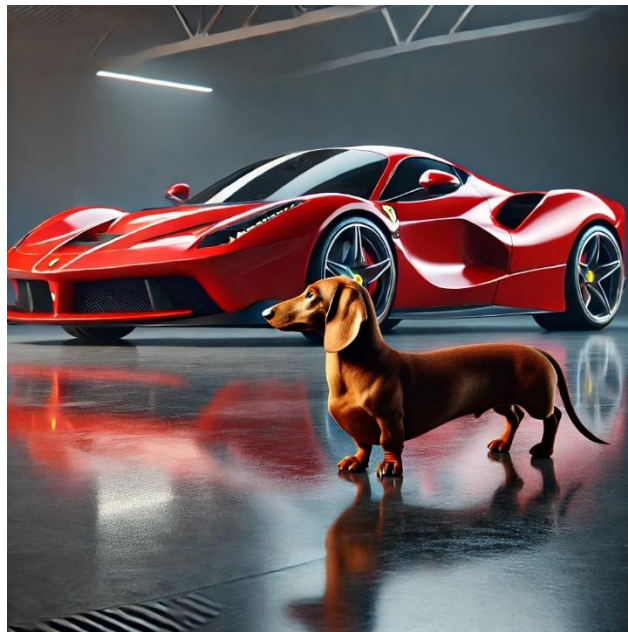


Dachshund Judges Education Guide



Dachshund is the Ferrari of Hounds

Comparing a Dachshund to a Ferrari might seem unconventional at first, but both share qualities that make them stand out in their respective worlds. Here's how a Dachshund and a Ferrari can be viewed in parallel:

Design and Appearance

- **Dachshund:** The Dachshund is a breed known for its unique and striking appearance. With its elongated body, short legs, and expressive face, the

Dachshund stands out from other dog breeds. Its design is not just for looks; it's functional, allowing it to burrow and chase prey underground, like how a sleek sports car is designed for speed and performance.

- **Ferrari:** Ferrari is synonymous with sleek, innovative design. The low, aerodynamic profile of a Ferrari is crafted to reduce drag and increase speed, making it a head-turner on the road. Every line and curve are engineered for both performance and aesthetic appeal, much like the Dachshund's body is designed for agility and function.

Performance and Agility

- **Dachshund:** Despite their small stature, Dachshunds are incredibly agile and capable of impressive bursts of speed. Their bodies are designed for quick, efficient movement, particularly in tight spaces. Like a finely tuned engine, a Dachshund's muscular build allows it to perform tasks that require endurance and agility, such as hunting small game.
- **Ferrari:** Ferraris are built for speed and precision. With powerful engines and finely tuned suspensions, they handle corners and straights with equal prowess. The performance of a Ferrari is about more than just speed; it's about control, agility, and the ability to navigate difficult terrain, much like a Dachshund's ability to maneuver through tight spaces and burrows.

Personality and Presence

- **Dachshund:** Dachshunds have a big personality in a small package. They are bold, confident, and often a bit stubborn, much like the confidence a Ferrari driver exudes. Their presence is undeniable, and they command attention with their unique appearance and lively temperament. A Dachshund is like a Ferrari in that it knows it's worth and isn't afraid to show it.
- **Ferrari:** A Ferrari, when on the road, is more than just a car; it's a statement. It exudes confidence, power, and a sense of prestige. Much like a Dachshund, it stands out in any crowd and commands respect. The roar of a Ferrari's engine is akin to the assertiveness of a Dachshund's bark—distinctive, powerful, and impossible to ignore.

Heritage and Purpose

- **Dachshund:** Dachshunds were bred with a specific purpose in mind: to hunt and chase burrowing animals. This breed's heritage is steeped in a history of utility and function, much like how every Ferrari is built with the heritage of racing excellence and engineering prowess. Both are a blend of tradition and performance.
- **Ferrari:** Ferrari's heritage is rooted in the world of high-speed racing. Each car is a testament to decades of innovation, performance, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Like a Dachshund's history in hunting, Ferrari's history in racing is a fundamental part of its identity, shaping what it means to own and drive one.

Exclusivity and Prestige

- **Dachshund:** While Dachshunds are popular pets, their distinctive appearance and strong personality make them a breed that stands out. Owning a Dachshund comes with a certain level of prestige, much like owning a luxury car. They are not just dogs; they are companions with a legacy, much like a Ferrari is more than just a car.
- **Ferrari:** Ferraris are symbols of luxury and exclusivity. Not everyone can own a Ferrari, and those who do are part of an elite group. This exclusivity is mirrored in the Dachshund's appeal as a breed that offers more than just companionship—it offers a connection to a rich history and a strong personality.

Conclusion

In summary, both the Dachshund and the Ferrari are icons in their own right. The Dachshund, with its unique design, agility, and bold personality, parallels the Ferrari's sleek appearance, high performance, and commanding presence. Both are built with purpose, steeped in heritage, and represent a blend of form and function that makes them stand out in their respective worlds. Whether on four paws or four wheels, the Dachshund, and the Ferrari both embody a spirit of excellence and individuality.

Dachshunds are the only dog that flushes game, tracks, retrieves and hunts



Versatility of Dachshunds in Hunting

Dachshunds are indeed one of the most versatile hunting dogs, bred specifically for their ability to perform multiple tasks, which include:

1. **Flushing Game:** Dachshunds can be used to flush game out of their burrows or dens. Their long bodies and short legs are perfectly suited for entering narrow spaces to drive out prey like badgers, rabbits, and other burrowing animals.
2. **Tracking:** Dachshunds have an excellent sense of smell, making them superb trackers. They are commonly used to follow the scent trail of wounded game, such as deer, and are prized for their ability to track over long distances, even in challenging terrain.
3. **Retrieving:** While Dachshunds are not primarily bred as retrievers like Labrador Retrievers or Golden Retrievers, they can retrieve small game. Their determination and tenacity make them capable of retrieving animals like rabbits or birds, particularly in water, thanks to their surprising swimming ability.
4. **Hunting:** Dachshunds are traditional hunting dogs, originally bred in Germany to hunt badgers (the name "Dachshund" means "badger dog" in German). They are known for their courage and persistence, often working alone to corner and dispatch prey in tight, underground burrows.

Comparison to Other Hunting Breeds

All other breeds can confidently do one or two of these skills, but no other dog breed does all four.

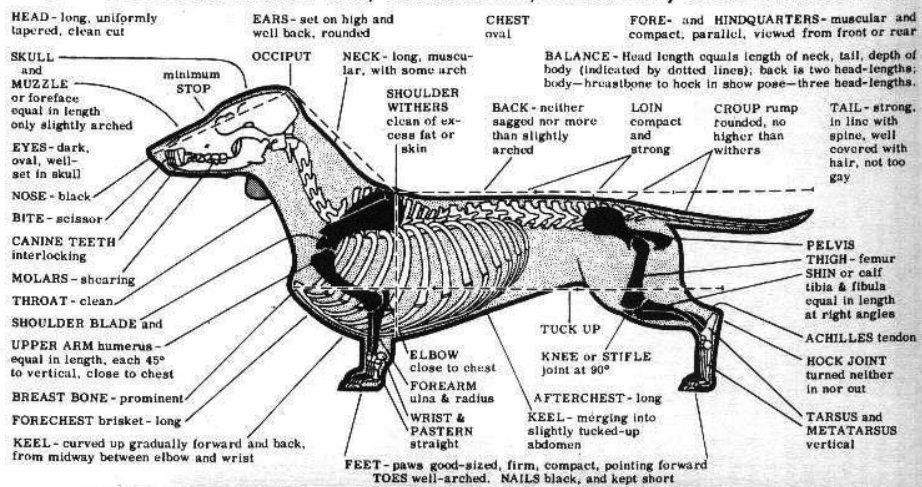
Conclusion

Dachshunds are exceptional for their ability to flush, track, hunt, and even retrieve small game, particularly in burrows and dense underbrush.

Dachshund Anatomy

The breed standard involves paying close attention to key aspects of the dog's physical structure, movement, and overall appearance. The breed standard is a detailed guide provided by kennel clubs that outlines the ideal characteristics of the breed. Here's how to identify a Dachshund that may not meet the standard.

Diagram of Dachshund in Show Pose, Technical Terms, and Summary of Standard of Perfection

