

# Dachshund Breeder Interviews

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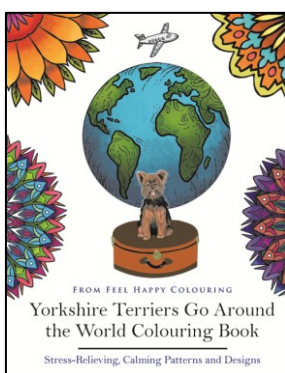
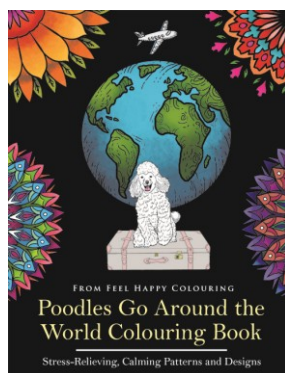
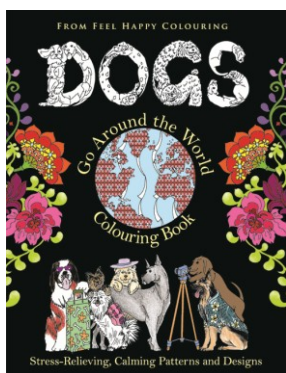
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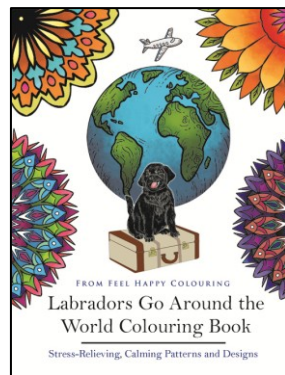
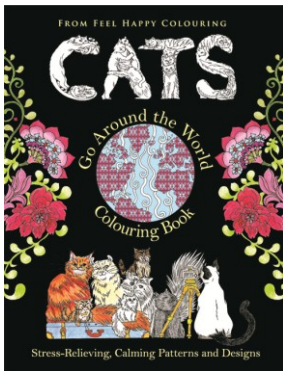
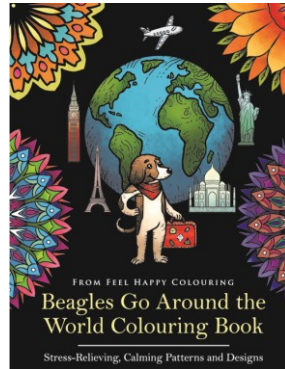
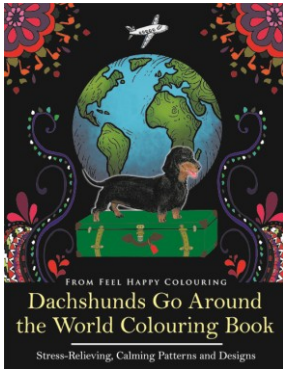
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## Our Thank You

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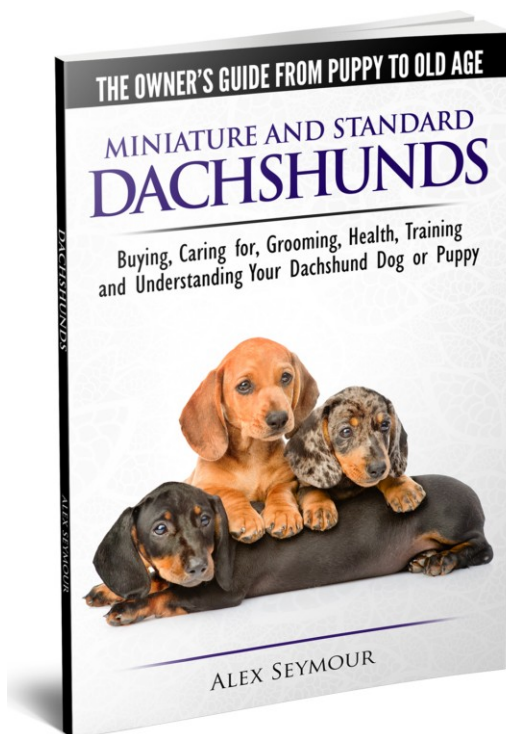
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Now we have got that plug out of the way, I'm sure there are a few people wondering, why are you doing these unexpected extra

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## Our Thank You

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interviews? Good question!

There are a few reasons so we will be completely honest with you:

1. We had huge involvement in the book from 40 Dachshund experts and so there was **no way we could include all** of their knowledge in the book because our cost to print the book would have gone through the roof and the project would have been doomed.
2. We also did this to massively **over-deliver** on anything our potential competitors have to offer.
3. The more 5-star reviews we get on Amazon, the more likely it is that they place us in a high position on their website. Obviously we hope that in providing excellent value we get **more positive comments and ratings** which help us.

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4. Another reason is that we would like to 'continue the conversation' and what we mean by that is, we would like to stay in touch. We intend on producing more quality content via our website [www.dogexperts.info](http://www.dogexperts.info) and this is the sort of information we intend on producing - more insights and stories in the Dachshund world.

Please enjoy your free bonus interviews and we hope you will come find us here afterwards at <http://www.DogExperts.info>

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## Chapter 1 - Vicki Spencer of Lorindol Standard Smooths

**Vicki thanks for doing this interview, can you tell us who you are and where you are based?**

I live in western Kentucky, USA. My husband, Bill and I are currently own 6 standard smooth Dachshunds. Four are Grand Champion/Dual (Conformation and Field) Champions, one is a Field Trial Champion and one is a Champion (conformation).

**What inspired you to become a breeder and did you start with Dachshunds?**



I began actively showing Golden Retrievers in obedience and conformation in 1970. In 1994 I acquired a Dachshund puppy who became American Dual Champion, Canadian Champion, International Champion Cherevee Bad News Bear VC (Versatility Certificate) JE (Junior Earth Dog) CD (Companion Dog) titling in conformation, field trials, obedience and earthdog. Needless to say, I was hooked.

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Why a Dachshund (especially since they are polar opposites to a Golden Retriever?) I love their intelligence, independence, and tenacity. Even though they love their people to the nth degree and are extremely eager to please, they have a stubbornness that will keep you on your toes. Being tremendously intelligent, they have no problem questioning your orders if they feel you are being unreasonable. They are free thinkers who can and will figure out solutions to problems on their own. Their stubbornness will keep them on a problem until they do figure out a solution. Author Steven Rowley hit it right on the head in his book, Lilly and the Octopus when he said, "By then I had all but given up trying to out stubborn a Dachshund, an exercise in futility if there ever was one."

They love their people unconditionally, but can spot a phony in a heartbeat. Don't bother about trying to trick a Dachshund. They will have you figured out in no time.

A Dachshund is a hunting dog and should be able to work tirelessly in the field all day. They are fearless to the point of rashness and possess an amazing ability to follow a track. They are friendly and outgoing dogs, but will stand their ground to protect those who are fortunate to be loved by one. They love to play, but also are content to lay quietly by their owner's side.

Fearless, friendly, devoted, and intelligent – I think that says it all.

### **How did things progress to the point of you becoming involved in the Dachshund Club of America?**

I firmly believe being involved in a sport requires giving back to that sport. I had been a member of DCA a short time when I was asked if I would be willing to act as Breeder Referral for the club. A few years later, I was asked if I would be willing to store our historical documents at my home and act as the club's Archivist. I then ran and won a seat on the Board. For the last few years, I have served DCA not only as Breeder Referral and Archivist but also as Recording Secretary.

### **What are the aims of the DCA and how is it likely to develop and change in the future?**

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DCA is taking a strong role in supporting (financially and through education) genetic research focusing on Dachshund concerns. DCA supports Dachshund field trials, earthdog, conformation, agility, rally and obedience events throughout the USA. At our yearly Nationals the club offers judges education and a variety of seminars on topics of interest to Dachshund owners.

