

Wilderness Run Dachshunds

Feeding: You are free to feed what you wish. About ½ a cup a day is adequate for an adult; I suggest feeding ¼ cup twice a day. I free feed. None of my dogs are fat. It just depends on the dog. I don't restrict or limit puppies food. If the weather is cold and the dog is running a lot, saturate the food with water (hydration is always important) and give more food. The dog's ribs should be able to be felt when lightly rubbing their side. If you see the vertebra on their back or the hip bones, the dog is are too thin. The greatest threat to your dachshund's back is being overweight and out of shape.

I feed Purina Pro Plan Savor Puppy Food until they are 6 months, then Purina Pro Plan Savor Adult food for SMALL BREED. Purina is a good food and I have never had any problems with it, there have been no recalls. In my opinion grain free is a gimmick but if you want to pay for it, knock yourself out. Day old chicks (if you have them available) are a big favorite. Again, these are hunting dogs and you should feed them as you like. Seems only fair they get a piece of the kill. This brings us to the next topic...WORMS.

Please consider worming monthly since these are hunting dogs and they eat wild game. Heart Guard is a great choice. Not only does it protect against heart worms but it is a monthly wormer. Rabbits carry tape worms. Bird feces may carry whip worms. Dachshunds eat gross stuff.

Training: Any "rabbit dog" training questions please call me. Any "hawk and dog working together" questions I direct to Teddy Moritz. When you call her just let her know you have one of my pups. She supports all my puppy buyers hawking questions. I am a "rabbit dog" person and I do not speak to hawking questions.

VET: NO CORPORATE VETERNARIANS. NO PETCO (Hope Clinic) NO PETSMART (Banfield) vets. I will not honor any return puppies if you use these corporate vet services.

Do take the puppy to the vet in the first week you take possession of the Pup. Take this packet. It has all the information they need.

Return Request: At anytime, if you are not happy with the dog and do not want it anymore. I respectfully request that you please contact me and I will buy the dog back and arrange transport home. Alternatively, I will help you find a suitable home. The dog must never go to a shelter, be sold or given away without giving me the right of first refusal. Please; I promise I won't give you a hard time. I bring these dogs in to the world, register the pups, and I am responsible for them until they die. Really.....please honor this request.

NO LEPTO – Their grandfather reacted badly to the 7 way shot due to the Leptospirosis vaccine. Lepto should be given as an individual vaccine. To give Lepto please use the following protocol: Benadryl two days before, day of lepto shot and two days after lepto vaccine given.

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Brags! I ALWAYS want to hear about your hunting, training, and living with these pups. Text me, e-mail me, call me...I am just as excited about the dog's work and their funny antics. I want to hear about it. BRAG TO ME! I never get tired of hearing about them.

Field Championship. I would love to help you earn this AKC title for your dog. If you plan to breed the dog in the future, an FC on the pedigree is super cool. Please contact me and I will take the dog on the road to compete and perhaps earn the title. Or help you find those resources locally.

Bedding: I avoid towels. Many dachshunds have chewed and eaten pieces of towels. Towels turn to string in the gut and create a blockage. To clear the blockage requires surgery and can lead to a dog losing some of its intestine. The dog then requires special feeding. To avoid this concern, I use fleece blankets from Wal-Mart, they are \$2.88. They don't turn to string. I also avoid "rope toys" for this reason too.

Grooming: Please clip nails and clean teeth regularly. Trimming the hair off the feet is also a good thing. Their feet should look like cat paws. Keeping the hair on feet trimmed also helps prevent dirt and water being brought in to the house. Nail trimming is important so the dog doesn't rip nails or break nails in the process of their work. A broken or ripped nail is painful and can take them out of the field for a few days. It is just good husbandry. If their coat picks up debris in the field there are two tools that work well to get the debris out. "Cowboy Magic" and a tight toothed comb work great. "Cowboy Magic" is an oily liquid and it is available in the horse section of most feed stores. It is also available on line. A little Cowboy Magic or any similar oily product makes the briars slip out much easier. These are not show dogs so I often use blunt nosed scissors to cut out debris that is really knotted tightly in there. I also keep their ear hair trimmed but that is my personal preference. Many folks love the long hair on the ears, tail, and legs. Whatever works for you, works for me. I bathe my dogs 2 to 3 times a year unless they roll in something smelly.