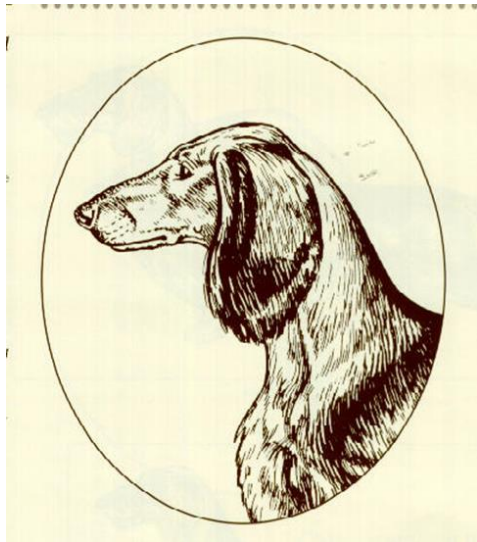


Description of the Dachshund Head

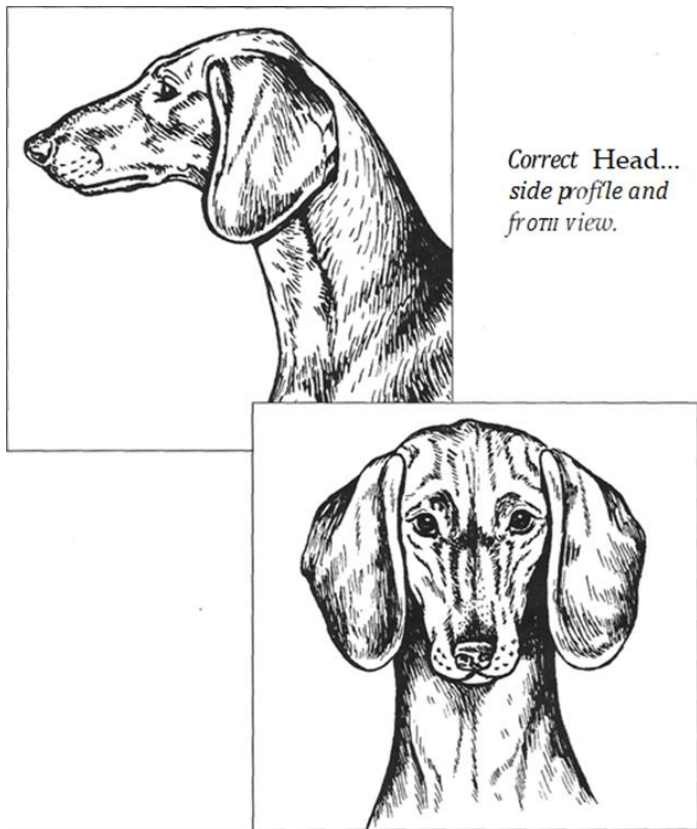
The Dachshund's head is a critical feature that embodies the breed's distinct appearance and function. It should be balanced, neither too heavy nor too narrow, reflecting the breed's purpose as a scent hound.

Skull: The skull of the Dachshund is moderately arched when viewed from the side and should taper slightly as it approaches the muzzle. It is important that the skull is not domed, as this would indicate a deviation from the breed standard. The transition from the skull to the muzzle should be gradual, without a pronounced stop.

Muzzle: The muzzle is long, slightly tapering, and robust, allowing the dog to efficiently track scents. It should be strong and firm, capable of gripping prey, with a slight but perceptible rise from the muzzle towards the nose. The lips are tight-fitting, not loose or pendulous.



Head Side View



*Correct Head...
side profile and
front view.*

Figure 1 Correct Head Side View

Correct Head Front View



Ears too low



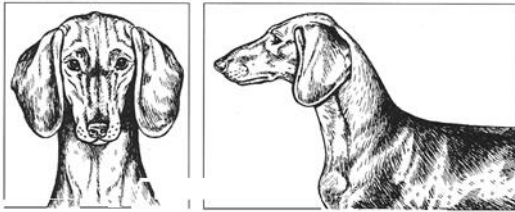
Ear too high



Too much dewlap



Eyes too round



Top Left - Proper Black nose

Top Right - Great head to neck

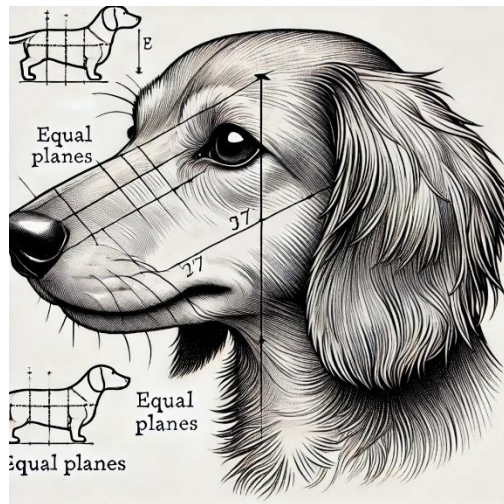
Bottom Left - Proper Stop

Bottom Right- Too much stop

Dachshund Head Equal Planes

In Dachshund conformation, the concept of "equal planes" refers to the relationship between the top lines of the skull and the muzzle when viewed in profile. This is an important aspect of the breed's head structure, as it

contributes to the balanced and harmonious appearance that is characteristic of the Dachshund.



Top Line of the Skull: The top line of the skull, also known as the cranial plane, should be slightly arched and extend from the back of the skull (occiput) to the stop, which is the point where the forehead meets the muzzle. This line should be level, without significant dips or bumps, maintaining a smooth and consistent contour.

Top Line of the Muzzle: The top line of the muzzle, or the facial plane, extends from the stop to the tip of the nose. It should also be straight and parallel to the top line of the skull when viewed from the side. The muzzle should be strong and slightly tapering, but not pointed, ensuring it is proportionate to the skull.

Equal Planes: When the Dachshund's head is viewed in profile, the top lines of the skull and the muzzle should appear to be on parallel planes, creating a balanced and symmetrical look. This alignment is referred to as "equal planes" and is a key indicator of **portance of Equal Planes:** The equal planes contribute to the Dachshund's characteristic appearance, ensuring that the head is in harmony with the rest of the body. This balance is not only aesthetically pleasing but also functionally important, as it reflects a well-constructed head capable of performing the tasks the breed was originally developed for, such as scent tracking and hunting.

In summary, the Dachshund's head should exhibit equal planes, with the top lines of the skull and muzzle running parallel to each other. This alignment creates a balanced, harmonious look that is essential to the breed standard and reflects

both the form and function of the Dachshund. If the skull and muzzle are on different planes—such as if the muzzle is angled downward or the skull is overly domed—this would disrupt the balance and is considered a fault in the breed standard.

Eyes: The eyes of the Dachshund are almond-shaped, medium in size, and positioned obliquely, giving the dog an intelligent and lively expression. The eyes should be dark, though in certain coat colors (such as dapple), lighter eye colors are permissible. The eyes should never be protruding or deeply set, as these are considered faults.

Ears: The ears are long, moderately broad, and rounded at the tips. They are set near the top of the head and hang gracefully close to the cheeks. The length of the ear should reach the end of the nose when pulled forward. The ear leather is soft and supple, contributing to the breed's characteristic look.



Ears too low



Ears too high



Perfect Ear Set

Nose: The nose is well-developed, black or in accordance with the coat color, with wide, open nostrils that are essential for scent detection.

Jaw and Teeth: The Dachshund has a strong jaw with a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth that meet in a scissor bite. The lips are close-fitting, ensuring the teeth are not visible when the mouth is closed.



Correct Scissor Bite
Undershot

Level Bite

Overshot

Expression: Overall, the expression of the Dachshund should be alert and self-assured, reflecting its bold and tenacious character. The head, when correctly proportioned and structured, conveys a sense of determination and curiosity, integral to the breed's hunting background.

This head structure, when balanced with the body, ensures the Dachshund can perform its duties effectively while maintaining the breed's iconic appearance.

Description of the Dachshund Nose

The Dachshund's nose is a vital feature that contributes significantly to its function as a scent hound. It is well-developed, proportionate to the head, and capable of capturing and analyzing scents with great precision.

Shape and Size: The nose of the Dachshund is typically broad and slightly protruding, aligning seamlessly with the overall length of the muzzle. It should not be narrow or weak, as a strong nose is essential for the breed's scenting capabilities.

Nostrils: The nostrils are wide and open, allowing for maximum air intake and scent detection. This feature is crucial for a breed historically used for tracking and hunting. The nostrils should not be pinched or closed, as this would impair the dog's ability to scent effectively.

Color: The color of the nose is generally black, regardless of the coat color. However, in Dachshunds with lighter coat colors, such as in certain shades of red, chocolate, or dapple, the nose may be brown, liver, or lighter. The nose color should harmonize with the coat and eye color, and it must be solid and uniform without any depigmentation.

Functionality: A Dachshund's nose is not just an aesthetic feature but a tool of great utility. The breed relies heavily on its sense of smell, and the nose's structure is designed to optimize this ability. A well-formed nose enhances the dog's effectiveness in scent work, making it an essential attribute in both working and show dogs.

In summary, the Dachshund's nose is a robust, well-pigmented, and functional part of its anatomy, vital for the breed's traditional role and overall health. It should be evaluated not only for its appearance but also for its role in the Dachshund's exceptional scenting ability.

Description of the Dachshund Eye

The eyes of the Dachshund are a defining feature, contributing significantly to the breed's characteristic expression and overall appearance. They should convey intelligence, alertness, and a lively temperament, which are essential traits of the Dachshund.

Shape and Size: The eyes of the Dachshund are medium-sized, almond-shaped, and set obliquely in the skull. This shape provides a keen and expressive look, which is crucial for a breed known for its sharp senses and attentive nature. The

eyes should not be too round or bulging, as this would detract from the correct expression.

Position: The eyes are set well apart, contributing to a broad, open expression that enhances the Dachshund's field of vision. This positioning helps the dog stay aware of its surroundings, an important trait for a breed originally developed for hunting.

Color: The standard eye color for Dachshunds is a deep, rich shade of brown, which complements the coat color and adds to the dog's expression. However, in certain coat colors, such as dapple (merle), one or both eyes may be blue (wall eyes). While this is acceptable within the breed standard, the eyes should always match the overall coat and expression. Light-colored eyes are not desirable in solid-colored Dachshunds, except as permitted in dapples.

Expression: The expression of the Dachshund's eyes is alert, intelligent, and full of curiosity. It reflects the breed's confident and bold nature. This expression is one of the most notable features judges and breeders look for, as it conveys the dog's temperament and readiness to work.

In summary, the eyes of the Dachshund should be almond-shaped, medium in size, and set obliquely, with a deep brown color that complements the coat, except in certain color patterns where blue eyes are acceptable. The overall expression should be one of intelligence, alertness, and confidence, reflecting the breed's lively and determined nature.

Description of the Dachshund Ear Set

The ear set of the Dachshund is a crucial aspect of the breed's distinctive appearance, contributing to both its functionality as a scent hound and its overall expression. The ears should be harmoniously integrated with the head, neither dominating the appearance nor being too inconspicuous.

