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**Dachshunds** are energetic, lovable small dogs known for their short legs, varied coat textures, and strong prey drive. Originally bred in Germany for hunting, dachshunds are protective and make excellent watchdogs, though their loud bark might be bothersome. They are prone to certain health issues like intervertebral disc disease and diabetes, requiring attentive care and regular exercise to prevent obesity. The dachshund (pronounced dahks-hund) is an energetic and lovable small dog breed from Germany. It is known for its varied coat textures and colors, short legs, floppy ears, and prominent chest. This dog is affectionately called a *doxie*, *wiener dog*, *hotdog*, or *sausage dog*, and this cute pint-size breed definitely leaves a lasting impression. The dachshund is bred as standard or miniature-size, but the traits of this breed are similar for both. Learn all about the dachshund, including their temperament, care needs, and more.GROUP: HoundHEIGHT: 8 to 9 inches (standard); 5 to 6 inches (miniature)WEIGHT: 16 to 32 pounds (standard); up to 11 pounds (miniature)COAT: Varieties include smooth (shorthaired), longhaired, and wire-hairedCOAT COLOR: Colors include (but not limited to) black, tan, fawn, beige, blue, chocolate, and red with various markings such as dapple, piebald, brindle, and sableLIFE SPAN: 12 to 16 yearsTEMPERAMENT: Clever, playful, stubborn, devoted, lively, independent, courageousHYPOALLERGENIC: NOORIGIN: GermanyThe dachshund can be a loving companion, lapdog, and even a family dog. Despite their size, the dachshund tends to be quite protective and alert, so the breed can also make an excellent watchdog. They bark loudly, though, so they can disturb your neighbors if you live close to them. Even though their bark can alert you to things going on in your home, it might also be welcome. Affection: Friendly, Friendly, Friendly, FriendlyNeeds: Moderate, HighEnergy Level: MediumTrainability: MediumIntelligence: MediumTendency to Bark: HighAmount of Shedding: MediumThe dachshund originated in Germany as a hunting dog. Though their origins can be traced as far back as the 15th century, the breed's development really began in 17th century Germany. Called dachshunds, which translates as "badger dogs," these short hounds did just thatthey hunted badgers. Their stature, determination, and independence were ideal for digging, entering tunnels, and of course, fighting badgers. Their flap-down ears help keep dirt and debris out when burrowing. Further development of the breed created two sizes. Historically, the standard size continued to hunt badgers as well as wild boar, but the miniatures pursued hare and foxes. There's also a middle-size dachshund in Germany. Dachshunds were brought to the U.S. as early as 1885 when the breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), but increased in popularity in the 1930s and 1940s. To prevent them from being ostracized during World War II, they were temporarily called badger dogs in the U.S. They remain extremely popular dogs to this day. Dachshund races, known as "wiener races," are popular in some places for amusement. However, these are opposed by the Dachshund Club of America out of concerns over whether racing might injure the dogs. A wiener dog named Waldi was the mascot of the 1972 Summer Olympics because they were held in Germany. The "Pup of the Year," a dachshund named Simon, with his trophy at London Zoo, 1979.Credit: Doxies are tenacious, which was good in hunting dogs, but they might annoy you with this trait at home. The propensity to dig may result in damage to your potted plants and yard. Keep that in mind and provide alternative activities for your pet. Dachshunds have a high prey drive, so they may not be a good match for a household that includes pet rodents or other small animals. They usually get along well with other dachshunds in the house, but tend to want to be the top dog in their pet household. They are usually not naturally prone to develop obesity. To avoid weight gain, your dachshund should get regular exercise daily. Walks are recommended, with a couple of 10-minute walks per minimum, plus some playtime, such as playing fetch. But proper nutrition is also key and you should be sure to avoid overfeeding. The grooming needs of the dachshund depend upon their hair coat. The long-haired variety requires daily brushing but does not typically need professional grooming. Smooth dachshunds have a higher shedding rate than other varieties. All dachshunds should receivebathsas needed (frequently if skin problems exist). And when its cold outside, your doxie might benefit from wearing a sweater that will keep them warm. Be sure to do regularlman trimsin order to prevent problemswith the paws. Those flap-down ears also need attention, so keep clean and monitor for signs of infection or mites. Maintain good oral hygiene by brushing your dog's teeth a couple of times a week. While loved for their bold personality, the dachshund may have a tendency to be stubborn, protective, and defensive. Many dachshunds are also known for their tendency to bark. Properobediencetrainingcan turn these potential problems into beneficial qualities. Dachshunds