Flea and Tick: I use Frontline Plus or Front Line Gold. I have been happy with it, and I have never once had a flea problem or had a dog with Lyme's. Make sure you do not put Frontline on immediately after a bath. Give the hair and skin a few days to oil back up before you put it on. There are lots of other products out in pill form, Seresta collars, some folks use organic oils etc. Feel free to use what works for you and your family.

Worms: Please use a monthly wormer for various types of worms and heart worms. I use Interceptor monthly. I do not use BRAVECTO. These are females and possibly breeding females, be thoughtful what you put in them, particularly in the few months leading up to them being bred. Dachshunds eat gross things and do need wormed monthly.

SPAY/NEUTER: Please do not spay or neuter this puppy before two years of age. Most vets PRESSURE owners to Neuter or spay their dogs. Please read Dr. Jean Dodds' research on the effects of altering a dog too young and negative effects it has in their health long term. Additionally for falconers, altering the animal, most often results in a poofy incorrect coat that picks up all manner of debris in the field. If

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you decide to alter the dog, please let me know so that Teddy and I know he or she is out of the gene pool. We have a small selection of dogs to work with and it is helpful for us to know their status.

<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/your-dog-needs-to-be-spayed-or-neutered-right/>

Tools:

When you are hunting with a Dachshund you should have a shovel available, perhaps a small **DIGGING BAR**. You never know when your pup is going to figure out there are rabbits in holes. Once they figure it out, it becomes very consistent behavior. It is all fun and games until you are out alone and they go to ground and get stuck or refuse to leave their quarry. Keep a shovel handy. Consider purchasing a Deben Ferret Finder before the dog has figured out about the holes.

Purchase the “ferret Finder” model, not the “terrier finder” model. Range is 8 feet to 16 feet. This collar should always be worn snugly to prevent it from getting hung up on underground obstacles.

GPS Locator is also a necessary tool. Other hawkers are a better resource for this information than me. Teddy Moritz is also available to discuss this necessary tool.

EX-PEN

This is a great tool for pups at home and for traveling with dogs of any age. There are several companies that make them. MID WEST EXPEN Panels are 24 inches wide, and 30 inches tall. I recommend the 30 inch height. It folds up like an accordion and is easy to take on the road. \$33.99 at Amazon.com. Two ex-pens are indeed better than one! In the early months having one in the house and one in the yard will make your life MUCH easier. BUT really ONE IS BETTER THEN NONE so please consider adding this to your dog tools.

For Puppies the ex-pen is a play pen. You can set it up in the kitchen. You can place food, water, a place to sleep and a wee pad for overnight in it or if you are gone for a few hours during the day. The Ex-pen space becomes a location where the pup can be safe while you cook dinner or take a shower. They are dachshund puppies, “silence is suspicious...very suspicious”. Pups need a lot of sleep and this tool works great as their safe space in the house.

The ex-pens are also be useful in potty training if set up outside. They are great to take on a road trip or camping so the dog has a space to relax, be safe and not be on a lead. It frees both your hands. I am a huge fan of the product.

One of my breeder friends tells me pups can hold their urine for one hour for every month they have been alive. At two months old, every two hours they should have access to potty. At 3 months, they can hold it for 3 hours, etc. So the expen allows them to leave their sleeping area to potty. You really don't want a young pup learning that going potty in their crate is acceptable. When dogs go potty in their crates, it is terribly hard habit to break. It is unnatural for them to potty where they sleep.

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Once the pup is older, 2 ex-pens can be joined together to make a nice big space anywhere you go. Anyway, it is a GREAT TOOL and worth every dime.

https://www.amazon.com/MidWest-Foldable-Exercise-Pen-Playpen/dp/B000H8YTJI/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1516451569&sr=8-1-spons&keywords=exercise+pen&psc=1FENCING



Fencing:

This is another topic Teddy and I usually talk about with our puppy buyers. Teddy's rule of thumb; A correctly built dachshund can squeeze through any opening that is 3 inches or more. Tight kenneling is important for their care and keeping. I have welded wire kennel panels and a dog run for my dog to access via a dog door when I am not able to attend to them outside. Teddy uses chain link panels. If you do a similar dog run, be thoughtful of the space between the gate and the panel side. If it is more than 3 or 3.5 inches wide they dogs will try to squeeze through it.