Position: The ears of the Dachshund are set high on the head, but not so high that they are on top of the skull. They should attach near the top of the skull, allowing the ears to frame the face without interfering with the dog's eyes or overall expression. The base of the ear should be level with the top of the skull, creating a smooth line from the head to the ears.

Shape and Length: Dachshund ears are long, moderately broad, and rounded at the tips. When extended forward, the ear should ideally reach the end of the nose, indicating the correct length. The ears should not be narrow or pointed, as this would be a deviation from the breed standard. The shape of the ear contributes to the dog's ability to funnel scents towards the nose, a key functional characteristic of scent hounds.

Carriage: The ears should hang close to the cheeks, lying flat against the head without standing out or flaring. This close fit helps protect the ear canal from debris while the dog is working, especially in its historical role of hunting in burrows or dense underbrush. Ears that are too short, set too low, or do not lay properly against the head are considered faults.

Texture and Mobility: The ear leather should be soft and pliable, neither too thick nor too thin. The ears should move naturally as the dog turns its head or when it is alert, but they should always return to a resting position close to the head. This mobility adds to the dog's expressive abilities, while the texture ensures comfort and protection.



Ears too low



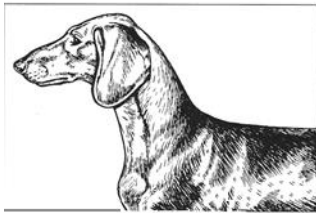
Ears too high



Figure 2 Perfect ear set

In summary, the ear set of the Dachshund is characterized by high placement on the head, with long, rounded ears that lie close to the cheeks. This feature not only enhances the breed's characteristic appearance but also serves practical purposes related to the dog's scenting and hunting abilities. A proper ear set, and carriage are essential for maintaining the breed's standard and ensuring both form and function are preserved.

Description of the Dachshund Neck



The neck flows nicely into the withers. NECK AT RIGHT ANGLE IS WRONG

The neck of the Dachshund is an important aspect of the breed's overall conformation, contributing to its distinctive appearance and functionality. A well-proportioned neck is not only essential for balance but also plays a role in the breed's historical purpose as a hunting dog.

Length: The Dachshund's neck should be moderately long, allowing for a graceful and balanced appearance. It must be long enough to enable the dog to lower its head to the ground easily, as this is crucial for tracking scents, which is a key function of the breed. A neck that is too short would impede the dog's ability to scent effectively, while an excessively long neck would disrupt the breed's overall balance.

Musculature: The neck should be well-muscled, especially at the base, providing strength and support for the head. This muscular development is important because it reflects the dog's ability to carry out its traditional role of hunting and tracking. The muscles should be firm and pronounced, yet not bulky or coarse, maintaining the breed's elegance and agility.

Shape and Carriage: The neck of the Dachshund should arch slightly and blend smoothly into the shoulders, creating a harmonious transition between the head

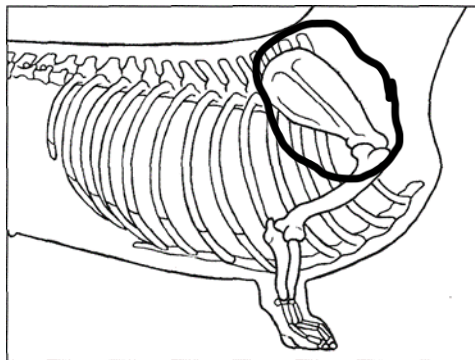
and the body. This arch gives the neck a proud carriage, which is an important part of the Dachshund's overall expression. The neck should not be too thick or too thin, and it should rise cleanly from the shoulders without any abrupt angles or dips.

Skin: The skin on the neck should be tight and free of loose folds or dewlaps. Excessive loose skin is considered a fault, as it detracts from the Dachshund's streamlined appearance and may suggest issues with the dog's overall condition or structure.

Functionality: In addition to contributing to the breed's appearance, the Dachshund's neck must be functional, allowing the dog to perform its duties efficiently. A well-formed neck enhances the dog's ability to track scents by enabling fluid, natural movement of the head. It also supports the head during vigorous activity, which is essential for a breed that was originally developed for hunting.

In summary, the Dachshund's neck should be moderately long, well-muscled, and slightly arched, blending smoothly into the shoulders. It should have tight skin and a strong yet elegant appearance, contributing to both the dog's functionality and characteristic look. A well-proportioned neck is a key feature that supports the Dachshund's balance, movement, and historical role as a scent hound.

Description of the Dachshund Shoulders



The shoulders of the Dachshund play a crucial role in the breed's overall structure, balance, and movement. Proper shoulder construction is essential for maintaining the Dachshund's ability to move efficiently and carry out its traditional roles as a hunting and tracking dog.

Placement: The shoulders should be long and well laid-back, meaning they should slope backward at an angle that allows for a long stride. The ideal shoulder blade (scapula) should lie close to the ribcage and be set at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the horizontal. This placement is critical because it allows the Dachshund to have a reach that is necessary for efficient and fluid movement.

Length of Shoulder Blade and Upper Arm: The length of the shoulder blade should be roughly equal to the length of the upper arm (humerus). This equal length allows for the front legs to reach well forward when the dog moves, contributing to the breed's characteristic movement. If the shoulder blade is too short or the upper arm is not of equal length, it can lead to restricted movement, which is undesirable.

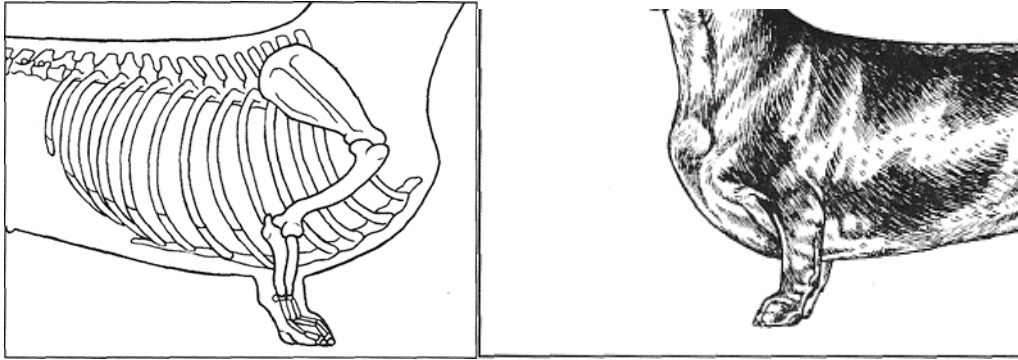
Musculature: The shoulders should be well-muscled, yet not overly heavy. Strong muscles are necessary to support the Dachshund's front end and to enable the dog to dig and maneuver in its historical role as a badger dog. However, the musculature should not be so heavy that it interferes with the smooth, flowing lines of the breed's profile.

Fit and Functionality: The shoulders should fit closely to the body without appearing loose or flaring out. They must be well-knit into the body to allow for strong, stable movement. Properly fitted shoulders help ensure that the front legs move straight forward without any paddling or crossing over, which is important for the dog's ability to move efficiently and endure extended periods of activity.

Withers: The withers, which are the highest part of the shoulders, should be prominent but not overly so. This prominence helps create the slight rise of the neck from the shoulders, contributing to the Dachshund's overall profile and balance. The withers also provide a point of attachment for the muscles that help control the movement of the forelimbs.

In summary, the shoulders of the Dachshund should be long, well laid-back, and equal in length to the upper arms, with strong but not overly bulky musculature. They should be closely fitted to the body, allowing for efficient, unrestricted movement. Proper shoulder construction is vital for maintaining the breed's agility, endurance, and ability to perform its traditional hunting tasks.

Description of the Dachshund Forequarters



The forequarters of the Dachshund are a fundamental aspect of the breed's conformation, contributing significantly to its movement, strength, and ability to perform tasks such as digging and tracking. Proper forequarter structure is essential for maintaining balance and ensuring the dog can move efficiently.

Shoulder Assembly: The forequarters begin with the shoulders, which should be long, well laid-back, and well-muscled. The shoulder blades should lie close to the ribcage and be set at an approximate 45-degree angle to the horizontal, allowing for a long and efficient stride.

Upper Arm (Humerus): The upper arm should be of equal length to the shoulder blade, creating a balanced and functional shoulder assembly. This length and angle allow the front legs to extend well forward during movement, contributing to the Dachshund's characteristic gait. The upper arm should also be well-muscled to support the dog's front end during movement and activity.

Forelegs: The forelegs of the Dachshund should be short, strong, and straight when viewed from the front. They are positioned close to the body, which is important for maintaining stability and balance, especially given the breed's elongated body. The legs should not be bowed or bent, as this would interfere with proper movement and is considered a fault. The bone structure should be robust but not overly heavy, ensuring that the legs can support the body effectively without adding unnecessary weight.

Elbows: The elbows should be close to the body and move parallel to it. They should not flare outwards or be too tight against the chest, as this would restrict movement. Properly aligned elbows ensure that the Dachshund's legs move straight forward, contributing to efficient and balanced movement.

Pasterns: The pasterns, which are the part of the leg between the elbow and the foot, should be slightly sloping when viewed from the side. This slight slope provides shock absorption during movement and helps the dog endure extended periods of activity. Pasterns that are too upright can lead to a stilted gait, while those that are too weak can cause the dog to break down in the front.

Feet: The feet of the Dachshund should be compact and strong, with well-arched toes that are close together. The pads should be thick and resilient, providing cushioning and grip. The front feet are slightly larger and more powerful than the hind feet, reflecting the breed's need for strength in the forequarters, particularly for digging. The feet should point straight forward and not turn inwards or outwards.

