Standard and Miniature, and three coats: Smooth, Long and Wire. With the exception of size and coat, the Breed Standard is the same for all six varieties.

**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.



*This dog has the correct (2:1) proportions.*



Bold, defiant carriage of head and intelligent expression.

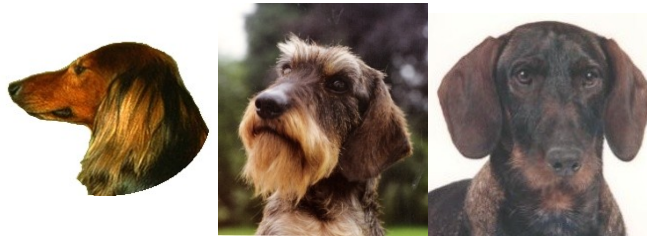
**Head:** Long, appearing conical when seen from above; from the side, it tapers uniformly to the tip of the nose.

**Eyes:** Medium size, almond-shaped, set obliquely. Dark except in Chocolates, where they can be lighter. In Dapples, one or both 'wall' eyes is permissible.

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

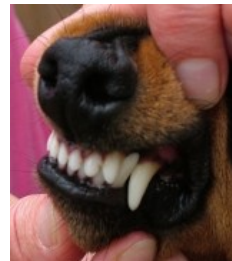
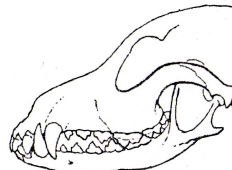
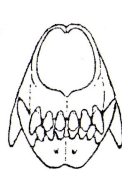


In Wire-haireders particularly, the ridges over the eyes are strongly prominent, giving the appearance of a slightly broader skull.



Lips well stretched, neatly covering lower jaw. Strong jaw bones, not too square or snipy, but opening wide.

**Teeth:** Strongly developed powerful canine teeth fitting closely. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Complete dentition is important, i.e. 42 teeth.



**Neck:** Long, muscular and clean with no dewlap. Slightly arched, running in graceful lines into shoulders. Carried proudly forward.

**Body:** Moderately long and full-muscled. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably level, blending harmoniously between the withers and a slightly arched loin. Loin short and strong. Breastbone strong and so prominent that a depression appears on either side of it in front. Well ribbed-up, underline gradually merging into the line of the abdomen. Body sufficiently clear of the ground to allow free movement.

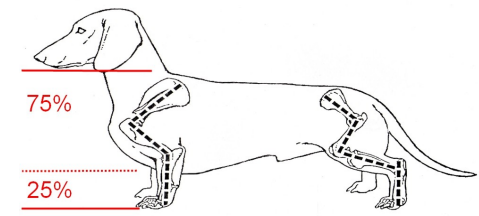


*This dog is too long and lacks ground clearance.*



*This dog is too deep in body and lacks ground clearance.*

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. The height from the withers to the bottom of the keel should be approximately 75 per cent of the total height from the withers to the ground.





When viewed from in front, thorax full and oval; when viewed from the side or above, full-volumed, so allowing by its ample capacity complete development of the heart and lungs.



**Forequarters:** Shoulder-blades long, broad, and placed firmly and obliquely (45 degrees to the horizontal) upon a very robust ribcage. 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 the ribs, but is able to move freely. Forearm short and strong in bone, inclining slightly inwards. When seen in profile it is moderately straight, and must not bend forward or knuckle over, which indicates unsoundness. Correctly placed foreleg should cover the lowest point of the keel.



**Hindquarters:** Rump full, broad and strong with pliant muscles. Croup long, full, robustly muscled, only slightly sloping towards the tail. Pelvis strong, set obliquely and not too short. Upper thigh set at right angles to the pelvis; strong and of good length. Lower

thigh short, set at right angles to upper thigh and well-muscled. Legs when seen from behind are set well apart, straight, and parallel.

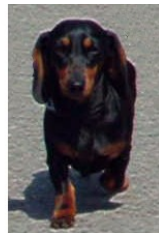


The tail continues the line of the spine, but is slightly curved, without kinks or twists. It is not carried too high or touching the ground when at rest.

**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.



**Coat – Smooth:** Dense, short and smooth. Skin loose and supple, but fitting closely all over without dewlap and little or no wrinkle.

**Coat – Long:** Soft and straight, or only slightly waved. Longest under the neck, on underparts of the body and behind the legs, where it forms abundant feathering and on the tail where it forms a flag. Outside of ears well feathered. Coat flat and not obscuring the outline.

**Coat – Wire:** With the 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 the ears is almost smooth. Legs and feet well but neatly furnished, with harsh coat.

**Temperament:** Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness. Obedient. Faithful, versatile and good-tempered. Dogs that are nervous or aggressive should be seriously penalised by judges.

**Size:** Standards' ideal weight: 9-12 kg (20-26 lbs). Excessively large dogs are far removed from their working origins, would struggle to do a day's work and should be penalised by judges.

Minatures' ideal weight: 4.5 kg (10 lbs). Desired maximum weight 5 kg (11 lbs). Any Miniature that appears thin or under-nourished should be severely penalised by judges.

**Advice for breeders and judges:**

*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 the breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.*

Please refer to the full Kennel Club Breed Standard – this document only presents a summary.