Electric fences are not ideal. I had one for a few days and every one of my dogs took the shock to get to the squirrel. Dachshund busting through electric fencing is NOT UNCOMMON. Dachshunds are gritty little dogs and this line in particular has little care if they get hurt trying to get to something to kill; bear or rodent. Additionally, the electric fence does NOT keep anything out of the yard that could hurt your little dachshund. It is NOT uncommon for them to be carried off by a coyote or killed by some other wildlife passing through, or taken by a human or another larger dog. When you have a large dog in an electric fenced area; much will leave it alone because it appears big from a distance. Dachshunds look like a tasty snack. With Teddy's consult, I just ask that you be outside with the little dog if the electric fence is your fencing solution for your family. There, I had to say it and have done my "due diligence".

These are hunting dogs. They are put in danger while they are working. The reality is that having a dog die while in the line of work is MUCH easier to accept then to have one die because of poor kenneling or poor husbandry.

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Underground Work

Teddy Moritz wrote this for one of my puppy buyers. I thought it worth including. Den work is a different discipline than hawking.

Be brave, your dachshund is. Going into holes is part of her genetic heritage.

Now the big 'HOWEVER', which includes a lecture from Grandma. This time of year (early Spring) the dens are fairly open as the groundhogs are cleaning them out. The ghs are also a bit nervous and flighty this time of year. Hence The pup may bolt a gh easily just by going into the hole and moving thru it. I have shot six so far this spring that my dogs have bolted. In the next few weeks the ghs will have their young. A momma 'hog is a tough customer, initially. She will charge the dog, take a bite out it, shake it, then retreat back into her nest of young. She may carry one young with her as she buries herself behind the nest, which is packed straw and very hard for a dog to get through. The pup is a bit young to be attacked and bitten underground. Such an event may put her off hole work for awhile. Groundhogs bite deep and hard, giving a lesson a dog won't forget. Young The pup may end up simply baying a groundhog, at which point it will put a wall of packed dirt between the dog and itself. If The pup encounters the bachelor males, they too will try to run her out of the den by attacking. Later in the season when the young are making their own dens, they will often bolt when pushed by a dog. So, first thing is to buy a Deben Ferret Finder collar and receiver from Deben.com. Always put this transmitter collar on The pup if she is out unattended by anyone, even just the big dog, as well as when you are out checking next boxes, etc. She is doing what she is bred to do and it's up to you to be able to find her underground. The pup is not full grown and as you can tell by the tightness of the 6" tunnel, her body is filling out. She has a ways to go and will be awkward in an earth tunnel until she learns what her body can manage in the way of tightness and turns. Letting her loose without a Deben collar is taking a chance. If she were to get in a hole and you didn't see her go in, you might find her by her barking but if there are many dens in the area you might not know which hole she's in. I speak from experience. A Deben collar is an insurance policy. It is cheaper than buying a new pup and starting over. There is really no excuse for losing a dog in a den when the Deben collars are so readily available.

Next issue. The pup may encounter other varmints besides groundhogs in holes. During the winter, when your hawk flies a rabbit into a hole, you can be pretty sure what is in the den. Snow will tell you that as well. However, a host of other creatures make use of gh holes during the winter. Fox, skunk, raccoons, possums and feral cats will all use a winter den. If The pup continues to be such a good hole dog, she will probably encounter some of these animals during her career. All the above will fight with The pup and will give her all the confrontation she might desire. Some dogs live for this type of encounter and it is indeed impressive. Many dogs will take a bite to the face and just keep on fighting. Others will get the message and either leave the den or they will back up and bark, taking a bite on the animal's butt if it turns away. A fox bites, shakes and lets go. A coon bites and may hold the dog by its collar and chew on it a bit before letting go. A possum can bite deep and hard but usually they just growl

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and hiss and the dog gets a bite on them and pulls them out. A feral cat is bad news in a hole as it uses its claws and its mouth to bite. A skunk uses chemical warfare and you want the dog out of the confined space as soon as possible. Usually after a spray the dog comes out and will rub its face on the ground, paw at its face and vomit for awhile. A dog which gets behind a skunk in a closed tunnel is in trouble as the skunk will continue to spray and the dog may faint from lack of oxygen. If the dog initially bites the skunk in the anal area, the skunk will discharge its spray down the dog's throat. Such dogs seldom live too long as the oil in the spray coats the lining of their lungs and they take a few days to die. But most dachshunds simply bay a skunk and after a spritz or two back out of the hole. There's a formula for getting rid of skunk smell which includes Dawn dish soap. The internet will provide the recipe. Back to the fox. It will bolt if it can unless it has young, then it will try to really hurt the dog. A coon will sometimes bolt too if there's a way out and the dog is really pressing it but they are often in dead-end holes. I presume there are coyotes where you live and this time of year they have young in dens. Roxy might work the pups but an adult in with the pups will terminate your little dog.