**There are a number of variations within the Dachshund breed, perhaps you could explain which type(s) you breed and why?**

Having spent years grooming Golden Retrievers for showing, I wasn't interested in becoming involved with another long-coated breed. I showed a terrier for a friend in 1990 and had no desire to roll coats the rest of my life which ruled out the wire coats. Since I loved the look of

the smooth coats, it was easy for me to restrict my search to that variety.



**What types of people are buying Dachshunds and why do you think people choose the Dachshund over all the other choices they have available?**

I believe their distinctive look draws people to this breed. The fact that they come in three coat types and two sizes (in the U.S.) is also a plus. As DCA Breeder Referral I get a lot of calls from people who have had Dachshunds in the past and won't even consider owning a different breed.

**Can you offer advice to people looking to buy a Dachshund and how much should they be spending?**

It is so important to buy from a reputable breeder who won't compromise on genetic soundness, temperament, or health. Reputable breeders are difficult to find (most have websites but you will not find puppies for sell on their sites.) and many have waiting lists of prospective buyers, but it is worth the time it takes to get a puppy from

someone who knows what they are doing and puts the welfare of the puppies above anything else. Because the U.S. is so large we have a wide range of prices for Dachshunds. I have noticed that reputable breeders charge less than most of the questionable breeders who have professionally looking websites offering poor quality, poorly bred puppies.

### **What type of health issues can a Dachshund have and how do you deal with preventing these?**

Back problems are, of course, a concern. Some Dachshunds are unfortunate to have four genetically weak discs in their spine which will eventually cause problems. Reputable breeders know their lines and will not breed Dachshunds who have shown to have this problem.



Another reason Dachshunds will have back issues is due to poor conformation. A good breeder knows a Dachshund's ribbing must be twice as long as the loin for the back to have the support it needs. A Dachshund with short ribbing and a long loin will more than likely have back problems sometime during its life. Another cause for back problems is the dog being overweight. It is so important to keep a Dachshund in sound condition and at a good weight. As I said earlier, this breed is an active hunting dog and should have the stamina and soundness to do the job they were bred to do.

**What is the typical temperament of a Dachshund, so people know what to expect from their new pet?**

My standard smooths are easy going and friendly. They enjoy children and have no problems with other animals. It is important for a Dachshund puppy to have good experiences with many different types of people and a variety of animals. When challenged, they will stand their ground and not back down. They love their family unconditionally and will protect them if they feel their people are being threatened.

**Do you have any special feeding routines or diet?**

I have fed a raw diet for the last 27 years and have been fortunate to have healthy, well-adjusted dogs who live long lives.



**What colors and sizes are most popular?**

As DCA Breeder Referral, most of my calls are from people wanting a miniature smooth red female. In the last year, I am getting more calls from people looking for smooth standards.

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## Chapter 1 - Vicki Spencer of Lorindol Standard Smooths

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**As a breed expert, are there any 'essential' tips you would like to share with new owners?**

Get your puppy out as much as possible and expose her to many different things. Let your Dachshund have a job to do. Most do an excellent job in obedience, rally and agility, as well as earth dog and field trials. They love learning new things and pleasing their people and are happiest when kept busy.



**Vicki, thank you for taking the time to share your tips and knowledge of the Dachshund.**

Vicki Spencer of Lorindol Standard Smooths and secretary of the Dachshund Club of America - Email: [lorindol@roadrunner.com](mailto:lorindol@roadrunner.com)



## Chapter 2 - Anne Schmidt of Stardust Dachshunds

**Anne can you first talk about your experience in the world of Dachshunds, I believe it goes back some way?**

I was always an animal lover and grew up with Spaniels and other breeds, so I guess that is part of the reason the longhaired Dachshund appealed to me, they have a certain softness to their expression.

Here is a photo taken by Cassie Nickash. Dogs are:

1. Dual Ch Stardust's Good Luck Charm, CGC, RN, RATN
2. Bronze Grand CH Dual CH Stardust's Simply Irresistible, RE, NJP, VC, RATN, VC
3. Dual CH Stardust's I'VE Got Rhythm, RN, CGC

(Stella (middle) is the mother to the others, she has won best Dual CH at the nationals 3x).



**How did you first come to own a Dachshund?**

When I married, my new husband had a Samoyed, while I loved

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that breed, I could not take the excess hair and shedding that went with it. So, when we discussed another dog it had to be something smaller with less coat. We actually stumbled across a breeder while on a Sunday drive and bought our first long from her (1980). Because she had been born on Christmas, we named her Holly.

**I know you participate in many events, how would an owner start in these and which are best for beginners?**

My dog training and showing journey started with that first girl, Holly. I had no idea how to house train or teach manners to a puppy, so a friend suggested I attend classes at a local all breed club. Money was tight, and if you joined the club and helped work, you could get free classes. That was all it took for me to join up! Once I did that, I learned more about the competitive world of obedience and show dogs.

**We would love to hear more of your story in becoming a breeder.**

Our club had local shows each year, so I eagerly signed up to show Holly. Once there, I saw all the beautiful dogs and noticed differences in appearance from Holly. Eventually I met Hannelore Heller of Han-Jo's Dachshunds, she taught me about the standard for the breed and how to evaluate your dog. In the end, Holly was not "show quality" so Hannelore helped me find my first well bred Dachshund. Along the way, I read everything I could get my hands on about dog showing, breeding and care. I still read a lot of books about dogs, I feel there is always something to learn.

**Would you change anything if you were able to go back in time and start over again?**

Absolutely not!! I think having to struggle as you start out will make you really decide if showing and breeding are for you or not. Anything worth having is worth working very hard for.

**Are there myths about the Dachshund – in other words do new potential owners come to you with misconceptions about this breed?**

Many people think of Dachshunds only as a fat mini smooth with a snarky temperament. As breeders, we need to continue to work to dispel this false belief by breeding healthy, happy dogs and keeping them in good weight and condition.

**What do you look for in a prospective owner and do you sometimes decide someone is unsuitable?**

The best Dachshund home is one where the owner understands the temperament and instinct of a Dachshund. They need a securely fenced yard, they need to learn manners and not be spoiled and coddled. If someone is looking for a dog that will "hang around" out in the yard with no lead and no fence, this is not the dog for them.

**What types of questions do you get once owners get their Dachshund home?**

All puppies go home with a packet of information about food, vaccine schedule, training and miscellaneous things. Most of my puppies are sold to people that have had Dachshunds before so they already know the antics that will follow, but I welcome calls and questions at any time.





**As a professional breeder can you give any tips to new owners, things they are unlikely to know that would be invaluable in helping them?**

I am not a Professional breeder, I consider myself a "hobby" breeder. I do not breed often and do not breed for profit. As a matter of fact, if I can break even with costs of a litter I am happy, and that does not consider the hours put into puppy care.

As far as tips, if you really want to breed show or performance dogs, do not rush into buying the first cute female dog you see. First, figure out what look or style of dog you want, with doxies you have such a choice with the 3 coats and 2 sizes. Then go to shows, field trials, or where ever and just watch and talk to the exhibitors, it is important you buy your first girl from someone that can help mentor you along the way. The Dachshund Club of America is a good resource for finding a mentor. I do NOT suggest buying a stud for your girl, to get started in a breeding program. It is best to breed your girl to a different male each time and note which bloodlines "click". A good mentor will help you understand the pedigree and which stud choices are good and why. If you own a stud dog you will be tempted to use him regardless if he is the best suited for your girl. You will also have to bear the love sick cries every 6 months when she is in season. I only have girls because I am extremely picky about stud dogs, I like to "rent a boy" when needed!!

**Can you tell our readers anything about showing Dachshunds?**

Showing is comparing the breed standard (like a blue print) against the dogs presented to the judge. The judge is to select the dog that best that fits the standard. Because there is such high quality in dogs in the Midwest, including competing against top professional handlers, it makes us "up our game" so to speak in order to be competitive. Winning is not everything, and each show is a learning experience. It is a social event just as much as a competitive event for me. The majority of people that show Dachshunds are extremely friendly, supportive and all in all a good group. I have made many friendships along the way and have worked with other breeders to

keep my bloodline going. As luck would have it, another long haired Dachshund fancier lives only 5 minutes from me, Barb Skaer and I have been long time friends and work together with our bloodlines.