can be difficult to housebreak. You will need to be persistent and you may wish to use crate training. Be prepared with puppy pads and cleaning supplies. Responsible breedersstrive to maintain the highest breed standards as established by kennel clubs like the AKC. Dogs bred by these standards are less likely to inherit health conditions. However, some hereditary health problems can occur in the breed. The following are some conditions to be aware of:Intervertebral disc disease: You'll need to take care to protect your dachshund's back. As many as 25% of dachshunds have intervertebral disc disease, which can result in their spinal discs deteriorating and being susceptible to bulging when they have back strain or injury. Diets of melons: This is a common problem in young and older dogs who have abnormal responses to insulin. Excessive eating can cause weight loss and the early symptoms ofEpilepsy. This disease of the brain causes seizures in dogs. There are known causes of this disease. Some dilation-volus. Commonly known as bloot, this emergency problem typically occurs in larger breeds, but dachshunds have large chests which put them at risk for this problem, too. The stomach cavity becomes trapped with gas or air that the dog cannot expel.Acanthosis nigricans: Portions of the dog's skin can become darkened and thickened. This disease may be caused by allergies or hormones, and it can be controlled. Credit: The Spruce / Kelly MillerThe amount of food needed will depend on the size of your dachshund, activity level, age, and other factors. Be sure to provide high-quality food and monitor your dog's intake and weight. Take action early if you notice your dog is getting overweight and talk to your veterinarian about the appropriate feeding schedule, type of food, and amount to keep your dog at a healthy weight. This will help your dog achieve their natural life span. Dachshund puppies are popular so expect to pay between \$500 to \$1,500 for this dog from a breeder. Keep in mind that if you do find a dachshund that is described as having a rare color or rare markings, such as a "fawn (Isabella)" or "double dapple" dachshund, they may have health issues. Breeding this dog for looks without considering health issues is unethical and unsafe. Further research can help you identify a truly rare but healthy dog or one that may be compromised. If you think you'd like to adopt a dachshund, start by contacting a reputable organization such as: "These groups will be able to provide guidance and the next steps for adoption. If you aren't certain the breed is right for you, you may be able to try foster care to test if a dachshund is a good fit for your home on a trial basis. Dachshunds can make wonderful companions for the right people. These affectionate dogs are protective and loyal. But they also need plenty of love. Smooth-coated dachshunds are popular for apartments and small homes sensitive to cold weather. Dogs that Tolerate Hot WeatherDoes not Tolerate Hot WeatherWellGood for First-Time Pet OwnersGood with KidsGood with Other DogsDachshunds are loyal, but be sure to do plenty of research before obtaining one. Talk to other dachshund dog parents, reputable breeders, and dachshund rescue groups to learn more. If you are interested in comparing similar breeds, check these for pros and cons:BeagleMiniature Schnauzer There are many different dog breedsout there. With a little research, you can find the right one to bring home.FAQWith proper socialization and training, dachshunds can be good family pets. They can get along with children who know how to interact with them gently, and can live with other dogs. However, because of their prey drive, they might not be suitable for homes with small pets.Depending on your location and availability, dachshund puppies cost anywhere from \$500 to \$2000.Dapple dachshunds have a dappled coat of many colors; it's more like a swirled or dotted pattern on top of a solid coat.Piebald dachshunds have cream or white coats, with spots and patches on top of that.The heart of a warrior beats strongly in this little pup. Your Dachshund will likely think they're on patrol, alerting you to very important things going on in the neighborhooda new delivery person, the paperboy, a rogue squirrel on the doorstep. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, your Dachshund never quite got over the instinct that they are here to help you out.This may seem like serious business, but your Doxie (or wiener dog or sausage dog, as they're adorably known) becomes a mischievous, silly pup the moment you're ready to play a game that gets their tail swishing like a windshield wiper.Remember: Dogs are individuals and not all dogs, even those of the same breed, will exhibit all the same qualities.Exercise NeedsHealth IssuesGrooming NeedsTraining NeedsRequires Minimal TrainingRequires a Lot of TrainingShedding LevelFitGood for Apartments and Small HomesSensitive to Cold WeatherDoes not Tolerate Hot WeatherWellGood for First-Time Pet OwnersGood with KidsGood with Other DogsDachshunds tend to be a fault to a fault to their human family, but they're also independent thinkers who need pet parents who understand them. These multifaceted pups are not always the biggest