

DBC News

February 2012

Dachshund Breed Council



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It's a Dachs Life! – Breed Survey 2012

Please help us find out how healthy and long-lived your Dachshunds are.

We are now into Month 2 of our 2012 Breed Health Survey. Dachs-Life 2012 went live on January 1st 2012 and runs until 31st March 2012. Send your forms back as soon as possible AFTER 31st March.

Download the Survey [here](#).

Please complete a Survey Form for each of your Dachshunds – **we need data on healthy dogs** as well as those with health problems. **Forms should be completed during January, February and March and returned in April.**

Dachshund Longevity

How long will my Dachshund live? That's a question we'd all like to be able to answer and, of course, the answer is "it depends"! Here is a snapshot of the age of death and their causes from the reports we have received over the past two years.

- ♣ The oldest Dachshund reported to have died of old age was 19
- ♣ The average age of death due to Neurological (Spinal) problems was 6.1 (24 dogs out of 60 reports)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Gastro-intestinal problems was 7.5 (2, 7)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Cardiac problems was 8.7 (12, 24)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Cancer was 10.0 (10, 13)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Neurological (Non-spinal) problems (Epilepsy, Lafora) was 10.2 (10, 22)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Hepatic System problems (Liver) was 11.9 (2, 3)
- ♣ The average age of death due to Endocrine System problems (Cushing's) was 13 (3, 7)

If your Dachshund has died, for whatever reason including old age, or been diagnosed with a health problem, please submit a report [here](#).

Lafora Disease

The Wirehaired Dachshund Club has continued to [publish updated information](#) on the status of the Lafora Screening Programme on its website. On 21st January, the latest announcement was as follows:

As you are all aware, Centogene have had major difficulties completing the testing on the samples we have sent so far. Because of the considerable delays, we have decided to ask the Canadian research facility if they can complete all the swabs we currently have, and for future testing. We are in discussion with Canada to finalise costings, timescales and the possibility of a blood or saliva based carrier test. In the first instance we aim to

have a complete set of affected / unaffected results from the swabs sent in so far as soon as possible.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and confirm that we are doing everything we can to get the tests turned around within as short a timescale as possible. As soon as we have any news at all, it will be published here. Individual queries can be directed to any of the team members.

Nora Price: laforatesting@mypostoffice.co.uk

Sue Holt: Susan.Holt@talktalk.net

Nina Dible: poodax@supanet.com

Gill Key: gillkey@btinternet.com

Ian Seath: ian@sunsong.co.uk

Nora Price and Sue Holt have been contacting everyone still waiting for test results to ensure they are aware of the latest information.

The Club has also [published a spreadsheet](#) summarising all the available Mini Wire Dachshund Lafora test results, plus a list of those dogs whose results are still awaited. This is a combined list of results from 2010's Canadian tests and 2011's German tests.

The spreadsheet is colour-coded and identifies:

- ♣ Those dogs tested as "Affected"
- ♣ Dogs tested as "Not Affected" but which could possibly be Carriers
- ♣ Dogs that are at least "Carriers" and maybe "Affected", by deduction from the test results.
- ♣ Dogs whose test results have not yet been provided by Centogene (the German test lab)

In the absence of a full carrier test, the advice on breeding remains that:

- ♣ It is advised NOT to use affected animals for breeding.
- ♣ Through pedigree analysis, endeavour to use assumed "clear" animals on known carriers, therefore reducing the risk of producing affected animals.
- ♣ Carrier to carrier matings WILL produce some affected stock (refer to the guide on this site) and therefore these matings are not desirable. However, if breeders choose to mate two known carriers, all puppies from such matings should be saliva tested so that their new owners can be told their Lafora status.

PRA cord1 in Miniature Dachshunds

DNA testing for cord1 PRA is now an Assured Breeder Scheme Requirement for all three varieties of Miniature Dachshund.

The Miniature Dachshund Club, on behalf of the Breed Council, monitors cord1 test results reported in the KC's Breed Records Supplement and identifies all breeders who have produced litters where there are cord1 Affected puppies. Since we believe there is no excuse for breeding with untested dogs and producing Affected puppies, the KC is then asked to send an advisory/warning letter to these breeders.

Download the Breed Council's information sheet on cord1 PRA [here](#).

Download a pictorial guide to the genetics of cord1 PRA [here](#).

Breed Conference 22nd April 2012

The Breed Council will be running a Breed Conference on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at Acton Trussell, near Stafford. More than 30 places have already been booked, so if you want to attend, get your

[Booking Form](#) in quickly. The day costs £20 (the same price as our 2009 Conference) and includes refreshments and lunch.

We held our first Breed Conference in November 2009 and, since then, we have implemented lots of new approaches to help improve the health of Dachshunds. In 2011, the KarltonIndex carried out an independent review of the work being done across UK breeds and identified the Dachshund community as “pack leaders”. However, we still have lots of challenges and plenty more work to do. This conference is an opportunity to find out how you can help improve further.

Ron James will give the KC's perspective on health improvement, particularly in relation to judges' and exhibitors' responsibilities at shows. If you're confused about Clears, Carriers and Affecteds from DNA test results and how to use them to reduce health problems, Hannah Stephenson (Liverpool University) will answer all your questions, as well as explaining the significance of genetic diversity. Helen Geeson (Abydachs Longs/Mini Longs) will demystify the genetics of Dachshund coats and colours so you can work out why you're getting Red puppies, or recessive Smooth coats. Philippa Robinson (KarltonIndex) will challenge us to up our game, despite being Pack Leaders in the 2011 KarltonIndex. Claudia Busse (Animal Health Trust) will explain eye diseases that particularly affect Dachshunds and how to deal with them. Elsa Beltran (Animal Health Trust) will explain the challenges of diagnosing canine epilepsy and update us on the research work being done to identify the causes.

[Download a Booking Form here.](#)

If you can't attend, we hope to be able to film all the presentations and make a DVD available.

Crufts and Discover Dogs

Crufts takes place between March 8th and 11th, with Dachshunds being shown on Sunday 11th. Once again, thanks to the Midland Dachshund Club, Discover Dogs will be showcasing Dachshunds for all four days of the show.

This is a really important opportunity for us to help educate the public about Dachshunds and provide breed-specific information to enable potential Dachshund owners to make the right decision and find a responsible breeder.

To support this, we have published a new, free, (pdf) e-book: [Buying and Owning a Dachshund](#) which has 44 pages of advice on how to find a reputable breeder and tips on living with a Dachshund.

There are also two online presentations which you can view or download:

- [Buying a Dachshund](#)
- [Owning a Dachshund](#)

Seminar and A2 Assessment

East Yorkshire DC and West Riding DC will be running a Breed Seminar and A2 Assessment on Saturday May 5th in Selby, N. Yorkshire. To qualify for a place on the A2 Assessment part of the day, you must already have judged at least 150 Dachshunds. To book a place at either the Assessment or Seminar, contact Katherine Herrington: katherine.herrington@yahoo.co.uk

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E-mail: secretary@dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

Website: <http://www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk>

Health Website: <http://www.dachshundhealth.org.uk>

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