### **Do you feel it is important that a breeder participate in show or performance events?**

I love to look at a beautiful, well constructed Dachshund that has attitude and showmanship, but there is more to them than just that. A Dachshund is such a versatile breed, I love to watch their natural instincts "kick in" at a field trial or during barn hunt. You really do not have to train for these events, just introduce your dog to the scent, give a little encouragement and watch what happens. They are smart dogs also, that is why I like to do rally and basic agility. The Dachshund Club of America offers Versatility Certificates to dogs that qualify in multiple venues by earning points. My goal is to get the VC for most of my dogs.



Anne Schmidt of Stardust Dachshunds  
<http://www.stardustDachshunds.com/>

### Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

**This Dachshund article was written Cyndy Senff in February 2010 and was originally published in April 2010 in Sight and Scent magazine. Cyndy has kindly given us permission to reproduce this article for the benefit of interested owners.**

Going out on a limb here I am just going to say it. In recent years the judging of Dachshund movement has been in a serious “economic downturn” and in great need of a “stimulus package”. Just because the legs are short doesn’t mean they can’t walk. And just because they look pretty stacked doesn’t mean they can walk. At times there seems to be a trend of picking off the stack. Perhaps this is easier than judging movement? At other times faulty movement is being rewarded. One has to ask if this is because we have not taught effectively how to judge movement? Whatever the case, I hope to open the door to some serious thought on the subject.

Not crippled, cramped nor awkward in any manner, a correctly put together specimen will cover ground. That means it can GO. It should cover ground effortlessly with little or no wasted movement and it will not take little mincey steps going nowhere. When looking at sidegait the topline is going to lie in the straightest possible line between the withers and the croup. The dog is going to neither run up or down hill meaning it doesn’t sink on either end. The front legs reach forward far enough to efficiently clear the ground to make a stride and follow through the same amount. Think of a clock, if the forward swing passes the 7 then to match it would swing back past the 5. It is the same process in the rear, reach under the body and kick out behind. When looking at a still of movement the spread between the front feet and the spread between the back feet are matching distances. This is balanced movement.

From the front and rear the feet drive on parallel lines. When viewing a correctly wrapped front the wrists are necessarily closer together. When a well laid back shoulder meets with its ideally equally long upper arm on the oval thorax it will properly wrap.

## Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

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(These parentheses create the correct wraparound front) When this has happened wrists will be some closer than shoulders. When evaluating movement coming at you, you can think along the lines of a train on a track. You will see legs come from under the body not straight off the shoulder. Your Dachshund "train" will approach you with its feet hitting the tracks. A clean reach forward with slight convergence (thus hitting those tracks) with no wasted flipping, pounding, crossing over or waddling. If ideal movement hits those imaginary tracks then you can identify when it is not ideal. When the feet hit wider than those tracks. When the feet are too close together they hit inside those tracks. If they do loop de loops over those tracks. Well you get the idea. Not too wide, not to close, not east and west. A "trifle" is not easty westy.

Going away the same tracks apply but the hind feet might hit just slightly closer than the path of the front(maybe a back paws width). Again, wider than, closer than or hopping in and outside of those tracks give you pause to identify not so great movement. You want to see a nicely spaced clean moving rear going away that shows you the pads of the feet. No swishing back and forth. Hocks are stable not turning in or out.

Going back to the idea that form follows function a good field dog must be able to GO. If it can't and takes mincey little steps or stumbles all over itself and wastes motion all day then it will tire before it gets to the end of the hunt. We don't put food on the table by looking pretty standing still. We don't corner our quarry by just standing still and we certainly don't win a field trial by posing pretty in the field next to the bunnies.

Historically in the breeds heyday Dachshunds, particularly Smooths, were winning All Breed Best in Shows nearly weekly. Perhaps that is fodder for another writing. For now I mention it because as a measuring stick for the breeding program, judging is an important factor into a breed's rise out of or fall into decline in quality. Better breeding is not encouraged by being successful with mediocrity. Let us challenge judges and breeders alike to raise the bar!

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## Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

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For comparison to what has been written above on movement, I have copied here from [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) the current AKC Standard of the Dachshund (Effective 3/1/07) the section on movement:

Figure 27

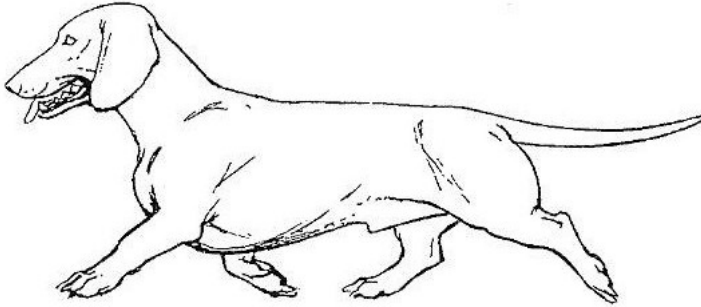
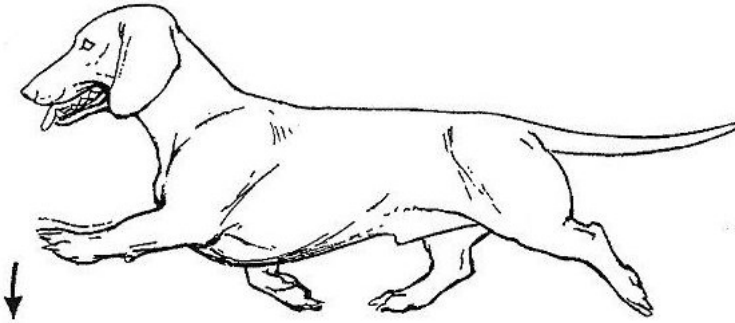


Figure 28



### Gait

*Fluid and smooth. Forelegs reach well forward, without much lift, in unison with the driving action of hind legs. The correct shoulder assembly and well-fitted elbows allow the long, free stride in front. Viewed from the front, the legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but incline slightly inward. Hind legs drive on a line with the forelegs, with hock joints and rear pasterns (metatarsus) turning neither in nor out. The propulsion of the hind leg depends on the dog's ability to carry the hind leg to complete extension. Viewed in profile, the forward reach of the hind leg equals the rear extension. The thrust of correct movement is seen when the rear pads are clearly exposed during rear extension. Rear feet do not reach upward*

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## Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

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*toward the abdomen and there is no appearance of walking on the rear pasterns. Feet must travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over, or interfere with each other. Short, choppy movement, rolling or high-stepping gait, close or overly wide coming or going are incorrect. The Dachshund must have agility, freedom of movement, and endurance to do the work for which he was developed.*

*And the second sentence of the standard-Appearing neither crippled, awkward, nor cramped in his capacity for movement, the Dachshund is well-balanced with bold and confident head carriage and intelligent, alert facial expression.*

Still true today regarding movement, from my library I reference Grayce Greenburg's-The Dachshund (5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1955pgs 69&70) where she writes: "In movement the Dachshund should have the appearance of having unlimited driving force. He is naturally alert and intelligent, with a bold and confident carriage. His front legs must be as near straight as is possible to have them, with heavy bone and well padded front feet slightly larger than are those in the back.....The hind legs are not so heavily boned as are the front, and the feet are smaller. The hind legs must not crouch under the body giving a slinking, shy appearance, but should set down cleanly with well let-down hocks and the knee almost perpendicular with the floor.....When moving, the hind legs should move straight ahead, the feet neither turning in nor out; feet crossing is a real fault. In moving, the Dachshund should travel with the assured, free movement almost of a pacing horse, head held high, showing every one of his good points, not draggy or slouchy."<sup>1</sup>

In The Complete Dachshund (1949 pg 107) Milo G. Denlinger wrote a chapter titled The Dachshund in a Nutshell. Regarding movement he states under the section "Avoid-Narrow, cramped action. Choppy steps. Pigeon-toed or slew-footed, front or rear."<sup>2</sup>

And from Herman Cox-Cox on Dachshunds (1982 p.84, 86, 87) "One

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<sup>1</sup> Grayce Greenburg-TheDachshund-1955-5<sup>th</sup> Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Milo G. Denlinger-The Complete Dachshund-1949-2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

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## Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

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of the best, time-tested methods for determining soundness is the observation of gait and movement. The animal that moves with the least amount of effort is proper in conformation and soundness.....

