

DACHSHUND

(LONG-HAIRED / MINIATURE LONG-HAIRED / SMOOTH-HAIRED / MINIATURE SMOOTH-HAIRED / WIRE-HAIRED / MINIATURE WIRE-HAIRED)

The six varieties of this breed are judged separately and may each be awarded Challenge Certificates. When awarding FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s[®] (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International), note the alternate size variations (see below).

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. 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 this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Hunting dog, above and below ground.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 148:]

The Dachshund, also called “Dackel” or “Teckel”, has been known since the Middle Ages. From the Bracken dogs [ed. European hunting dogs], especially suitable for hunting below ground, they were consistently bred. From these short-legged dogs, the Dachshund evolved, and is recognised as one of the most versatile hunting breeds. He also shows excellent performance above ground, hunting while giving tongue, flushing, and tracking wounded game. The oldest Club devoted to the breeding of Dachshunds is the “Deutsche Teckelklub”, founded in 1888. For decades the Dachshund has been bred in three different sizes (Teckel, Miniature Teckel, and Rabbit Teckel) and in three different coat varieties (Smooth-haired, Wire-haired, and Long-haired), resulting in nine varieties. [ed. size variations applicable to FCI-C.A.C.I.B. shows only].

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Moderately long in proportion to height, with no exaggeration. Compact, well-muscled body, with enough ground clearance, not less than one-quarter of the height at the withers, to allow free movement. Height at the withers should be half the length of the body, measured from breastbone to the rear of thigh. Bold, defiant carriage of head, and intelligent expression.

CHARACTERISTICS

Intelligent, lively, courageous to the point of rashness, obedient. Especially suited to going to ground because of his low build, very strong forequarters and forelegs. Long, strong jaw, and immense power of bite and hold. Excellent nose; a persevering hunter and tracker. Essential that functional build, size, and proportions ensure working ability.

TEMPERAMENT

Faithful, versatile, and good-tempered.

HEAD

Long, appearing conical when seen from above; viewed from the side, tapering uniformly to tip of nose. Skull only slightly arched. Neither too broad nor too narrow, sloping gradually without prominent stop into slightly arched muzzle. Length from tip of nose to eyes equal to length from eyes to occiput. In Wire-haired Dachshunds, particularly, ridges over eyes strongly prominent, giving appearance of slightly broader skull. Lips closely fitting, neatly covering lower jaw.

Eyes:

Medium size, almond-shaped, set obliquely. Dark except in chocolates, where they can be lighter. In dapples one or both 'wall' eyes permissible.

Ears:

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

Mouth:

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

NECK

Long, muscular, clean, with no dewlap, slightly arched, running in graceful lines into shoulders, carried proudly forward.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder blades long, broad, and placed firmly and obliquely (45° to the horizontal) upon robust rib cage. Upper arm the same length as shoulder blade, set at 90° to it, very strong, and covered with hard, supple muscles. Upper arm lies close to ribs, but able to move freely. Forearm short and strong in bone, inclining inwards, forming a slight crook that fits neatly around the chest. When seen in profile, forearm moderately straight, must not bend forward or knuckle over, which indicates unsoundness. Correctly placed foreleg should cover the lowest point of the keel, with ground clearance never less than one-quarter of the height at the withers.

BODY

Moderately long and full-muscled. Sloping shoulders, back reasonably level, blending harmoniously between withers and slightly arched loin. Withers and quarters of approximately the same height. Loin short and strong. Breastbone strong, and so prominent that a depression appears on either side of it in front. When viewed from front, thorax full and oval; when viewed from the side or above, full-volumed, so allowing, by its ample capacity, complete development of heart and lungs. Ribs extending well back with good length of sternum. Underline gradually merging into line of abdomen. Body sufficiently clear of ground to allow free movement.

HINDQUARTERS

Rump full, broad, and strong, pliant muscles. Croup long, full, robustly muscled, only slightly sloping towards tail. Pelvis strong, set obliquely and not too short. Upper thigh set at right angles to pelvis, strong, and of good length. Lower thigh short, set at right angles to upper thigh, and well-muscled. Viewed from the rear, hind legs straight and parallel, neither close nor wide apart.

FEET

Front feet full, broad, deep, close-knit, straight, or very slightly turned out. Hind feet smaller and narrower. Toes close together, with a decided arch to each toe, strong, regularly placed nails, thick and firm pads. Dog must stand true, i.e. equally on all parts of the foot.

TAIL

Continues line of spine, but slightly curved, without kink or twist, not carried above the topline, or touching ground when at rest.

GAIT / 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

Long-haired:

Soft and straight, or only slightly waved; longest under neck, on underparts of body, and behind legs, where it forms abundant feathering, on tail, where it forms a flag. Outside of ears well-feathered. Coat flat, and not obscuring outline. Too much hair on feet undesirable.

Smooth-haired:

Dense, short, and smooth. Hair on underside of tail coarse in texture. Skin loose and supple, but fitting closely all over without dewlap and little or no wrinkle.

Wire-haired:

With 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 ears almost smooth. Legs and feet well, but neatly, furnished with harsh coat.

COLOUR

* The following colours are permitted in all six varieties:

- Red – may be interspersed with black hairs.
- Black or chocolate – each with tan markings (as clear as possible) over eyes, on sides of muzzle, under jaw, and down chest, on lower part of legs and feet, below the tail and about one-third of underside of tail.
- Dapple pattern – (lighter-coloured areas on a darker base, where neither the light nor the dark colour should predominate) is permitted in any of the colours listed as acceptable, with the exception of brindle.

* The following colours are acceptable only in the varieties specified:

Miniature Smooth-haired and Miniature Long-haired:

- Cream (fawn), interspersed black hairs permissible.
- Black/chocolate and cream – where the cream is as clear as possible and is distributed in the same locations as the tan marking listed above.

Smooth-haired, Miniature Smooth-haired, and Miniature Long-haired:

- Brindle – black hairs forming stripes on any of the colours listed above.

Wire-haired and Miniature Wire-haired:

- Wild boar of any shade, or chocolate wild boar with tan markings, as clear as possible in the same locations as the tan markings listed above

* Nose and nails black in all colours except chocolate/tan and chocolate dapple, where they are brown.

* In all colours, no white permissible, save for a small patch on chest which is permitted but not desirable.

* Double dapple (where varying amounts of white occur all over the body in addition to the dapple pattern), Isabella, blue and all other colours or patterns including piebald and tricolour are unacceptable.

SIZE

Ideal weight:

Standard: 9kg – 12kg (approx. 20lbs – 26lbs).

Miniature: 4.5kg (approx. 10lbs). Desired maximum weight 5kgs (11 lbs). Exhibits that appear thin and undernourished unacceptable.

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 148: DACHSHUND

FCI Classification: Group 4 – Dachshunds.

With working trial.