Functionality: The forequarters of the Dachshund must work together to provide a strong, stable, and efficient foundation for movement. Properly constructed forequarters allow the dog to move with ease, maintain balance, and perform the tasks it was originally bred for, such as digging and hunting in burrows.

In summary, the Dachshund's forequarters should feature well-laid-back shoulders, strong and straight forelegs, properly aligned elbows, slightly sloping pasterns, and compact, strong feet. This structure is essential for supporting the breed's characteristic movement, balance, and functional abilities, contributing to the overall health and performance of the Dachshund.

Description of the Dachshund Oval Front



Correct Oval Front

The "oval front" is a distinctive feature of the Dachshund's conformation, contributing to the breed's unique appearance and functional ability. It refers to the shape and structure of the chest and the placement of the forelimbs, creating an oval silhouette when viewed head-on.

Chest Shape: The Dachshund's chest is deep and well-developed, extending well down between the front legs. When viewed from the front, the chest forms an oval shape, with the breastbone (sternum) being prominent and well-defined. This

depth of chest is important as it provides the necessary space for vital organs, particularly the heart and lungs, which are crucial for the dog's endurance and stamina.

Ribcage: The ribcage plays a significant role in creating the oval front. The ribs should be well-sprung and extend backward to support the length of the body. The ribcage should have sufficient width to allow the forelegs to be positioned properly but should not be excessively wide, as this would disrupt the oval shape and could impede movement. The well-sprung ribs contribute to the oval contour when combined with the depth of the chest.

Forelimb Placement: The placement of the forelimbs is integral to the oval front. The legs should be set close to the body, hugging the chest, with the elbows fitting neatly against the ribs. The forelegs should not be bowed or set too wide apart, as this would distort the oval shape and could lead to movement inefficiencies. The alignment of the legs in relation to the chest ensures that the dog maintains the correct stance and balance.

Prosternum: The prosternum, or the forward-most point of the breastbone, should be prominent, creating the point of the oval shape at the top of the chest. This prominence gives the Dachshund a distinctive profile and is essential for supporting the front assembly.

Functionality: The oval front is not just about appearance; it is crucial for the Dachshund's functionality. The deep, oval-shaped chest provides ample space for lung capacity, which is important for a dog that was bred for endurance activities such as hunting. The close-set forelimbs and strong chest also contribute to the dog's ability to maneuver through narrow burrows and dense underbrush, reflecting its original purpose as a hunting dog.

Overall, Balance: The oval front contributes to the overall balance of the Dachshund. It ensures that the dog's weight is distributed evenly across the forequarters, supporting the elongated body, and allowing for smooth, efficient movement. A well-formed oval front helps maintain the breed's signature low-to-the-ground silhouette without compromising its agility or stamina.

In summary, the Dachshund's oval front is characterized by a deep, well-sprung chest that forms an oval shape when viewed from the front, with closely set forelimbs and a prominent prosternum. This structure is essential for the breed's

balance, movement, and functional abilities, making it a key aspect of the Dachshund's conformation.

Description of Dachshund Prosternum Dimples

The prosternum dimples are subtle yet notable features in the Dachshund's front conformation, contributing to the breed's overall structure and functionality. These dimples are a sign of correct anatomical development and are strongly associated with the prominent prosternum.

Prosternum Overview: The prosternum, or the forest, is the forward-most point of the Dachshund's breastbone. It should be prominent and extend forward beyond the point of the shoulders, giving the chest a pronounced and well-defined appearance. This prominence is crucial for providing structural support and balance to the forequarters.

Dimples Location: The prosternum dimples are located on either side of the prominent prosternum, at the point where the upper arm (humerus) connects to the chest. These dimples appear as small indentations in the skin and are a result of the tight attachment of the muscles and skin over the bony structure of the prosternum. They can be seen when the dog is viewed from the front, adding to the oval shape of the front.

Significance: The presence of prosternum dimples indicates a well-developed forest and correct placement of the forelimbs. They are a sign of a strong, well-knit front assembly, where the shoulders and upper arms are correctly angled and attached close to the body. This feature helps to ensure that the Dachshund has the necessary strength and stability in the forequarters, which is vital for supporting its long body and facilitating efficient movement.

Functionality: The prosternum dimples, while primarily an aesthetic feature, are also indicative of the Dachshund's functional anatomy. A prominent prosternum with well-defined dimples ensures that the dog has ample space for the heart and lungs, which is important for endurance and stamina. It also supports the dog's ability to dig and maneuver in tight spaces, which is essential for its historical role as a hunting dog.

Evaluation: When evaluating a Dachshund, judges and breeders look for these dimples as part of the overall assessment of the dog's forequarters. While the

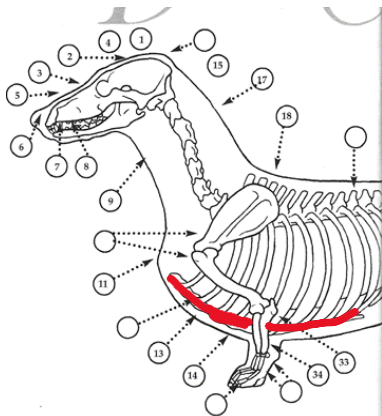
absence of dimples does not necessarily indicate a fault, their presence is a positive indicator of correct conformation and muscular development.

In summary, the prosternum dimples in a Dachshund are small indentations on either side of the prominent prosternum, indicating strong muscular attachment and correct anatomical structure. They contribute to the breed's functional and aesthetic qualities, reflecting proper forequarter development and overall balance.

Description of the Dachshund Keel

The "keel" in a Dachshund refers to the prominent, forward-protruding part of the chest that extends down from the neck to the abdomen. This feature is a critical aspect of the Dachshund's unique body structure and plays an essential role in both the breed's appearance and function.

Key Characteristics of the Keel:



Shape and Structure: The keel is the front portion of the ribcage that extends forward, giving the Dachshund its deep and well-developed chest. When viewed from the side, the keel should create a noticeable curve, extending downward from the neck before sweeping back toward the belly.

This chest structure is sometimes described as "keel-shaped" because it resembles the keel of a boat, which is the central, forward-most part that cuts through the water.

Purpose and Functionality:

The prominent keel provides space for the Dachshund's heart and lungs, enabling the breed to have the stamina and endurance needed for its original purpose of hunting and tracking. The depth of the chest, facilitated by the keel, allows for greater lung capacity, which is crucial for sustained physical activity.

The keel also contributes to the breed's low center of gravity, enhancing stability and balance, which are important for a dog that needs to move through dense underbrush or burrow underground.

Importance in Conformation:

In the show ring, a well-developed keel is a desirable trait and is often a sign of correct conformation. The keel should be deep and broad, but it should not be so exaggerated that it disrupts the dog's balance or movement.

The keel should blend smoothly into the rest of the chest, with the sternum (breastbone) extending well back between the forelegs. The ribs should spring out from the keel to form a well-rounded chest that supports the forequarters and aligns with the rest of the body.

Impact on Movement:

A well-developed keel helps in distributing the dog's weight evenly across the forequarters, which is vital for the Dachshund's unique movement and gait. The weight distribution provided by the keel allows the dog to move efficiently and with purpose, whether it is trotting in the show ring or pursuing game in the field.

Common Issues:

An underdeveloped keel may lead to a shallow chest, which can impact the dog's endurance and overall health. A shallow keel can also result in improper alignment of the forelegs, leading to movement inefficiencies or strain on the joints.

Conversely, a keel that is too deep or pronounced can cause the dog to appear unbalanced, with a front-heavy stance that may affect its movement and agility.

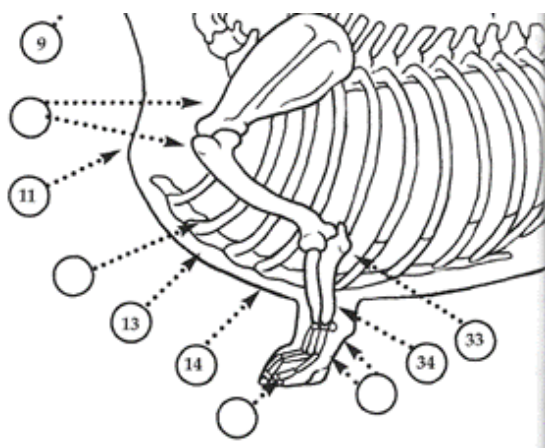
Conclusion:

The keel is a defining feature of the Dachshund, contributing to both the breed's distinctive appearance and its functional capabilities. A well-developed keel provides the necessary chest depth for lung capacity, supports the forequarters, and helps maintain the breed's characteristic balance and movement. In breeding and showing, the keel is an important aspect of conformation, and its correct development is a key indicator of a well-structured Dachshund.

"No Front, No Dachshund"

The phrase "No Front, No Dachshund" emphasizes the critical importance of correct front assembly in the Dachshund breed. The "front" refers to the entire forequarter structure, including the shoulders, forelegs, chest, and the prosternum (forechest). This area is fundamental to the Dachshund's conformation, movement, and ability to perform the tasks for which it was originally bred.

Significance of the Front Assembly:



5. **Support and Balance:** The front assembly provides the foundation for the Dachshund's body. Given the breed's elongated shape, a strong and well-constructed front is essential for supporting the back and maintaining balance. If the front is weak or improperly constructed, the Dachshund will struggle to maintain its characteristic low, elongated profile and may experience structural issues.
6. **Movement Efficiency:** The front plays a crucial role in the Dachshund's movement. Proper shoulder placement and well-constructed forelegs allow

the dog to move with a smooth, efficient gait. A well-formed front enables the Dachshund to extend its legs forward and move with purpose, which is essential for the breed's traditional role in hunting and burrowing.