If we examine effortless movement, we find that it requires the summation of practically each item described in the standard, i.e., neck, shoulder placement, rear assembly, back and feet.....

The dog in action clearly reveals structural faults. An animal with loose shoulders needs only to travel a short distance for an educated eye to detect this fault. Likewise, a hackney gait is an indication of steep shoulder placement. I am a firm believer in the (origin unknown) statement that "A dog that moves right has to be put together right."<sup>3</sup>

From England's The Dachshund Club Handbook and Records 1990-1992(p17) In his Back to Basics chapter, Jeff Crawford writes "Movement is the acid test of all construction and a Dachshund should move with powerful ground-covering strides showing forward reach and hind thrust while still keeping the same outline it presented when standing. All too often the moving dog bears no relationship to the stationary one. The forechest disappears, the topline alters or the hind legs move forward under the dog, but not back beyond the perpendicular."<sup>4</sup>

From the Australian National Kanine Council Dachshund Standard as published in the Australian Dachshund Handbook and Records 1970-1988 (p 27) "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."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Herman G. Cox-Cox on Dachshunds-1982

<sup>4</sup> Handbook and Records-The Dachshund Club(UK)1990-1992

<sup>5</sup> Handbook and Records-The Australian Dachshund1970-1988

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## Chapter 3 - A Movement for Soundness in Dachshunds

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Author's Note: Interestingly both the Australian and England breed standards are to this day unchanged from the above.

Dee Hutchinson writes in her book *The Complete Dachshund* (1997 pg 69) with her late husband Bruce "The Dachshund's gait should be smooth and effortless. From the side, the dog should have good reach in front and good extending drive in the rear. When coming at you, the front will incline slightly inward because of the short legs. When going away, you should be able to see the rear pads."<sup>6</sup>

For decades, as well as around the world, there is plenty of evidence that Dachshunds are a movement breed. I hope this gets people to thinking and learning more about Dachshund movement. If you know what is correct then you have a good starting point. You can only judge what is brought you and each judge (and also breeder) will have an opinion as to which is more important, coming, going, breed type, sidegait, etc. That is a given. But knowing what is truly correct first then doing what you will from there, well, that should be a goal.

Obviously there are many good Dachshund judges already, even some great ones that already know about what I write and much more. Before I get burned at the stake I am no way shape or form saying all Dachshund judges need to read this and go back to school. I'm just concerned that the newer generations of Dachshund judges are going to be taught incorrectly, incompletely or not at all. I offer here food for thought on a trend that I don't want to see get set in stone. That is the trend of rewarding incorrect movement.

In consideration of my deadline and the fact that I'll never be through reading and proofing what I compiled here I'll hope that I have done well enough to stimulate some contemplation and effort into further education on the subject and call it a day.

Cyndy Senff  
Breeder/Exhibitor  
AKC Provisional Judge

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<sup>6</sup> Dee and Bruce Hutchinson-The Complete Dachshund-1997

Pending Regular Status Approval

Figure 23 taken from Cox on Dachshunds 1982 page 87 with permission from Hoflin Publication

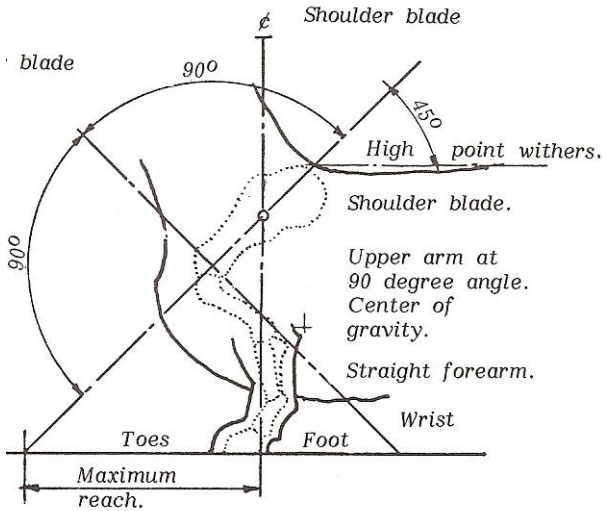


Figure 23: Correct front.

Balanced 45 degree shoulder placement; upper arm at 90 degree angle; oval chest, elbows tight; straight forward leg action; paws turned slightly out; maximum reach leg action.

Figures 27 and 28 show side gait correct and side gait with a lifting front as illustrated by the RKF in relation to the FCI Dachshund standard. These drawings titled Dachshund Official Documents were handy and in general effectively illustrate what is written above. (Scanned from Volume 2-2008 of the Russian magazine publication "Dachshund")

Home study: <http://www.sworab.com/d/> offers some good flash animation on side gait and provides a diagram with flashovers of pieces of the standard.

Cyndy Senff of Dynadaux Miniatures

<http://www.dynadaux.com>

## Chapter 4 - Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds

**Amanda where do you live and how long have you been a breeder?**

I currently live in northwest Montana in a little rural town with a population of 250.



**What type of Dachshund do you breed?**

I breed miniature longhairs and miniature smooths currently. I have bred standard longhairs along with Barbara Myers (Willowcroft

Dachshunds) in the past. Two girls from my last litter are now grand champions.

**How do you become an American Breeder of Merit?**

When AKC first offered the program I went back through my records and found I had bred many champion dogs.

**Could you give our readers some insights into the differences between the different types?**

I have always said the 3 varieties were different in personality - the miniature wirehair is the wind-up toy and class clown. The standard longhair is the opposite end of the spectrum - a laid back lover. My smooths tend to be more of a one person dog.

**Do you have a preference and how does a new potential owner decide on which is best for them?**

I still love the standard longhair but now that I am in my 70's I find that miniatures are easier for me to handle. I suggest a standard for people with young children rather than a miniature. There are always exceptions.

**Do you have any insights that the newcomer would not have, any tips and advice?**

If someone wants to see my Dachshunds who is new to the breed I show how to properly pick up and hold a Dachshund to give maximum support to the back.

**Are there tools and accessories you wouldn't be without and that would help a new owner?**

Nail clippers

**Can you offer new owners advice concerning fleas and maybe products you use in treatment and prevention?**

When we lived in California and had flea problems we used avon skin so soft as a dip. We haven't had major flea problems since we moved to Montana. I guess that is one benefit of living where it is so cold.

### **Do you have any advice for owners of older Dachshunds or tips you can pass on?**

My oldest Dachshund is going on 16. I try to keep him as comfortable as possible. He still loves to wander around the FENCED yard. We have chickens and need to have him on one side of the fence and them on the other.

### **Did you start with the Dachshund straight away and could you share some of your early stories of starting as a breeder?**

My parents bought a Dachshund for me when I was 5 years old. We had just moved from an older section of Dallas to what was then Dallas County. We had a half acre fenced back yard. We had a 2 bedroom, 2 bath house with a living room, dining room, kitchen, den and two fireplaces. Only my mother wouldn't let anyone light a fire in the living room fireplace. The house had an attached garage. My Dachshund had her bed in the garage with a ramp to a window that went to an outside pen or a door that went directly to the back yard. My Dachshund's name was Katie. She was AKC registered. Back then (1947) we didn't know about miniatures or standards. She was a smooth Dachshund. I didn't know there was anything else.

