

Dachshund Unlimited's Puppy Care Guide

Prepare for your new puppy—purchase *high-quality* puppy food



It is essential to feed a growing puppy a *high-quality* puppy food that is not only **complete** and **balanced** but also *specifically formulated* to meet the **nutritional requirements** for your puppy's proper development. If you feed your puppy a poorly formulated or adult food, you are depriving your puppy of **crucial nutrients** that will support the development of his body and mind. *High-quality* puppy food may be **slightly** more expensive; however, a *Miniature Dachshund* only eats **1 cup** of food *per day*, and the benefits far outweigh any additional cost.

When selecting the food for your puppy, examine the ingredients closely, check with your veterinarian for recommendations, and look for an approval statement from the *Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)* on the packaging. We recommend *Rachel Ray Nutrish Little Bites Chicken & veggies flavor*, *Eukanuba*, *Merrick*, and *IAMS* dry puppy food.

Tip: If your puppy is resistant to eating dry food, try adding a *small amount* of water to the bowl. However, make sure to rinse the bowl and replace the food in the bowl **every day**.

Ensure that your puppy has enough food and water

We utilize the *free choice* method of feeding, which means that a **fresh** cup of puppy food and plenty of water is accessible to the puppy throughout the day. Although the *American Kennel Club (AKC)* recommends that **water** is made available to the puppy at **all times**, the *AKC* is a proponent of establishing a set feeding schedule that may be prove to be more advantageous during housetraining:

- **6–12 weeks: Four feedings per day (1/4 cup each)** are usually adequate to meet nutritional demands.
- **3–6 months: Three feedings per day (1/3 cup each)**. If your puppy is still roly-poly at this 12 weeks, ask your veterinarian if you should reduce the total amount of food to 3/4 cup per until maturity.
- **6–12 months:** Begin feeding **twice daily (1/2 cup each)**. *Miniature Dachshunds* can make the switch to **adult food** at **9 months**. Err on the side of caution. It is far better for your puppy to be eating puppy food a little too long than not long enough.
- **12 months–Adult:** Feed your **adult Miniature Dachshund** a high-quality **adult** food **twice daily (1/2 cup each)**.

Tip: The *age* of your puppy is **not** the only factor you should consider with regard to the **frequency** of feedings. If your puppy **weighs fewer than five pounds**, he or she should continue to be fed at least **three times per day**.

Watch for symptoms of low blood sugar

Like other small breeds, *Miniature* Dachshund puppies require careful feeding and monitoring to prevent a condition called *hypoglycemia* (low blood sugar). Puppies are prone to developing this *life-threatening* condition due to their **high metabolic rates** and **low reserves** of *sugar* and *body fat*.

As a result, they need to be fed more frequently, especially as young puppies, and watched closely for signs of **low blood sugar**—*weakness or lethargy, muscle tremors or seizures, rocking their head from side-to-side, or having a dazed expression*. If you suspect your puppy has *low blood sugar*, give your puppy **1 teaspoon** of *Karo light corn syrup*, and call your veterinarian if your puppy does not return to normal **within five minutes**.

Forbidden toxic foods for puppies & adult dogs

Puppies are curious, and both young and adult *Miniature Dachshunds* will want to eat human food as well. However, there are certain food that should **never** be fed to any dog, regardless of age or breed. If you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following foods, please note the amount ingested and contact your veterinarian and the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435**:

- **Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol (e.g., yeast) can cause *vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma*, and even **death**. Under no circumstances should your pet be given any alcohol.
- **Chocolate, Coffee, or Caffeine:** These products all contain substances called *methylxanthines*, which are found in cacao seeds (chocolate), the fruit of the plant used to make coffee, and in the nuts of an extract used in some sodas. When ingested by pets, these can cause *vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures*, and even **death**. Any type of chocolate (milk, white, or dark), any blend of coffee or soda, or caffeine of any kind are highly dangerous—even in small amounts.
- **Citrus:** The stems, leaves, peels, fruit, and seeds of citrus plants contain varying amounts of citric acid, essential oils that can cause *irritation* and possibly even *central nervous system depression* if ingested in significant amounts. Small doses, such as eating the fruit, are not likely to present problems beyond minor stomach upset.
- **Coconut and Coconut Oil:** When ingested in small amounts, coconut and coconut-based products are not likely to cause serious harm to your pet. However, the *flesh and milk of fresh coconuts* do contain *oils* that may cause *stomach upset, loose stools, and diarrhea*. *Coconut water* is also **high in potassium** and should **never** be given to your pet.
- **Grapes and Raisins:** Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause **kidney failure**. **Never** give grapes or raisins to dogs.
- **Macadamia Nuts:** Macadamia nuts can cause *weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors, and hyperthermia* in dogs. Signs usually appear **within 12 hours of ingestion** and can **last approximately 12 to 48 hours**.
- **Milk and Dairy:** Because pets do not possess significant amounts of *lactase* (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), milk and other dairy-based products may cause *diarrhea* or *other digestive upset*.
- **Almonds, Pecans, and Walnuts:** These nuts, contain **high amounts** of *oils and fats*, which may not only cause *vomiting and diarrhea* but also **pancreatitis** in some dogs.
- **Onions, Garlic, and Chives:** These vegetables and herbs can cause *gastrointestinal irritation* and could lead to **red blood cell damage**.
- **Raw/Undercooked Meat and Eggs:** Raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli* that can be **extremely harmful** to pets as well as humans and **may cause death**.
- **Raw or Cooked Bones:** Raw bones of any type can contain bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*, which may result in death. However, even cooked bones, **particularly chicken and pork bones**, become more fragile when cooked and may *splinter* and become *lodged in* or *puncture* your pet's *digestive tract*. In addition, your dog may **choke** on any bone (raw or cooked) if pieces become lodged in his throat.
- **Salt and Salty Snack Foods:** Large amounts of salt can produce *excessive thirst and urination, sodium ion poisoning, and death*. Symptoms may include *vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, and seizures*.
- **Xylitol and Any Sugar-Free Sweeteners:** *Xylitol* is used as a sweetener in many products, including *gum, candy, baked goods, and toothpaste*. It may cause a **sudden insulin release** that may lead to *hypoglycemia* (low blood sugar) and may result in **liver failure**. Initial signs of **toxiosis** include *vomiting, lethargy, and loss of coordination*. Symptoms can progress to *seizures, elevated liver enzymes, and liver failure* within only a few days.
- **Yeast Dough:** When yeast dough rises, it causes gas to accumulate in your pet's digestive system. This may not only be **very painful** but also may cause the stomach to *bloat and potentially twist*, which may result in a **life-threatening emergency**. It also produces ethanol as a by-product, which can cause *vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma*, and even **death**.
- **Rawhide bones:** Rawhide bones may *splinter* and cause *choking* or *puncturing* of your pet's *digestive tract*.