7. **Endurance and Stamina:** The Dachshund was originally bred to hunt and pursue game in difficult terrain. A strong front assembly ensures that the dog has the necessary endurance and stamina to engage in these activities. The correct depth and width of the chest, combined with strong, straight forelegs, allow the dog to breathe efficiently and move without tiring easily.
8. **Functional Forechest (Prosternum):** A prominent prosternum is a hallmark of a well-built Dachshund front. It provides the necessary space for vital organs like the heart and lungs and contributes to the dog's ability to engage in extended periods of physical activity. The prosternum also adds to the breed's overall appearance, giving it a well-balanced and powerful front.
9. **Breed Type and Expression:** The front assembly contributes significantly to the Dachshund's breed type. The correct front, with its oval chest and prominent prosternum, is a key feature that defines the Dachshund's silhouette and overall expression. Without a proper front, the dog would lose much of its distinctive look and functionality, leading to the saying, "No Front, No Dachshund."

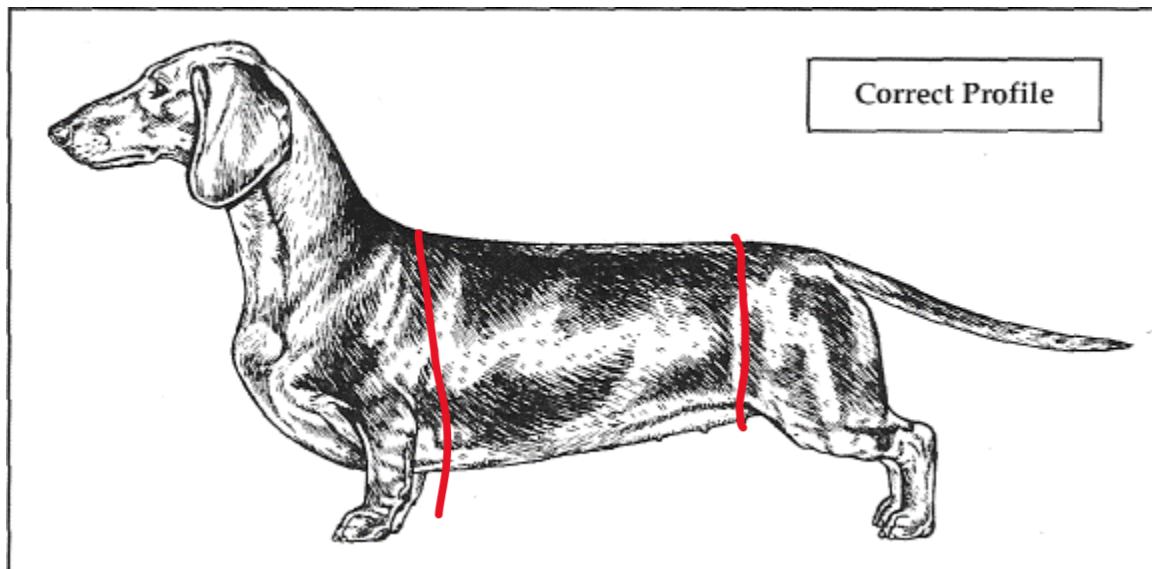
Consequences of an Incorrect Front:

- **Movement Issues:** An incorrect front can lead to inefficient movement, with the dog having trouble in extending its legs properly or moving in a straight line. This can result in a gait that is choppy or unbalanced, reducing the dog's effectiveness in the field.
- **Structural Problems:** Weak shoulders, poorly set forelegs, or an underdeveloped chest can lead to a host of structural problems, including back issues, which are particularly detrimental in a long-bodied breed like the Dachshund.
- **Loss of Breed Type:** Without a correct front, the Dachshund loses much of its breed type, becoming less recognizable and less able to perform the tasks it was bred for. This loss of type undermines the breed's overall

integrity and can negatively impact its ability to compete in conformation shows.

In summary, the phrase "No Front, No Dachshund" underscores the importance of a properly constructed front assembly in maintaining the Dachshund's distinctive appearance, movement, and functionality. The front is the foundation of the breed, and without it, the Dachshund would not be able to fulfill its roles effectively, nor would it retain its unique and recognizable breed characteristics.

Description of the Dachshund Trunk



The trunk of the Dachshund is one of the breed's most distinctive features, contributing to its iconic elongated body and low-to-the-ground silhouette. Proper trunk structure is essential for maintaining the breed's balance, functionality, and overall appearance.

Overall Shape: The Dachshund's trunk is long and strong, forming a distinctive, elongated rectangle when viewed from the side. This characteristic length is crucial to the breed's ability to navigate through narrow burrows and dense underbrush, reflecting its historical role as a hunting dog. The trunk should be neither too short, which would detract from the breed's unique appearance, nor excessively long, which could lead to structural weaknesses.

Topline: The topline of the Dachshund is another critical aspect of the trunk. It should be level, firm, and extend smoothly from the withers to the base of the tail. A slight arch over the loin is acceptable and even desirable, as it contributes to the dog's strength and flexibility. However, any dips, roaches, or sways in the back are considered faults, as they indicate weaknesses in the structure that can lead to health issues and impaired movement.

Ribcage: The ribcage is a key component of the Dachshund's trunk, providing both support and protection for vital organs. The ribcage should be well-sprung and extend well back along the trunk, ensuring that the body is well-supported and that there is sufficient room for the heart and lungs. The ribs should be oval, creating the breed's characteristic "keel," which contributes to the depth and breadth of the chest.

Length of Ribcage vs. Loin: In a well-constructed Dachshund, the ribcage should account for a sizable portion of the trunk's length, while the loin (the area between the end of the ribcage and the hips) should be short and strong. This proportion is important for maintaining the dog's overall balance and stability. A trunk that is too short in the ribcage or too long in the loin can lead to a weak back and reduced endurance.

Underline: The underline of the trunk, which extends from the chest to the abdomen, should be slightly tucked up but not excessively so. A moderate tuck-up gives the Dachshund a streamlined appearance and contributes to its agility and speed. The belly should not sag or be overly taut, as this would detract from the dog's balance and functionality.

Flanks: The flanks, or the sides of the trunk between the ribs and the hips, should be firm and well-muscled. They contribute to the Dachshund's overall strength and help to support the elongated structure of the trunk. The skin covering the flanks should be tight and free of wrinkles or excessive looseness.

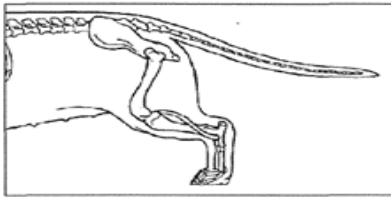
Tail Set: The tail is an extension of the trunk and should be set in line with the spine, tapering gradually from the base to the tip. The tail should be carried smoothly in line with the back when the dog is in motion, without any sharp upward or downward angles.

Functionality: The trunk of the Dachshund must be strong and flexible, supporting the breed's ability to move with agility and endurance. A well-constructed trunk allows the dog to perform its historical tasks of hunting and

tracking, while also providing the necessary strength to support its elongated body.

In summary, the trunk of the Dachshund is long, strong, and well-balanced, with a level topline, well-sprung ribcage, and a firm, moderately tucked-up underline. Proper trunk structure is essential for maintaining the breed's distinctive appearance, as well as its ability to move efficiently and perform its traditional roles. A well-formed trunk is a key component of the Dachshund's overall conformation and functionality.

Description of the Dachshund Hindquarters



The hindquarters of the Dachshund are a vital aspect of the breed's overall structure, contributing significantly to its movement, strength, and balance. Properly constructed hindquarters are essential for the Dachshund's agility, endurance, and ability to perform its traditional tasks, such as hunting and digging.

Overall Structure: The hindquarters of the Dachshund should be strong, muscular, and well-balanced, providing the propulsion needed for efficient movement. They should be in proportion with the forequarters, ensuring that the dog moves with coordination and stability.

Pelvis: The pelvis should be relatively broad and slightly sloping, allowing for powerful hind leg movement. A properly angled pelvis contributes to a strong and effective stride, enabling the Dachshund to push off the ground with force while maintaining balance and control.

Thighs: The thighs (both upper and lower) should be well-muscled and strong, providing the necessary power for the Dachshund's movement. The upper thigh should be long, with good angulation at the hip joint, allowing the hind leg to

extend backward during movement. The lower thigh should also be well-developed, continuing the line of strength from the hip down to the hock.

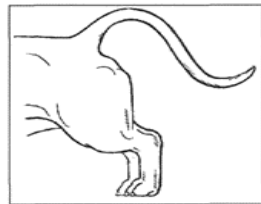
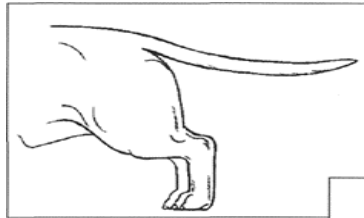
Stifles: The stifles, or knee joints, should be well-angulated to provide flexibility and drive. Proper angulation at the stifle is crucial for allowing the Dachshund to move with ease and power, particularly when running or digging. The stifles should not be too straight, as this would limit the dog's range of motion and negatively impact its gait.

Hocks: The hocks, or the joints between the lower thigh and the metatarsus, should be strong, firm, and well-let-down (close to the ground). This structure provides stability and support during movement, helping to absorb the impact as the dog runs and jumps. The hocks should be perpendicular to the ground when the dog is standing naturally, and they should not be overly angulated or cow-hocked (where the hocks turn inward).

Feet: The hind feet should be compact, strong, and slightly smaller than the front feet. They should have well-arched toes and thick pads, providing the Dachshund with traction and cushioning. The hind feet should point straight forward, without turning inward or outward, to ensure proper alignment and balance during movement.