I was an only child living in an area where there weren't many other children, so Katie became my playmate. When I climbed a tree to read a book, she would sit at the base of the tree and wait for me. She went on long country road walks with my father and me. She helped find and catch a frog that won the YMCA frog jumping contest. Actually we caught one the night before but it got away so we had to catch a new one the morning of the contest. I think ours won because it was fresh.



**Photo shows Trinka my 2nd Dachshund - the one my husband and I bought on Christmas Eve in 1964.**

I think I was about 10 years old when I took Katie over to the house behind us to see if anyone wanted to play. They couldn't play so Katie and I walked back home. Later it was hard to explain to people that I broke my arm when I tripped over my Dachshund.

Katie loved to chase rabbits – at least those who were dumb enough to come into our back yard. The rabbit would run and then stop. Then Katie would run and stop. This would go on for a long time until they got tired of the game and the rabbit left the yard.

I grew up and got married and moved away. I was about 22 years old when I got a letter from my mother saying that Katie had died.

She told me that the rabbit never came back.

My husband and I bought our first Dachshund as a couple the first Christmas we were married. We got her Dec 24, 1964. We found an

## Chapter 4 - Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds

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ad in the local newspaper and got her that night. I named her Katrina. We were living in an apartment in Atwater, California – a town next to Castle AFB. My husband was in B52 training then. We went from there to Albany Georgia where he was stationed at Turner AFB. We lived in an apartment for about 6 months and then bought a house. We didn't know much about Georgia and went to go raspberry picking with our dog. People asked us why we did that. It seemed there were snakes where we were picking raspberries. We bought a nice new house in a new part of Albany. My husband was gone for a week at a time "on alert", which was what B52 crews did back then. I taught high school classes. One day when I got home after class I hear the dog barking and went out to check. She'd cornered a snake. I grabbed a hoe and hit the snake until it died. We were all glad to leave Georgia.

We went back to California with our Dachshund and a terrier mix we had found when we were fishing.

We decided to take an obedience class. Before that we were just a family with a dog. We thought we might like to go to a dog show. We did go to San Francisco to see the Golden Gate show when it was still a benched show. Does that tell you how old we are now?

Time went on. We had a child and the mixed terrier went to live with in-laws. The Dachshund was bred to a miniature wirehair Dachshund. We ended up keeping a bitch puppy and then moved to Kincheloe AFB on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Two days after we got there Katrina got out the door in a snow storm and was hit and killed by a speeding car.

We still had the puppy, named Scraps. We wanted another dog. I wrote to breeders and Hannelore Heller directed us to a breeder in the Chicago area who had a standard longhair bitch puppy. My husband flew down there on one of the base's aero club planes which could be chartered and picked up a black and tan standard longhair puppy from Lorene and Jerry Hogan. My daughter named the puppy "Heller." Heller and Scraps again led us into obedience. Scraps got a CD down in the Detroit area one summer. Heller had 2



legs towards her title and then got a “piddle penalty” when she couldn’t wait any longer.

We moved back to California as Kincheloe was closing. There was snow in our back yard when we got to Kincheloe and we found a swing set there when we left. They turned the base into a federal prison after it closed. The ACLU called that cruel and unusual punishment.

We had two children by then. I saw something in the local paper about a match in the town park. I went to see the match and met a lady with a standard longhaired Dachshund. I told her I had one at home that looked just like hers. Her dog’s name was Hoover. It turned out he was an AKC registered Dachshund with a good pedigree.

Later our youngest daughter wanted a dog to show. I contacted breeders all over the country using addresses in The American Dachshund (no email then). The only person who contacted me back was Maria Hayes (Maxsohn). We went to visit her in San Diego and came home with Maxsohn’s Pippin, who later became a champion (handled by Hannelore Heller). What a small world!

### **I believe you wanted to share some of your rally dog experiences?**

I started out in rally with a black and tan miniature smooth girl and we learned together how to train for obedience. You need to have your dog trained for basic obedience before starting rally. I knew I didn’t like the style the trainer was using – too harsh for a Dachshund. Darcy (Duchwood’s Dark Beauty MS RA) was very forgiving and we worked our way through rally novice and then rally advanced. This was when the jumps were four inches for a small Dachshund that had to strain to look up that far. Darcy sailed over the jumps and loved every minute of rally. I tried to train her for excellent in rally and never got very far because she wouldn’t do a stand. That’s why she never finished in conformation either. She wouldn’t stand on the table. She’s pointed but never got her majors. She loved rally but we never tried for the rally excellent title. Darcy

## Chapter 4 - Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds

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did demonstrate potential for agility though during one of her advanced tests. She used the fence legs forming the arena boundary for weave poles. We don't have a picture of this because my husband who had the camera had collapsed laughing.

I tried rally with a borzoi and my husband ended up getting her rally novice title. Ari the borzoi and I weren't getting along.

I trained a miniature cream longhaired male named Magic and only needed one more leg to get his rally novice title. I entered him at the Cascade Dachshund Club show in Washington and also volunteered to be a steward for rally for the show. Most judges in rally will let you be a table steward as long as it is not for the class you entered – not this judge. If I was a table steward for any of her classes, I could not show a dog under her. My husband, who had never worked with Magic, had to show him for the last rally novice leg. Wonders of wonders, Rae and Magic (Devoncream Magic Master RN) got the last rally novice leg. Rae claims it was due to his expert handling. I claim credit for my training.

I like to see that the dogs who are the conformation champions have performance titles as well. One of my standard longhairs, American/International Champion Willowcroft Teckelwood Flaire SL R.O.M. RN CGC ME Canadian JE, achieved her rally novice title with her new owner, Sue Ellestad. Flaire's daughter, Champion Willowcroft Sorpresa SL RA finished her rally novice and rally advanced titles with my husband, Rae Hodges. Rae and Sorpresa are pictured during a rally seminar in Missoula in 2008. Rae also showed Willowcroft Ronald Reagan SL RN and Templedox Lump of Coal ML RN to their rally novice titles. American/Canadian/International Champion Criscross NW to Teckelwood MS RN was a challenge. Cris had been so well trained by his handler, Cathy Sorenson, he posed in a perfect stack when I stopped rather than doing the automatic sit needed for rally. It took Cathy all afternoon one day in Helena, Montana to get him so he would sit when I stopped. I usually take advantage of our long, cold, dark winters to do rally training inside. I'm currently working

## Chapter 4 - Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds

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with Ch Teckelwood Hunter MS and International Champion Devoncream English Rose and I hope to start working with some puppies this winter.



I do feel that everyone who shows needs to volunteer at shows. I like working as a rally steward. The first time I worked as the table steward was a real experience. Fortunately the judge was very understanding. However, when we were done she said to me “You did check my scores, didn’t you.” I must have had a really blank look on my face because she smiled and said “The correct answer is yes.” After that, I always checked scores. I enjoyed working as a steward at the DCA trials in Dallas. It did get a little busy when I had to take a break and dash downstairs from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to see if my rally novice dog was through showing with Barbara Myers (her other owner) in Diva’s first time being shown as a special. We moved Diva to the end of her class and she got her third rally novice leg so she could be in the DCA parade of performance dogs. Diva is pictured practicing at a seminar in Missoula, Montana.

Diva (American/Canadian Champion Cedar Hills Luv This Chip ML RN) and I did a lot a practicing for the rally advanced title. This requires that the dog be off lead as opposed to the rally novice where the dog is shown on lead. We entered a show at Lewiston, Idaho. We were ready. This show was held outside where it had snowed the night before. The scent hung close to the ground.