fans of other dogs or cats (though some might not mind). They usually do best in homes without babies or younger kids, since they have very fragile necks and backs and need to be handled carefully to avoid injuries.If you do have kids, a Dachshund is doable, but keep in mind that a child who plays too roughly could seriously injure your Doxie. Early socialization and training is very important, and you should always supervise kids and Dachshunds together. These confident pups like to bark, so if you have an apartment with neighbors coming and going, a certified dog trainer can work with you using positive reinforcement to help your Doxie realize that they don't always have to be on high alert.If you have a yard, your Doxie will love to spend time therewith supervision, of course. Because the instincts of their ancestors are still alive in their brave little heart, they might try to keep small animals off your property. They'll have to learn to share space with squirrels and other wildlife. They also might try to dig holes to try dig holes to critters underground, so give them other outlets to dig.Indoors, Dachshunds are clever detectives who might unlock the mystery of how to eat the food you've set aside or forgotten to put awayso be careful with that leftover pizza.These pups arent couch potatoes, but they also arent hyperactive, and their short legs arent meant for intense exercise. Instead, Doxies will enjoy a casual walk every day and appreciate having time to take in new smells outdoors.Dachshunds origins date back more than 600 years to Germany, where they were bred to hunt badgers. In fact, their name is German for "sausage dog." Their narrow, wedge-shaped body was bred to slip into the holes of burrowing and tracking small game. Rabbit Dachshunds are particularly energetic and have a strong prey drive, which means they love to chase small animals and are always on the go. Due to their small size and energy, Rabbit Dachshunds are usually 1632 pounds and 89 inches tall. There is no such thing as a teacup Dachshund. WorldAnimalFoundation.org is reader-supported. When you buy through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. Learn More Dachshunds, often affectionately known as wiener dogs or weenie dogs, are a beloved and instantly recognizable breed known for their long bodies, short legs, and delightful personalities. Originally bred to hunt small animals like badgers and rabbits, their strong prey drive, bravery, and independent streak make them unique companions. Whether you are an experienced dog owner or a first-time pet parent, the Dachshund breed offers something special. From their playful antics to their loyal nature, these dogs have become cherished family pets across the world. Dachshunds come in a variety of types that differ in size, coat types, and personality traits. Understanding these variations is essential in choosing the right dog for your home. With three primary coat types and multiple sizes, the Dachshund can adapt to a variety of living situations, whether in an apartment or a home with a yard. In this guide, we'll explore the different types of Dachshunds, their needs, and how to choose the right companion for you. According to the AKC, the Dachshund breed offers a unique set of characteristics across its various types, from the energetic Miniature Dachshund to the elegant Long-Haired Dachshund. While all Dachshunds share certain traits, such as their independent nature and strong prey drive, the differences in coat types, size, and grooming requirements can help potential owners make an informed decision. Miniature Dachshunds are small and energetic, ideal for active individuals or families. Long-haired dachshunds have a calm temperament but require more grooming. Smooth-coated dachshunds are low-maintenance companions. Long-haired dachshunds are elegant and regal, but they require more grooming. Wire-haired dachshunds are energetic and playful, but they require more grooming. When choosing the right Dachshund, its important to consider several factors. The first thing to think about is the size of the dog. Standard Dachshunds are larger and weigh between 16 and 32 pounds, while Miniature Dachshunds typically weigh under 11 pounds. A smaller dog may be easier to manage in a smaller living space, but both types still require exercise and mental stimulation. Next, consider the coat type. If you prefer a low-maintenance companion, the Smooth Dachshund might be ideal due to its minimal grooming needs. However, if youre willing to invest time in grooming, the Long-Haired or Wire-Haired Dachshund could be a great choice. These dogs require more frequent brushing, but their coats are unique and beautiful. Additionally, keep in mind the dogs personality traits. Dachshunds can be stubborn and independent, so training will require patience and consistency. However, they are intelligent and can thrive in homes where they are given plenty of mental and physical stimulation. The Standard Dachshund is the original version of the breed and is typically the first dog that comes to mind when most people think of a Dachshund. These dogs usually weigh between 16 and 32 pounds, with their long bodies and short legs making them instantly