Tail Set and Carriage: The tail is an extension of the spine and should be set in line with the back. It should taper gradually from the base to the tip and be carried smoothly in line with the body during movement. The tail should not be set too high or too low, as this could disrupt the dog's overall balance and movement.



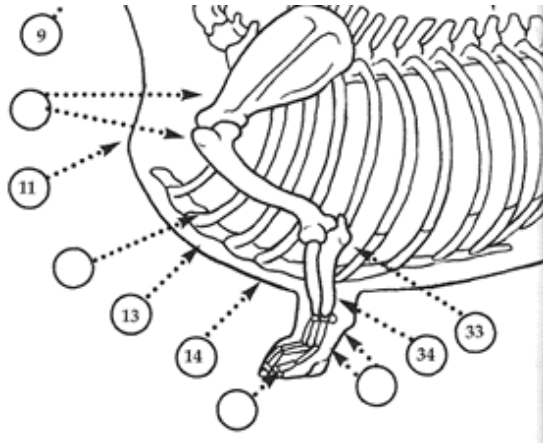
Top Correct Tail Carriage, Left Pump Tail wrong
Right Gay Tail wrong

Movement and Functionality: The hindquarters play a crucial role in the Dachshund's movement, providing the thrust that propels the dog forward. Properly constructed hindquarters enable the dog to move with a smooth, powerful gait, whether at a trot or a full run. This strength and flexibility are essential for the breed's historical role in hunting, allowing the Dachshund to navigate difficult terrain and burrow efficiently.

Balance with Forequarters: The hindquarters must be in balance with the forequarters to ensure that the Dachshund moves harmoniously. If the hindquarters are too weak or lack proper angulation, the dog's movement will be compromised, leading to inefficiencies and potential strain on the rest of the body.

In summary, the hindquarters of the Dachshund should be strong, well-muscled, and properly angulated, with firm hocks and compact feet. This structure is essential for providing the power and stability needed for the breed's characteristic movement and functional abilities. Properly constructed hindquarters contribute to the overall balance, agility, and endurance of the Dachshund, making them a key component of the breed's conformation.

Description of the Dachshund Front Angulation



Front angulation in the Dachshund refers to the angle formed by the shoulder blade (scapula) and the upper arm (humerus). Proper angulation is crucial for ensuring that the Dachshund can move efficiently and comfortably, with the correct balance and stride length.

Shoulder Blade (Scapula): The shoulder blade should be long, well laid-back, and positioned at an angle of about 45 degrees to the horizontal. This angulation allows for a longer stride and contributes to the Dachshund's ability to move smoothly and efficiently. The scapula should lie flat against the ribcage, fitting closely to the body without any outward bowing.

Upper Arm (Humerus): The upper arm should be of equal length to the shoulder blade and positioned at a right angle (90 degrees) to the scapula. This angulation ensures that the forelegs can move forward with a strong reach, providing balance and forward propulsion. The upper arm should be well-muscled and fit closely to the body, helping to maintain the Dachshund's compact and sturdy structure.

Elbow Position: The elbows should be close to the body and move parallel to it. Proper front angulation helps keep the elbows in line with the body, ensuring that the forelegs move straight forward without any deviation to the sides. The correct elbow placement contributes to the dog's overall stability and balance.

Impact of Proper Angulation:

- **Balance:** Proper front angulation contributes to the Dachshund's overall balance, ensuring that the forequarters and hindquarters work in harmony.

This balance is crucial for maintaining the breed's characteristic low-to-the-ground profile and preventing strain on the back and joints.

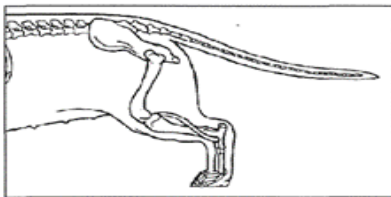
- **Endurance:** A Dachshund with correct front angulation will have greater endurance and less fatigue during prolonged activity. The efficient use of the limbs reduces the risk of injury and helps the dog maintain its energy over longer periods.

Consequences of Incorrect Angulation:

- **Straight Shoulders:** If the shoulder blade is too upright (i.e., less than 45 degrees), the Dachshund will have a shortened stride, leading to inefficient movement and potential joint stress. This lack of angulation can result in a choppy or stilted gait, which is undesirable in the breed standard.
- **Restricted Reach:** Inadequate angulation in the upper arm can restrict the forward reach of the forelegs, limiting the dog's ability to move fluidly. This can also cause the dog to tire more quickly and may lead to improper weight distribution across the body.
- **Elbow Problems:** Incorrect angulation can cause the elbows to bow outwards or inwards, disrupting the alignment of the legs and negatively affecting movement. This can lead to additional strain on the joints and potentially contribute to long-term orthopedic issues.

In summary, front angulation in the Dachshund is a critical aspect of the breed's conformation, influencing movement, balance, and overall functionality. Proper angulation ensures that the Dachshund can move efficiently with a strong, extended stride, maintaining the breed's distinctive appearance and ability to perform its traditional roles.

Description of the Dachshund Rear Angulation



Rear angulation in the Dachshund refers to the angles formed by the bones of the hindquarters, particularly the pelvis, femur (thigh bone), tibia (lower leg bone), and hock (ankle joint). Proper rear angulation is essential for providing the Dachshund with the power, balance, and agility necessary for efficient movement and overall functionality.

Pelvis: The pelvis should be relatively broad and slightly sloping, allowing for a powerful and efficient transfer of energy from the hindquarters to the rest of the body. The angle of the pelvis plays a crucial role in the placement and movement of the hind legs.

Femur (Thigh Bone): The femur should be long and set at an angle that allows the stifle (knee) joint to be well bent. This angle is important for providing the Dachshund with the necessary leverage to push off the ground and propel forward. The correct length and angle of the femur ensure that the Dachshund has a strong and flexible rear end, which contributes to its ability to cover ground effectively.

Stifles (Knees): The stifles should be well-angulated, meaning they should have a good bend. Proper angulation at the stifles is critical for allowing the Dachshund to move with power and drive. It also contributes to the flexibility of the hind legs, enabling the dog to engage in activities like digging and burrowing, which are part of its historical role.

Tibia (Lower Leg Bone): The tibia should be of adequate length and angled appropriately to complement the femur. This angulation ensures that the hock joint is well-defined and provides the necessary stability and strength for movement. The correct angle between the femur and tibia contributes to the Dachshund's ability to push off the ground with force, propelling the dog forward.

Hocks (Ankle Joints): The hocks should be strong, firm, and well-let-down, meaning they are close to the ground. They should be perpendicular to the ground when the dog is standing naturally, providing stability and support. The correct angulation at the hocks is crucial for absorbing the impact of movement and allowing for smooth, powerful propulsion.

Feet: The hind feet should be compact and slightly smaller than the front feet, with well-arched toes. The feet should point straight forward, maintaining proper alignment with the rest of the hindquarters. The correct angulation of the rear

legs ensures that the hind feet land in line with the forefeet during movement, contributing to a smooth and efficient gait.

Impact of Proper Rear Angulation:

- **Power and Drive:** Proper rear angulation allows the Dachshund to generate strong propulsion from the hindquarters, which is essential for efficient movement. This power and drive are crucial for the breed's ability to move quickly and endure long periods of activity, such as during hunting or tracking.
- **Balance and Coordination:** Correct rear angulation ensures that the Dachshund's hindquarters are in harmony with the forequarters, providing overall balance and coordination. This balance is necessary for maintaining the breed's characteristic low-to-the-ground profile and preventing undue strain on the back and joints.
- **Endurance:** A Dachshund with proper rear angulation will have greater endurance, as the efficient use of the hind legs reduces fatigue and the risk of injury. The dog can move with ease and maintain its energy over longer distances or periods of activity.

Consequences of Incorrect Rear Angulation:

- **Over-Angulation:** If the rear angulation is too extreme, the Dachshund may have excessive bend in the stifles, leading to instability and a lack of control in movement. Over-angulation can also cause the dog to appear weak in the hindquarters and may lead to issues like slipping hocks or difficulty in maintaining a straight gait.
- **Straight Hindquarters:** Insufficient rear angulation, where the angles are too straight, can result in a restricted range of motion. This can cause the Dachshund to have a stilted or choppy gait, reducing its ability to move efficiently and making it more prone to joint stress and fatigue.
- **Unbalanced Movement:** Incorrect rear angulation can lead to unbalanced movement, where the hindquarters do not coordinate properly with the forequarters. This imbalance can cause inefficient movement patterns, such as overreaching or crabbing (moving sideways), which are undesirable in the breed standard.

In summary, rear angulation in the Dachshund is a critical aspect of the breed's conformation, influencing its power, drive, balance, and overall movement efficiency. Proper angulation ensures that the Dachshund can move with strength and agility, maintaining its ability to perform its traditional roles and preserving its distinctive appearance.

In Dachshunds, faults refer to deviations from the breed standard that detract from the dog's overall conformation, movement, or functionality. While some faults may be relatively minor and only slightly affect the dog's appearance or performance, others can be significant enough to disqualify a Dachshund from competition or indicate potential health problems. Here is a breakdown of common Dachshund faults:

Structural and Conformational Faults

Topline Faults:

- **Roach Back:** An excessive upward curve in the middle of the back.
- **Sway Back:** A noticeable dip in the back, indicating weakness in the spine.
- **Weak Back:** A back that sags or lacks firmness, often due to poor muscle tone or incorrect structure.