## Chapter 4 - Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds

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Unfortunately, so did my dog. We entered the ring with high hopes. We were ready. Diva worked well with me off lead for the first few stations. Then we got to the station that had toys on an offset figure eight. Diva had seen the offset figure eight station the day before but it had food in it instead of toys. She paid attention to me the first time we passed the toys. However, the course went back past the toys. She looked at them and then she looked at me. She turned towards the toys. I told her "leave them". She stayed with me. Unfortunately the course then came back past the toys. It was too much. Diva ran and grabbed one of the toys. I yelled at her (something you aren't supposed to do in rally). "Diva, leave it." She dropped the toy and came back to me. I knew we were in trouble. We continued on the course but finally had to come back past the toys once again. This was one too many times. Diva ran and grabbed the toy and sprinted for the exit with the toy in her mouth. The toy in question was an octopus with long legs. It was bigger than my miniature Dachshund. She looked like an octopus with legs running across the ring. The judge looked at me and excused us. The crowd was in hysterics. Needless to say we didn't get our rally advanced title at that show.

I haven't shown in rally since then but I still steward for shows. I just don't take Diva.

Amanda Hodges of Teckelwood Dachshunds  
<http://www.teckelwood.com>

## **Chapter 5 - Debbie & Peter Clarke of Tekalhaus Standard Longhaired Dachshunds**

My passion for dogs goes right back to my childhood, growing up with 2 Boxers, a Labrador, and GSD. We also had Dachshunds in the family along with Rottweilers.

Once I left my parents and setup home with my husband Peter, we got our first Rottweiler, quickly followed by a Miniature longhaired Dachshund. Our Mini, having grown up with Rottweilers thought he was a big dog and behaved like one. My Parents at the time had a stunning BT mini that had come from the famous WOODHEATH kennels breeder Barbara O'Neill. I persuaded them to let me show him and enjoyed the experience. It was whilst showing him I noticed the Std Longs and watched them whenever I could and fell in love with the breed. Although owing a mini, I felt the Stds were for us. A big dog on small legs so to speak.



I got my first two Std longs from the Feorlinn Kennels and the bitch, a striking BT was to be my foundation bitch for TEKALHAUS.

Because of our love of the breed choosing a stud dog was important and we eventually decided on a male from the USA. This started my world travelling "all in the name of Dachshunds."

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## Chapter 5 - Debbie & Peter Clarke of Tekalhaus Standard Longhaired Dachshunds

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Our first litter from her “Feoirinn Bronty at Tekalhaus, we took the huge leap and chose a stud dog from the USA. This was to be by ‘ai’ or “artificial insemination”. The process was drawn out as the dog we chose had to have his semen collected, frozen and stored by a certified Vet in the USA and also meet the criteria for the UK for importation. The stud dog would have had to have had his rabies shot, the required vaccinations for all dogs and certificate of health. The semen had to remain in the USA for 6 months “in quarantine” to ensure the stud dog was rabies free. A further health certificate after this time was to also be completed before shipping. We had the added stress in doing this as the dog I chose AM CH BOONDOX ZIGGURAT was shipped to Australia to Judy and Alan Poulton shortly after he had been collected. We had to contact the Poultons, ZIGGY’s new owners and hope they would agree to get the second health certificate done for us. Time was ticking away, and finally one day before we were to have Bronty inseminated, the semen finally arrived in the UK. Professor Gary England, a WORLD renowned expert on animal reproduction was to perform the insemination for us. Believe me, the stress involved as I was sure we would miss this mating, was huge. We were so grateful for his experience and knowledge and Bronty was to go on and have 6 beautiful healthy puppies, 3 girls and 3 boys. We were the first breeders to use ‘ai’ in England to produce a litter.

Because of the stud dog we chose, and the fact that I travelled to the USA to see ‘ZIGGY’ in April 1997, only to find he had already been shipped to Australia, opened up the opportunity for me to also travel to Australia, so I could see this beautiful dog in the September of the same year. Whilst in the USA that April, I attended “DCA” ~ Dachshund Club of America National Dog show. A great opportunity to see how breeders ‘across the pond’ bred std longs. It was a very informative and worthwhile visit, even if I missed Ziggy!

The Australia trip gave me the chance to attend a Dachshund Speciality in Melbourne, and again see a large number of std longs!

From that first litter we kept a dog and bitch. The bitch ~ Tekalhaus

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Chapter 5 - Debbie & Peter Clarke of Tekalhaus Standard  
Longhaired Dachshunds

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Liquid Gold ~ would go on to produce, also from 'ai' in two separate litters our two ENG Champions ~ Ch Tekalhaus Krugerrand and CH/Aust Ch Tekalhaus Masterpiece. Their sire this time was the beautiful AM/SA Ch Siddachs Maestro to Nibbleheim.

The first litter that produced Ch Tekalhaus Krugerrand "Cally" was also to prove stressful. When the day came after numerous progesterone blood tests, the United Kingdom was in the grip of "foot and mouth disease". Prof Gary England, who once again would perform the 'ai' was resident at the RVC and the college had farm animals on site. The college was in lock down, but special permission was granted for me to take 'DION' to be inseminated. I remember all the troughs of disinfectant everywhere that both of us had to walk through just to get to the laboratory. So very grateful for all Gary England's help.



Because of the 'foot and mouth' we could not go back for a second insemination. Two years later Gary England would contact me to say we still had frozen semen with him... what luck, so we did a repeat mating!

Ch/Aust Ch Tekalhaus Masterpiece was to venture to Australia and spend time with the Poultons, to enjoy what he loved most ~

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## Chapter 5 - Debbie & Peter Clarke of Tekalhaus Standard Longhaired Dachshunds

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SHOWING ~ and also to be used at stud.

Standard longhaired Dachshunds are by far the best of the three varieties and sizes. At present they have no health issues, have the best of temperaments, easy to live with and seem to make great family pets and mix well with children and other dogs alike. I cannot see us with any other breed now, they get under your skin and you cannot just have one!

Our latest litter to be is with our beautiful singleton girl Tekalhaus Million To One. We have decided after 19 years to use our frozen semen from Am/Aust Ch Boondox Ziggurat again and 'Kens' is confirmed in whelp with 4 puppies! We owe our thanks to Repro specialist Hector Heathcote for performing the 'ai' on this occasion.

We have imported two Std longs, one from Australia, from the Poultons, Aust Ch Laurieton His Masters Voice ~ a son of Ch/Aust Ch Tekalhaus Masterpiece, and a bitch from the USA. This girl came from Paula Carter ~ Solo's Billion Dollar Baby. These two imports are the parents of our beautiful 'Kensi.'

Because of our love of the breed, we have friends from all corners of the world now. Aust Ch Laurieton His Masters Voice was used at stud 'ai' by the top breeder in Sweden ~ Mrs Elisabeth Rhodin ~also a renowned breed specialist. From this has developed a close and lasting friendship. We have been lucky to travel to Sweden and stay and attend shows there with Elisabeth on 4 separate occasions now. Our trips to the USA attending DCA, to Australia for their Nationals and breed specialty shows, travelling to World shows too, has extended our wealth of knowledge of breeding from around the world. We are very fortunate to have had all these opportunities and a fabulous circle of friends... we will continue to travel and enjoy the breed for as long as we can!

Debbie & Peter Clarke  
Tekalhaus Standard Longhaired Dachshunds  
<http://www.tekalhausdachshunds.com>



## Chapter 6 - Kelly Denise Bensabat of Splendor Farms

### Could you introduce yourself and tell us where you are based?

I fell in love with the Dachshund breed about 26 years ago and purchased my first then and two months later purchased another one. A year later I purchased a red long-haired miniature to show and I didn't realize she wasn't show quality all I knew was it was fun to be in the show ring.

25 years later I now have several bred-by champions and two grand champions and currently have four dogs showing and I have also placed many puppies over the years and loving homes and now have a rescue home for older retired show dogs and dogs that just simply aren't placeable due to health and behavioral issues and who will live with me until it is time to bury them.