A dog will often come out of a den and leave its quarry if you back away and be quiet. The dog knows you are out there, especially if you are 'barking' at it to get out of the hole. But if you go quiet the dog realizes its ride home might be gone and it will come out looking for you. This is the time to grab it, if you are quick. If you can block the hole and not let the dog back in, that's good too. If you want to dig to the dog, go for it. Most dogs which stay in a hole are not stuck, they are simply trying to get up to the quarry. They may stop barking because they are digging forward. In the majority of cases if a dog can get into a tunnel it can get out again. The pup will learn to back up out of a hole if she can't turn around. It can take a young dog a few experiences before it learns it has a reverse gear. A dog can turn on its own length in most soft dirt holes, and they can somersault themselves to reverse as well. There's no need to panic if a dog goes into a tunnel and you don't hear barking. Give the dog time to find the quarry and see if it bolts. If the dog begins barking in one spot and nothing bolts and you want to dig the dog out in order to get the quarry and the dog, then use the Deben locator to find her and dig to her. In the many years I dug before the invention of collars we used to just lay our ear to the ground and listen. You can hear the dog baying or the gh digging. The Deben collars allow you to come right down to the dog in the tunnel.

There have been many good hole dogs lost to ground because the dog was not wearing a locator collar. To my eternal shame I lost a very good little bitch that way years ago and although it was a tough, tough lesson, I make sure now that on any outing off leash the dog wears the Deben collar as well as a Boomerang tag with my phone number on it. Every time we let these hunting dogs loose we take a chance with their lives and it is up to us to provide any insurance we can.

End of lecture. Be brave and be prepared.

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A Dachshund is NOT a Beagle

This article was written by John (Jeanneney) several years ago and was published in Full Cry. It is long but worth reading!

The dachshund is not a beagle, but the fact that some people are breeding brown and white spotted dachshunds will confuse the issue for sure. I am counting on the natural smarts of my fellow houndsmen to see the light and know the truth. A dachshund is not a beagle. Believe it or not past confusions have created problems which hurt dachshunds, of course, much more than they hurt beagles. Even when it was recognized that they were entirely different dogs to the eye, it was easy to miss the point that the brain wiring was quite different as well. This brain wiring, the way the neurons of the brain develop and are linked together, is in good part a matter of breed genetics. This is as much a part of breed characteristics as the superficial things which show judges look at.

The dachshund originated in Germany as a forester's dog; dogs were selected who worked well, one on one, with their masters. Dachshunds don't pack well, compared to beagles because they were never developed to be a pack hound. However, hunting dachshunds as a group may well be the most biddable of the scent hounds. If for your special purposes you are looking for a small hound that handles like a good cur, the dachshund may be the hound for you.

The purposes for which the dachshund was developed are very different from those of a beagle. In part the dachshund was a dog to be used for underground work on foxes and badgers. "Dachshund" actually means badger dog in German, but these dogs were used much more on fox. In Germany and in the rest of Europe foxes were always much more plentiful and a much bigger nuisance than badgers. Also a good dog can usually drive a fox from the den to the gun. A badger is an even tougher on the defense. He goes very deep and will seldom bolt. A dog small enough to get down to a badger is not is strong enough to kill him. Usually the hunting party assisting the dog has to dig down to the quarry. This is old fashioned hard work that is not very popular these days.

The dachshund in Germany was also seen as an above ground dog that handled well and could be used to flush game, especially the small European roe deer, out of heavy cover of young growth forest. As a jump dog the dachshund was expected to give tongue on a fresh scent line and warn the hunters posted around the gridiron pattern of forest roads that game was on the way.

It was also discovered that the dachshund, bred to be the biddable hound and attuned to the needs of his handler, was very useful for finding wounded big game which left little or no blood trail. The good ones could learn to work the right deer even if it meant picking out the body and foot print scent of the individual deer. **The dachshund was bred to be versatile dog, although individuals tended to excel in one or two categories, and less often in all three.**

Really small dachshunds, from nine pounds down to less than seven were developed later from the standard sized dogs. There were some out crosses to other very small breeds but mainly it was accomplished by breeding down from smaller and smaller dachshunds that had the necessary type and abilities. It was not an easy task. The smallest ones were called Kaninchen teckels, rabbit dachshunds, could actually go down a rabbit hole. The European

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rabbit which is entirely different from our cottontail was very prolific to the point of being a nuisance even though it was good to eat. It did not run well for a dog preferring to dive immediately into holes that it dug for itself. If you wanted to kill rabbits one of the best ways was to use a Kaninchen teckel that could follow the rabbit underground and push him out.