Head and Expression Faults:

- **Too Domed Skull:** A skull that is overly rounded, which can distort the breed's typical expression.
- **Pronounced Stop:** An overly abrupt transition between the forehead and muzzle.
- **Weak Muzzle:** A muzzle that is too narrow or lacking in substance.
- **Incorrect Eye Shape or Color:** Eyes that are too round, protruding, or of a color not allowed by the breed standard (e.g., light eyes in a dog without a dapple coat).

Ear Faults:

- **Ears Set Too High or Too Low:** Ears that are not positioned correctly on the head, affecting the overall balance and expression.
- **Small or Pointed Ears:** Ears that are too small or have pointed tips, which are not in keeping with the breed's characteristic look.
- **Ears That Do Not Hang Close to the Cheeks:** Ears that stick out or are set too far from the head.

Forequarter Faults:

- **Straight Shoulders:** Shoulders that lack the correct angulation, leading to restricted movement.
- **Elbows Turning Outward (East-West):** Elbows that do not lie close to the body, leading to inefficient movement and potential joint problems.
- **Bow Legs:** Forelegs that curve outward, indicating poor alignment of the bones and joints.
- **Weak Pasterns:** Pasterns that are too flexible or overly straight, which can lead to a stilted gait.

Knuckling over

Hindquarter Faults:

- **Over-Angulation:** Excessive bend in the stifle, leading to instability and unbalanced movement.
- **Straight Stifles:** Insufficient angulation, resulting in a lack of drive and restricted movement.
- **Cow-Hocks:** Hocks that turn inward, causing the feet to point outward and impairing the dog's gait.
- **Weak Hocks:** Hocks that lack strength, leading to poor propulsion and instability.

Chest and Ribcage Faults:

- **Flat Ribs:** A ribcage that is too narrow and lacks the correct roundness, reducing lung capacity and overall stamina.
- **Barrel Chest:** A ribcage that is too round, leading to a wide, ungainly appearance and potential movement issues.
- **Shallow Chest:** A chest that does not extend down far enough between the front legs, reducing the dog's ability to carry out strenuous activity.

Topline Faults:

- **Swayback:** A pronounced dip in the back, often a sign of weak musculature or structural issues.
- **Roach Back:** An excessive arch in the back, disrupting the dog's balance and gait.

Tail Faults:

- **Kinked Tail:** A tail with an abnormal bend or kink, which can be a sign of a spinal issue.
- **Low Set Tail:** A tail set too low on the body, which disrupts the dog's balance and movement.
- **Gay Tail:** A tail that is carried too high over the back, which is not in keeping with the breed standard.

Movement Faults

Paddling: Front legs that move in a circular motion, rather than straight forward, often due to improper angulation or weak shoulders.

Crabbing: The dog moves sideways, with the hindquarters not aligned directly behind the forequarters.

Crossing Over: When the front or rear legs cross over each other while moving, often a result of poor conformation.

Short, Choppy Stride: A restricted gait that lacks reach and drive, usually due to incorrect angulation in the forequarters or hindquarters.

Rolling Gait: A side-to-side movement of the body while walking, often due to incorrect construction of the ribcage or spine.

Coat Faults (Specific to Coat Types)

Smooth Coat:

- **Too Thin or Sparse Coat:** Lacking in density and coverage, leading to an unbalanced appearance.
- **Excessive Coarseness:** The coat should be smooth and glossy, not overly harsh.

Longhaired Coat:

- **Too Soft or Woolly:** A coat that lacks the correct silky texture.
- **Lack of Feathering:** Insufficient feathering on the ears, chest, and legs.

Wirehaired Coat:

- **Soft or Curly Coat:** The coat should be harsh and dense, not soft or curly.
- **Lack of Beard and Eyebrows:** Missing the characteristic facial furnishings that define the wirehaired variety.

Temperament Faults

10. **Shyness or Timidity:** A Dachshund should be confident and bold. Excessive shyness is a serious fault.
11. **Aggression:** While the breed is known for its bravery, unwarranted aggression towards humans or other dogs is undesirable and considered a fault.
12. **Lack of Confidence:** A Dachshund should be self-assured and lively, showing interest in its surroundings.

Disqualifications

**Undershot or Overshot Bite
Knuckling Over**

Conclusion

Dachshund faults can range from minor imperfections to significant issues that impact the dog's health, movement, or ability to perform its traditional roles. In breeding and conformation showing, it's essential to minimize these faults to preserve the breed's integrity, functionality, and overall health.

Description of Dachshund Temperament

The temperament of the Dachshund is one of its most defining characteristics, contributing to its appeal as both a working dog and a companion. Dachshunds are known for their bold, lively, and intelligent personalities, which reflect their origins as hunting dogs bred to pursue burrowing animals such as badgers.

Key Traits of Dachshund Temperament:

Boldness and Courage:

- Dachshunds are remarkably brave, often exhibiting a fearlessness that belies their small size. This trait stems from their history as hunting dogs, where they were required to confront animals larger and more dangerous than themselves in tight, dark burrows.
- They are confident and self-assured, rarely backing down from a challenge, whether in play, exploration, or protection of their home and family.

Independence and Determination:

- Dachshunds are independent thinkers, a trait developed through their work as solitary hunters. This independence can sometimes

manifest as stubbornness, as they often prefer to do things their own way.

- They are determined and persistent, particularly when focused on a task or goal, which is a direct reflection of their working heritage.

Intelligence and Curiosity:

- Dachshunds are highly intelligent dogs, quick to learn and adapt to new situations. This intelligence, coupled with their curiosity, makes them excellent problem solvers.
- They are inquisitive by nature, always eager to explore their surroundings, investigate new smells, and engage with their environment.

Liveliness and Playfulness:

- Dachshunds are lively and energetic, often displaying a playful nature well into adulthood. They enjoy engaging in games, especially those that involve chasing, digging, or problem-solving.
- Their spirited personality makes them entertaining companions, full of character and often described as having a sense of humor.

Loyalty and Affection:

- Dachshunds are deeply loyal to their families and often form strong bonds with their owners. They can be protective of their loved ones, sometimes acting as a small but determined watchdog.
- They are affectionate dogs, enjoying time spent with their owners, whether it's cuddling on the couch or going on adventures.

Alertness and Watchfulness:

- Due to their origins as hunting dogs, Dachshunds are naturally alert and vigilant. They are quick to notice changes in their environment and will often bark to alert their owners to perceived threats or intruders.

- This watchfulness makes them excellent at keeping an eye on their home, though it can sometimes lead to excessive barking if not properly managed.

Sociability with Other Dogs and Pets:

- Dachshunds can be sociable with other dogs, particularly if they are raised together. However, their strong prey drive can sometimes make them less tolerant of smaller animals, such as rodents or birds.
- Early socialization is important to ensure that they learn to get along well with other pets and to manage any territorial tendencies.

Stubbornness and Independence:

- While Dachshunds are intelligent, their independent streak can make them somewhat stubborn, particularly when it comes to training. They respond best to positive reinforcement and consistent, patient training methods.
- Their independence is a double-edged sword; while it makes them capable of thinking for themselves, it can also lead to challenges in training, especially if they perceive a task as uninteresting.

Conclusion: The Dachshund's temperament is a blend of boldness, intelligence, and independence, balanced with affection and loyalty.

Knuckling Over in Dachshunds

Knuckling over is a condition in which a Dachshund's front legs, specifically at the carpal (wrist) joint, buckle or bend forward when the dog is standing or moving. This condition can be indicative of several underlying issues, including structural problems, developmental concerns, or neurological conditions.

Consequences of Knuckling Over:

- **Mobility Issues:** A dog that knuckles over may have difficulty walking, running, or standing for long periods, leading to reduced mobility and potential pain.

Undershot and Overshot Bites in Dachshunds

Bite faults refer to misalignments of the jaw that result in the upper and lower teeth not meeting correctly when the mouth is closed. In Dachshunds, two common bite faults are **undershot** and **overshot** bites.

Undershot Bite:

An undershot bite occurs when the lower jaw (mandible) extends beyond the upper jaw (maxilla), causing the lower teeth to protrude in front of the upper teeth.

- **Appearance:** The dog's lower jaw juts out, and the lower incisors may be visible even when the mouth is closed.
- **Causes:** An undershot bite is typically genetic and can be passed down through breeding lines.
- **Consequences:** Makes it more difficult for the dog to grasp and hang on to the prey.

Overshot Bite:

An overshot bite, also known as a parrot mouth, occurs when the upper jaw extends well beyond the lower jaw, causing the upper teeth to overlap the lower teeth significantly.

- **Appearance:** The upper incisors are well in front of the lower incisors when the mouth is closed, sometimes with a noticeable gap between the upper and lower teeth.
- **Causes:** Like the undershot bite, an overshot bite is often hereditary.
- **Consequences:** Dogs with an Overshot bite may not be capable of grabbing and holding onto their prey.

Dachshunds are a unique breed that comes in three distinct coat types, each with its own characteristics and grooming needs. These coat types are **Smooth**, **Longhaired**, and **Wirehaired**. Here's a detailed look at each:

COAT VARIATIONS

1. Smooth Coat Dachshund

- **Appearance:** The Smooth Coat Dachshund has a short, sleek, and shiny coat that lies close to the body. This coat type gives the dog a polished and streamlined appearance.
- **Texture:** The coat is smooth to the touch and has a slightly hard texture. It is not soft or fluffy, and it provides minimal insulation compared to the other coat types.

2. Longhaired Dachshund

- **Appearance:** The Longhaired Dachshund has a soft, silky coat that is longer on the body, especially around the ears, neck, chest, belly, and tail. This coat type gives the dog a more elegant and flowing appearance.

3. Wirehaired Dachshund

- **Appearance:** The Wirehaired Dachshund has a thick, coarse coat with a wiry texture. This coat type gives the dog a rugged, outdoorsy look. Wirehaired Dachshunds also have a distinctive beard, bushy eyebrows, and a more pronounced undercoat.