Splendor farms is located in Bush, Louisiana, which is an hour north of New Orleans and an hour and a half east of Baton Rouge Louisiana. We have been showing, rescuing and raising only Dachshunds for over 25 years. We are a licensed kennel through the State Louisiana and the parish of St Tammany and all of our puppies are AKC registered.



### Why do you think Dachshunds are special?

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Dachshunds have to be the "biggest little dog" as far as attitude and personality of all breeds! They are loyal, smart, personable, and in my opinion very loving especially when they are raised with love and care, and are well socialized. They make the best addition to your family.

**What type of Dachshund do you focus on in particular – and for the new potential owner – do you have any tips and advice concerning which type of Dachshund to choose?**

The long-haired variety comes from the spaniel side of the breed and are the most laid-back and usually most calm. The smooth comes from the terrier side and are perfect for a more active family. And the wire haired have the most personality and can be quite comical. A potential owner's lifestyle and family size and activity level should be the deciding factor in which variety is best.

**What colors are most popular would you say?**

The black and tans are the most classic of all the colors. A gorgeous red with a black overlay can be stunning, but my particular favorite is the creams, the EE Pale and the Shaded English. When you get into patterns there are sables, brindles, piebald, and dapples. It is a personal preference!

**Can you tell us something most owners would not know - tips, secrets etc from your years of experience?**

Dachshunds are incredibly smart you can teach them anything at a very young age. If you hang a bell or a squeaky toy, low enough where they can reach it, off the handle of the door that you always use to go out to potty and squeak it or ring it every time you go, they will learn to do it themselves when they are ready to go out.

**Do you have any special feeding routines or diet – what type of food do you use?**

I feed several different types of feed - it depends upon the individual dog or puppy. My show dogs are on a different feed

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from my rescue dogs. And my momma dogs are on a different feed from non-pregnant dogs. A puppy should be on a high protein high fat food. I like Purina Pro Plan salmon 30/20 for my puppies. There is no across-the-board feeding with any breed, but the one rule you need to know is do not **over feed** your dogs, especially the Dachshund breed, as weight gain can be extremely stressful on their backs and their short legs.

### **Do you have any house training advice to new owners?**

Yes, a puppy has to eliminate every time he has eaten, drink water, played hard, and woke up, the first two weeks you belong to the puppy the puppy does not belong to you! You need to take the puppy out regularly many times a day and always go out the same door, say the same words, and put the puppy in the same place in the yard. A routine works wonders as does lots of praise and a treat for doing their business outside.

### **Choosing a puppy from a litter, what advice could you offer potential new owners in terms of selecting ‘the one’?**

All puppies are cute! As far as choosing a puppy, you want a puppy that is alert, healthy, and doesn't act afraid or timid. A great book is the Art of Raising a Puppy there is a section in there that describes puppy choosing. I highly recommend it to all my new owners and clients. When looking to purchase a cream, please look at pedigrees. A cream bred to a red produces a red, not a cream. The puppy may look cream at 2-12 weeks, but by the time the puppy is 1-2 years old, it will have turned red!

### **What games and what toys do you recommend to new owners?**

I have several different exercises that I do with my puppies ...one is a neurological stimulation and the other is something called the sevens. Further information about these two topics can be found on my website [www.splendorfarms.com](http://www.splendorfarms.com), or you can call me! I'm always happy to talk about Dachshunds!!!

**Kelly Denise Bensabat**

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## Chapter 7 - Audrey Paul of Small Wonders Kennels

### **Audrey how long have you been a breeder?**

I have been a breeder for the last 5 or 6 years. You have some highs and you have a lot more lows but you keep going because I feel that what I do is important. I do my best to breed and raise some incredible Dachshunds for some amazing pet families.

### **Why the Dachshund and do you focus on one type in particular?**

As a kid growing up my parents weren't exactly animal friendly but I remember a neighbor that had a smooth red Dachshund named Sassy. She was awesome. I would visit just to play with her. So friendly and spunky and just loved everybody. So I said when I grow up I want a Dachshund just like Sassy. After I got my first one I was just hooked. I do primarily breed short hairs. I love the other 2 varieties but I am not a good groomer. At all. So I figured it would be best to stick with the wash and wear variety.



### **What things can owners do to extend their Dachshunds life?**

So a few things the owners can do is to keep their Dachshund fit. A Dachshund should be lean and exercised to be kept in good physical condition. Do not over feed your Dachshund. The extra weight is not good for their short legs and their long backs. You want to make sure that they get a yearly physical from your vet. Vaccines aren't recommended every year now but they should still see a vet to check eyes, ears, heart, and a stool sample to check for parasites.

### **What aftercare do you end up giving most – in other words what issues might an owner have and why?**

I would have to say the biggest thing is houstraining. They can be stubborn when it comes to house training. Most of mine put the

brakes on going outside when it is snowing or raining. You really have to be diligent with a schedule and sticking to it. Crate training works very well also as Dachshunds typically don't like to soil where they sleep.

**What food do you feed yours?**

I feed Victor dry dog food. I have had really good luck with it. They have different formulas to fit just about any dogs needs. My dogs, even my picky eaters, eat it up very well, and they aren't very gassy.

**How can owners prevent the sort of behavior problems we read about on forums?**

A lot of the issues I have heard about are really what the Dachshund breed is. I think owners need to research before they buy a Dachshund and make sure that they can live with some of their quirks rather than try to change them. Dachshunds were bred to go down a hole in the dirt to chase a badger. A mean ugly wild badger. lol. So Dachshunds are by nature diggers and barkers. There is just nothing you can do about that. It is their nature. I have seen a lot of timid temperaments in the Dachshund breed lately. It is even something I am trying to improve on in my breeding. That is why I do a lot of early socialization with pups that are born here and I strongly encourage new owners to continue it when they leave.



**Are Dachshunds easy to train?**

I don't think I'd call them easy to train. But they are not impossible to train. They require consistency, a schedule, and lots of praise and

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treats. The way to a Dachshunds heart is through their stomach. When I do a lot of treat training in a day however I like to cut back on their evening meal. So I don't have a well trained pudgy Dachshund.



**Can you give away any of your secrets?!**

I don't know if I have any secrets. I do see a lot of pet parents that don't cut nails. It is a difficult task but so necessary. Long nails can throw their whole structure off and cause joint problems as they get older. I like to Dremel my Dachshunds nails. At first I will just do the tips and treat after each foot. They won't like the feel of it initially so you may have to hold them down. If they are very squirmy don't give in and let them go. Make sure you get through it and do every nail. If not the squirming will have paid off and it will be even more difficult the next time. I would do just the tips every couple of days until they get used to it.

Audrey Paul of Small Wonders Kennels  
<http://www.smallwonderskennel.com>



Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature  
Dachshunds (VWK)

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**Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature  
Dachshunds (VWK)**

**Thanks for doing this interview, can you tell us who you are and where you are based?**

I am Joanne D. Wolff, Michigan City Indiana. I breed and show under the name of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK).

I am retired and "do Dachshunds" full time, competing in AKC Conformation events, and in the growing sport of Barn Hunt.



**What inspired you to become a breeder and did you start with Dachshunds?**

I have been involved with breeding dogs my entire life. My parents owned toy Pekingese, and a Peke "ChiChi" was my first dog...a gift for me on my 5th birthday. As an adult, I have owned and bred



Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature  
Dachshunds (VWK)

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Pekingese, German Shepherd Dogs, Saint Bernards, Dobermans, Great Danes and Miniature Dachshunds. I began showing my Dachshunds in AKC Conformation events in 2006.

**There are a number of variations within the Dachshund breed, perhaps you could explain which type(s) you breed and why?**

I own only Smooth and Longhair Miniature Dachshunds. I have developed a breeding program of Cream Smooth Miniatures, which is now in its 5th-7th generation down from the original Cream Longhairs. I decided to develop the Cream Smooths while cross-coat breeding is still unrestricted in the AKC.