recognizable. Historically bred as hunting dogs, they were used to track down small prey like rabbits and badgers, giving them a fearless, strong-willed personality. Despite their small size, they possess a lot of energy and courage. Standard Dachshunds are highly intelligent dogs, but they can be independent and a bit stubborn, making training a challenge. Early socialization is key to ensuring that these dogs are well-behaved and content in new environments. They are loyal to their families and enjoy being the center of attention. However, due to their long spines, they are more prone to back issues like intervertebral disc disease. It is essential to keep them at a healthy weight, avoid excessive jumping, and ensure they get regular exercise to stay fit and healthy. The Standard Dachshund comes in three main coat types: smooth, long-haired, and wire-haired, each with its own grooming needs. Regardless of coat type, they all share similar personalities: fun-loving, and incredibly affectionate. With the proper training and care, Standard Dachshunds can make excellent family pets. Miniature Dachshunds are a smaller variation of the breed, typically weighing under 11 pounds. Though smaller in size, they share the same strong personality traits as their larger counterparts. These dogs were also bred for hunting, but their focus was on smaller animals like rabbits and badgers, but their focus was on smaller animals. Despite their small stature, Miniature Dachshunds are brave, curious, and highly energetic. They have a confident nature and often believe they are much bigger than they really are, which makes them excellent watchdogs. Training Miniature Dachshunds can be challenging, as they tend to be independent and can have a stubborn streak. However, they are incredibly intelligent and can be taught commands with patience and consistency. These dogs do best in homes where they are given plenty of attention, mental stimulation, and regular exercise. Because of their size, they are well-suited for apartment living but still require daily walks and playtime to stay healthy and happy. According to ASPCA, Miniature Dachshunds come in a variety of coat types, including smooth, long-haired, and wire-haired. Smooth-coated Miniature Dachshunds require minimal grooming, while long-haired and wire-haired varieties need more attention. Regardless of coat type, these dogs are highly adaptable and affectionate, making them a great choice for families or individuals who can provide them with the care and attention they need. A rare variation of the Dachshund, the Rabbit Dachshund is a small, lightweight dog that typically weighs under 10 pounds. While not officially recognized as a separate breed, these tiny Dachshunds have been bred to be good for hunting and tracking small game. Rabbit Dachshunds are particularly energetic and have a strong prey drive, which means they love to chase small animals and are always on the go. Due to their small size and energy, Rabbit Dachshunds are best suited for families who are prepared to provide them with plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. They may require more frequent meals to keep up with their energy demands, and because of their smaller size, they may also be more vulnerable to health issues like heart problems and joint issues. Like other Dachshunds, Rabbit Dachshunds can be independent and stubborn, so early training and socialization are essential. Although not officially classified as a separate type by major kennel clubs, Rabbit Dachshunds can come in different coat typesmooth, long-haired, or wire-haired. Their size and energetic nature make them a bit more difficult to handle, so they are not always recommended for first-time dog owners. Smooth Dachshunds, also known as smooth-coated Dachshunds, are the most common type of the breed. These dogs have a sleek, shiny coat that lies flat against the body, making them relatively low-maintenance when it comes to grooming. Their short, smooth coats come in various colors and patterns, including the popular black and tan and the rare double dapple dachshund variety. While their coat doesnt require much care, these dogs still need regular exercise and mental stimulation to stay healthy and happy. As per Purina, Smooth Dachshunds are intelligent dogs with an independent nature, which can make training a challenge. They are known for being loyal, but they can also be a bit stubborn, requiring patience and consistency in training. Early socialization is important to ensure they grow up to be well-adjusted and well-behaved dogs. Though they arent as energetic as their long-haired counterparts, they still require regular exercise and mental stimulation. Regular exercise, including walks and playtime, is essential to prevent them from becoming overweight and to keep their spines healthy. Despite their small size, they are highly intelligent and can be taught commands with patience and consistency. These dogs do best in homes where they are given plenty of attention, mental stimulation, and regular exercise. Because of their size, they are well-suited for apartment living but still require daily walks and playtime to stay healthy and happy. 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