Standard and Miniature.

1. Standard Dachshund

- **Size and Weight:**
 - The Standard Dachshund bitch typically weighs between 20 to 28 pounds (7.25 to 12.75 kg). Standard Dogs weight between 20 to 32 pounds (9.0 to 14.5 kg)
- **Build:**

- Standard Dachshunds have a more robust and solid build compared to their Miniature counterparts. They have a longer body in proportion to their height, with a well-muscled frame that reflects their original purpose as a hunting dog bred to pursue larger game like badgers.
- The chest is deep and broad, giving them a strong and powerful front, which is important for their digging and tracking abilities.
- **Temperament:**
 - Standard Dachshunds are bold, confident, and can sometimes be more independent. Their larger size makes them slightly more robust and they are often used for hunting larger animals or for more strenuous activities.

2. Miniature Dachshund

- **Size and Weight:**
 - The Miniature Dachshund generally weighs 10 pounds (4.55 kg) or less.
- **Build:**
 - Miniature Dachshunds have a smaller, more delicate build than Standards. Despite their smaller size, they still have the elongated body, short legs, and deep chest characteristic of the breed.
 - Their size makes them more suitable as companions in urban environments or homes with limited space. However, they still retain the same determination and boldness of the Standard size.
- **Temperament:**
 - Miniature Dachshunds are equally bold and lively but are often more sociable and outgoing than Standards.

Regardless of size or coat type, all Dachshunds belong to the same breed and are judged by the same breed standard. The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, appearance, and temperament for Dachshunds, ensuring that they maintain their unique identity and functional capabilities across all variations.

Key Points:

Same Breed, Different Sizes:

- **Standard and Miniature Dachshunds:** Both sizes, Standard and Miniature, are considered the same breed. The primary difference between them is their size and weight, but both sizes share the same physical and temperament characteristics according to the breed standard.

Same Breed, Different Coats:

- **Three Coat Types:** Dachshunds come in three coat varieties—Smooth, Longhaired, and Wirehaired. Despite these differences in coat texture and grooming needs, all three types adhere to the same breed standard in terms of structure, movement, and overall appearance.

Unified Breed Standard:

- The breed standard established by the Canadian Kennel Club applies equally to all sizes and coat types. This standard includes guidelines on the Dachshund's head, body proportions, front and rear angulation, movement, and temperament, among other factors.
 - **Temperament:** The breed standard emphasizes that all Dachshunds, regardless of size or coat, should have the same confident, bold, and lively temperament. They should be intelligent, courageous, and have the same level of independence and hunting instinct.
- a. **Judging in Dog Shows:**
- In conformation dog shows, Dachshunds of different sizes and coat types are often shown in separate classes (e.g., Smooth Standard,

Smooth Miniature, Longhaired Standard, etc.), but they are all judged according to the same breed standard criteria.

- This means that while a Wirehaired Miniature Dachshund might compete in a different class than a Smooth Standard Dachshund, both are evaluated based on the same ideal characteristics as outlined by the breed standard.

Conclusion:

Despite the variations in size and coat type, Dachshunds are a single breed with a unified standard. This ensures that whether a Dachshund is a Standard or Miniature, Smooth, Longhaired, or Wirehaired, it should still exhibit the distinctive traits that define the breed. The consistency in the breed standard across all variations helps maintain the integrity of the breed, ensuring that Dachshunds remain true to their historical purpose and distinctive appearance.

Dachshunds come in a wide variety of colors and patterns, making them one of the most visually diverse dog breeds. Each coat type—Smooth, Longhaired, and Wirehaired—can exhibit a range of colors and patterns. Below is an overview of the common colors and patterns found in Dachshunds.

Common Colors

Red:

- Red is one of the most common and classic Dachshund colors. It ranges from a deep mahogany to a lighter, more golden red.
- Red Dachshunds can sometimes have black shading, particularly on the ears and back, but ideally, the color should be solid.

Black and Tan:

- Black and Tan is another traditional color combination. These Dachshunds have a solid black base color with tan markings on the face, eyebrows, chest, legs, and under the tail.
- The tan points should be clearly defined and not blurred with the black.

Chocolate and Tan:

- Similar to Black and Tan but with a chocolate (brown) base color instead of black.
- Chocolate and Tan Dachshunds have tan markings in the same locations as Black and Tan Dachshunds.

Cream:

- Cream is a lighter, almost pale yellowish or ivory color, often seen in Longhaired Dachshunds.
- Cream Dachshunds can have a solid cream coat, or sometimes with darker shading, though solid cream is preferred.

Blue and Tan:

- Blue and Tan Dachshunds have a dilute black color known as blue, with tan points similar to those in Black and Tan Dachshunds.
- This color is less common **Isabella and Tan (Fawn and Tan):**
- Isabella is a dilute chocolate color, resulting in a light grayish-brown coat with tan markings.
- Like Blue and Tan, Isabella and Tan is relatively rare and can also be linked to genetic conditions.

Solid Colors:

- **Black** and **Chocolate:** While solid black and solid chocolate Dachshunds exist, they are rare. Usually, Dachshunds with these base colors have tan or cream markings.

Common Patterns

- **Dapple:** (also known as Merle) is a pattern where lighter areas of color mix with the base color, creating a mottled or patchy appearance.
- Dapple Dachshunds can have a variety of base colors, such as black, chocolate, red, or cream.

Brindle:

- Brindle is a pattern where dark stripes run across the base coat, creating a tiger-striped appearance.
- This pattern can appear over any base color but is most commonly seen on red or cream coats.
- Brindle markings are typically found on the body but can also appear on the face and legs.

Piebald: (Is not currently approved in Canada) However there are colors like Red and White, Black and White, Brown and White or Tricolor approved which is essentially Piebald colors.

- Piebald Dachshunds have large patches of white mixed with any base color.
- The pattern is characterized by irregular patches of color on a predominantly white coat. Piebald Dachshunds can also have ticking, which are small spots of color within the white areas.
- Piebald is distinct from Dapple, as the white areas are more solid and not as mottled.
- Piebalds should have a colored head and ears and color down its entire back.

Sable:

- Sable Dachshunds have a red base coat with dark, usually black, hair that gives a shaded appearance, often more prominent along the back.
- The dark hairs are typically more concentrated on the topcoat, while the undercoat remains red.

Wild Boar:

- This pattern is primarily seen in Wirehaired Dachshunds and resembles the coat of a wild boar, with a mix of gray, black, and brown hairs.

- The coat often has a grizzled appearance, with no clear base color, as the hairs are banded in multiple shades.

Conclusion

Dachshunds come in a vast array of colors and patterns, each contributing to the breed's appeal and individuality. Whether a classic Black and Tan, a striking Dapple, or a Brindle, the Dachshund's diverse coat possibilities make each dog unique. Regardless of the color or pattern, all Dachshunds should exhibit the breed's characteristic traits and adhere to the breed standard in terms of conformation and temperament.

***Now you be the judgescroll down!
Place a check by your pick.***

1. Which of these dogs would you judge to be better?



1. Both dogs have good topline, heads, feet and coats.

Note the smoother transition of neck into shoulder on the dog on the right.

Note the superior shoulder placement on the red dog, which positions the front feet under the withers and well back under the dog.

The red dog has shorter hocks and a better proportion of the lengths of the second thigh and hock.

2.



On these two dogs, compare the following aspects:
Prominence and contour of prosternum

2. On these two dogs, compare the following aspects:

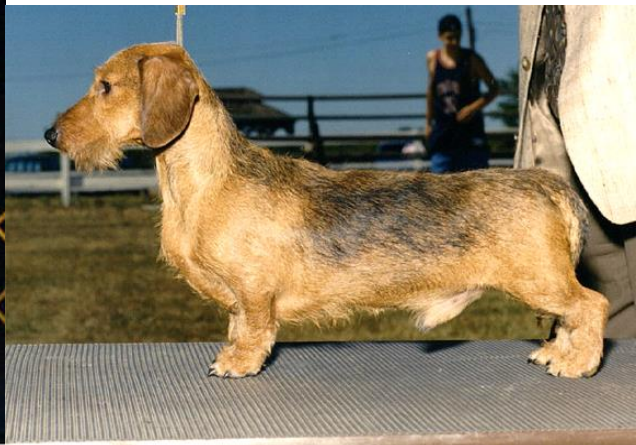
Neck to shoulder transition

Underline (tuck-up)

Length of ribcage in proportion to loin

Prominence and contour of prosternum

3.



3. On these two dogs, compare the following aspects:

Neck to shoulder transition

Underline (tuck-up)

Length of ribcage in proportion to loin

Prominence and contour of prosternum

4.



4. Compare the following:

Coats

Prosternum

Bone lengths and angulation of rear

Neck into shoulder transition

5.



5. Compare the following aspects on these two dogs:

Length of neck

Arch to nape of neck

Feet and pastern

6.



6. Notice these differences:

Shape of eye

Length of neck

Shoulder placement and appearance of prosternum

Shoulder angulation

7.



Notice that both dogs have correct Roman noses, correct coats, and good length of body.

7. Compare these aspects

Lowness to ground

Shoulder placement and forechest

Topline

We hope you found this Judge's Guide to Dachshunds helpful, and you will be more confident when you are judging this marvelous racecar of a hound. We hope you will now see the Dachshund as an interesting and deserving mighty dog in a small package. Remember, it is the only breed that Flushes Game, Retrieves, Tracks, and Hunts!

If you would like a private hands-on or zoom education session, please contact Donna Jenkins, Education Director at info@dachshundallianceofsouthernontario.com