In many countries, and under other systems, like FCI, creating Cream Smooths is impossible due to restrictions that prohibit breeders from breeding a Smooth to a Longhair. Since the Cream gene was only bred for in the Longhair gene pool, it was necessary to breed "across the coats" to bring Cream into the Smooth lines.

Once established, two Cream Smooths will breed "true to type"...in other words, produce offspring that looks like themselves. This is a lengthy process, one that I have been working on since 2009. Brindle is the pattern I specialize in, producing Cream Brindles in both Smooth and Longhair coats. I also own Solid (Reds) and 2 Colored dogs (Black/Tans, Black/Creams) and Dapple patterned dogs. I like the fact that all these choices are available in Miniature Dachshunds, and for the most part, only Red and Black/Tan in the Standard size dogs.

**What types of people are buying Dachshunds and why do you think people choose the Dachshund over all the other choices they have available?**

My puppies are placed into a variety of homes. Many live in large condo buildings in downtown Chicago, where they ride elevators to the ground floor and walk to the dog parks. Many families with children purchase Dachshund pups, with a great many parents having grown up with Dachshunds themselves, and now they want

## Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)

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to share the joy of doxie ownership with their own kids!

Dachshunds thrive in rural or farm settings, often mingling with cats, goats, cattle and horses. To put it simply, Dachshunds are versatile dogs that can adapt to whatever lifestyle their owners have. I think they are chosen as family companions because of their intense loyalty and devotion to their owners. You don't own and love a Dachshund, you are owned by and loved by a Dachshund!

### **Can you offer advice to people looking to buy a Dachshund and how much should they be spending?**

Price in the USA varies quite a lot from region to region. Both East and West coasts are a bit higher priced than in the Midwest or South. In any area, it is wise for a buyer to check out the breeder thoroughly. Ask to speak with satisfied families who own their pups. Do they have the parents of your prospective puppy available so you can meet them and judge their temperaments?



Will they set an appointment for you to come to the home or facility to meet the parents, or do they want to meet you in a parking lot or alongside the freeway? To me, that is a red flag. If breeders are fearful of strangers in their home, then they simply need to have

## Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)

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another family member or friend present while the prospective owners visit.

My dogs all live inside my home, in rooms designed especially for them. So when I invite prospective owners for a visit, they are coming into my home. We chat and play with the adults and pups, get to know each other and often develop friendships that center around our Dachshunds. Not every breeder uses my methods, there are many "right" ways to breed and raise dogs. Just be sure the breeder you buy from is committed to breeding happy, healthy pups and making you, that essential new owner, pleased and proud to have obtained a Dachshund puppy from them.

### **What is the typical temperament of a Dachshund, so people know what to expect from their new pet?**

The Breed Standard states "Bold, to the point of rashness!" Simply translated, a Dachshund should be outgoing, friendly, though reserved with strangers at first is not considered a bad thing, and able to quickly adjust to situations. It doesn't mean aggressive or threatening. It doesn't mean nippy or snappy or excessively barky.

Dachshunds should be bright, alert and reasoning. Having raised Dobermans, I know what REALLY smart dogs are...and Dachshunds can hold their own intellectually with any other breed!

Being head strong, desiring to do things "their way" is also a trait of a Dachshund, and it's not so much bad behavior as a truly innate sense of who they are that drives them to come up with ways to counter act you! So be prepared for your Dachshund to play a few "mind games" with you.

It's often said that Smooths are the sharp ones, Longhairs are the laid back ones and Wires are the clowns. I can't speak to the difference with Wirehaired dogs, but I do know there is a difference in the personalities of Smooths and Longs. Smooths are tireless, ambitious and quick-witted little devils. Longhairs are dreamy, relaxed and poised. A Smooth will snatch your sock as you're

## Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)

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putting it on your foot and run around the house 3 times with it before you get up out of your chair! The Longhair would be satisfied to lay its muzzle on your wrist and gaze into your eyes as you attempt to put your sock on. That is not to say that I haven't had wild Longhair pups or sweet snuggler Smooths. Your breeder will know the personality of the pups being offered, and can make sure you get one to suit YOUR temperament.

### **Do you have any special feeding routines or diet?**

I feed a high quality dry kibble formulated for all life stages of a dog. I use a website called Dog Food Advisor as a helpful tool in choosing what food to use. If a breeder uses a very expensive or hard to get dog food, you can be certain the new puppy owner will switch it pretty quickly after the pup goes home anyway. So, I try to use a food that is at least a 4 star for quality and is readily available. Then recommend it to my new owners, and tell them how or where to buy it.

For my own showing and breeding dogs, I supplement with products designed to increase the health, stamina and breeding capability. For bitches that are to be bred, I begin increasing the amount of food they are given twice a day at the 30th day of gestation. By whelping time, they are getting 2-2.5 times a normal ration. I continue this while they raise the pups. I have found that by doing this, my bitches don't drop weight significantly while nursing and raising pups, the amount of coat loss is less and they "spring back" more quickly. .

### **What colors and sizes are most popular?**

I get more requests for Red Smooth Female pups than for any other coat/color/pattern by 3-1! My Smooth waiting list is always at least half Red Smooth Female requests! Sometimes, I can turn one or 2 around to the joys of owning a male dog, or convince them that a Longhair doesn't mean hours of grooming and detangling weekly.

Many folks simply have a mental picture of a Dachshund and it is a

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## Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)

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Red Smooth. Most prefer a female as they as being cautious about marking and aggression. Myself, I tend to favor my males, though I dearly love my little bitchy girls. They are just that, sometimes divas, sometimes bossy queens...the little females will rule a bunch of much larger house companions as if it is their "due". Boys want to please, want to be with you and want to learn.

I think the Miniature Variety is more sought after by city and suburb dwellers because they "fit"...under the size limits of rental agreements, in the lounge chair beside you and on your pillow in bed. Standard Variety Dachshunds are sought after by hunters and trackers, outdoors people and hikers as they have stamina to work all day in the field, size to tackle most small prey and a great robust joy for being out "doing things" with their owners.



**As a breed expert, are there any 'essential' tips you would like to share with new owners?**

Although many families want to include their new puppy in all the family activities, it is important to remember that the new Dachshund puppy is really just a baby. They need plenty of sleep, a safe place to run off to if they get a sudden fright, and time to recover and adjust from the excitement and stress of new people and situations. They also need to be contained when you are not at home. Running freely through the house can end in disastrous situations, hazard to the pups' health and possible damage to your nice things!

I always recommend that new owners buy a small crate that can fit

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## Chapter 8 - Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)

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inside an exercise pen, leaving room for a food and water dish, potty pad and play area. I like the square plastic pens for this, and suggest they put it in an area just off the high traffic places in the house...a corner of the kitchen, dining room, family room is perfect. Now the puppy can be contained, but still feel like it is part of the "action". The crate inside should have bedding to encourage naps and during the day, the crate door is left open, allowing the puppy to come out, play, eat and potty. When the family is home, open the pen door so the pup can come out and explore, play with the family and interact. When you leave the house, tell the puppy to go to its "house", and shut the pen door, leaving the crate door open. Now the pup is safe while you are gone.

Unless you are planning to have your pup in bed with you from the start, the pen and crate is where the puppy goes at bedtime. The pen door is closed, and a treat, like a small dog biscuit is used to entice the puppy into the crate. Close the crate door, say good night and go to bed.

Quiet, unstressed crate time is something every dog can benefit from. Soon, the pup comes to know its crate is the "safe place" and where to go for naps and rest. Once the pup is older, the expen can be removed and just the crate left, normally with door open all day, providing a safe place to take a nap and relax. Many of the owners of VWK Dachshunds have used this method, and dogs as old as 8 years go and lay, half in and half out of their crates, just for relaxation. Providing a place of comfort that they can call their own is essential to your Dachshunds' mental health and well being.

Joanne D. Wolff of Von Wolff Kennel Miniature Dachshunds (VWK)  
<http://www.jodachskennels.com/>