The small dachshunds could do all the work of the standard dachshund, although they lacked the body mass and the power to cope with cold conditions and really rough terrain for long periods of time. Their small size empowered them for certain tasks and presented certain limitations for others. For some hunters it was very desirable to have a dog small enough to ride in a hunting coat capable of flushing the small roe deer from cover, or tracking a wounded one for a few hundred meters. They enjoyed working with the world's smallest hunting dog.

None of this dachshund work in Germany has much to do with the tasks that a beagle is asked to do in the United States and Canada. When dachshunds were brought to America most of them became show dogs or family pets. Even for those who wanted to keep the dachshund as a hunting dog, their underground purposes were soon forgotten. Teddy Moritz, who writes the first part of this column, is the person who had the most to do with reinventing the dachshund for underground work in America.



Teddy Moritz's longhaired minis are well suited for den work and falconry. Photo by Teddy Moritz.

As for the standard dachshund the first disastrous move was the attempt to make him over as a beagle. For example the AKC developed field trials which are modeled after the AKC beagle brace trial rules. I personally bear part of the blame for this.

Taking a dachshund to an AKC field trial really designed for beagles is a little like taking a springer spaniel to a retriever trial. The spaniel, bred as a flushing dog, can retrieve, but not

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as well as a Lab. In a brace trial on rabbits the better dachshunds can do it, but not on the same level as the real rabbit specialists. The dachshund is a versatile hound, but rabbit work under brace trial rules is not the best act in his repertoire. When we get calls from beaglers asking about dachshund puppies, we ask a lot of questions about what they are looking for. A good many callers are really looking for a beagle that will please them more than what they have at the moment. If the man doesn't realize that he would be getting into a completely different kind of dog, he is going to be disappointed. There are things that a good working dachshund can do as well or better than a field bred beagle; he had better be interested in one of these or there is no real point in getting a dachshund.

Personally I think that the most important work in this country for the standard sized dachshund (about 20 pounds) is tracking wounded big game. They are easy to handle, they learn fast and most of them can come to understand that the only deer to be tracked is a wounded one. That same tracking dachshund can bring rabbits around to the gun, handle in close to flush pheasants. He can tree coons. But don't expect he will compete with a breed specialist in all these specialties. The standard dachshund is for the hunter who puts a high priority on finding wounded big game and in addition needs a useful dog for the other tasks. And of course it must be added that a working dachshund has to have decent leg length and ground clearance if he is going to have the necessary agility and stamina. You are not always going to find this in dachshunds bred to please American show judges.

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Our tracking dog Billy is a good example of the dachshund with good ground clearance and proper proportions.

If you want to add underground work to the job description of the versatile standard dachshund, then you have to think in terms of a smaller dog. How small depends on the underground work that you have in mind. The standard dachshund of 20 pounds can be a useful dog in Germany on fox because the foxes over there are heavier and cobbier in their bone structure. North American red foxes run a lot smaller and can get into much tighter spots than their European counterparts which are of the same species. As a rule our gray foxes live in rock dens that are ledgy and even tougher and tighter to work than those of the reds. Ground hogs, the housing contractors for so much other wildlife, make dens that are too small for the standard dachshund to work consistently.

Over the years I have taken foxes with small standard dachshunds. I had a small standard dachshund bitch which bayed two foxes from a den and found a wounded deer, all in four hours. But this is the exception that proves the rule. Don't count on it happening for you. Gerte, the 18 pound German bitch shown in the picture was lucky. She was really too big to get up to most foxes in Northeastern dens.

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Gerte with two foxes and a deer - all taken in one day.

If you are a falconer, or if you want to get rabbits out of their dens in order to give your bigger hounds a run, then you should consider the really small miniature dachshunds which the Germans call Kaninchen teckels. These run from eight pounds down to six and a half. They would not be your first choice for heavy-duty blood tracking, but they can certainly do it in a pinch.

I hope that nothing I have said here will be taken as anti-beagle. I own a good gun dog beagle and I have been active in beagle clubs for many years. Beagles are great hound breed; and there is certainly some overlap in dachshund and beagle work. For example I know of several beagles with established reputations for tracking wounded deer. The individual characteristics of the dog are usually more important than its breed. This is certainly the case when it comes to dachshunds and beagles. **Select the breed and the individual most likely to fit your personal needs.**