Visit your veterinarian within two business days of adoption day

Although your puppy will have received his first round of vaccinations and been medically cleared by our veterinarian, we recommend visiting your veterinarian to schedule a vaccination plan, discuss safe options for controlling parasites, learn about signs of illness to watch for during the puppy's first few months, and when to spay or neuter your dog.

AKC's recommended vaccination schedule

| Puppy's Age | Recommended Vaccinations |
|-----------------|--|
| 8 weeks | Distemper, measles, parainfluenza |
| 12 weeks | DHPP (vaccines for distemper, adenovirus [hepatitis], parainfluenza, and parvovirus) |
| 16 weeks | Rabies |
| Every 1–2 years | DHPP |
| Every 1–3 years | Rabies (as required by law) |

Note: At 12 weeks, your veterinarian may want to administer a **five-way vaccine** that includes the optional **Leptospirosis** vaccine. *Dachshund* puppies may have a severe reaction to the **Leptospirosis** vaccine that may cause the puppy's airways to close. Please discuss this with your veterinarian before any shots are administered.

What to expect after your puppy's vaccination

Vaccination is a recommended veterinary preventive measure, and it's a safe and effective way to protect pets and people from serious disease. During the process of developing protective immunity, your puppy's immune system may cause your puppy to experience some **mild effects** that should **not last longer** than a few days:

Common symptoms your pet may experience for two to three days only

- Mild fever
- Decrease in social behavior
- Diminished appetite or activity
- Sneezing or other respiratory signs with intranasal vaccines
- Discomfort or mild swelling at the injection site

You should **always monitor** your puppy **closely** after each vaccination, and you should **contact** your **veterinarian immediately** if the **mild effects** (listed above) persist **longer than three days**, or if your puppy experiences **any severe adverse** reactions (listed below) within hours of the vaccination:

Rare but life-threatening symptoms of an adverse reaction—contact your vet immediately

- Swelling to face and legs
- Repeated vomiting or diarrhea
- Whole body itching
- Difficulty breathing
- Collapse

If your pet experiences **any** of these rare symptoms (listed above), you should **contact** your **veterinarian immediately**, as your pet will require additional medical treatment.

Your Puppy's First Year

1 month



- Milk teeth are coming in
- Weaning can begin

1½ months



- Nipping, play fighting, chewing
- 70% of adult brain mass has been developed

2 months



- Typical adoption time
- Begin integration with children and resident pets
- Begin housetraining
- Meet with your vet to discuss vaccination schedule

3 months



- Chasing animals, thrown objects, and their own tail
- Should recognize own name
- About 90% of adult brain mass has been developed

4 months



- Should respond to the "come" command
- Reduce feedings to three times *per day* (1 cup total)

5 months



- Approaching adult height and weight for *Miniature Dachshunds*
- Verify all vaccinations have been completed
- Begin obedience classes

6 months



- Should respond to "heel," "down," "sit," "fetch," & "stay"
- Sexual maturity for most *Miniature Dachshunds*
- Playing fetch—toys will continue to be important through adulthood

7 months



- Milk teeth are lost, and permanent teeth come in
- Consult with your vet to discuss how to best maintain your puppy's dental health

12 months



- Approaching social maturity and beginning to exhibit adult behavior

Supervise your children during their initial encounters with your new puppy

If you have young children, supervise their interactions with your new puppy.

- Help your children understand that puppies are not toys, and they must be handled with the utmost care.
- Set playtime limits (15-20 minutes, two-three times per day) to allow both your children and your puppy get sufficient rest.
- Tell your children that all pets should be treated gently and kindly and that they should **never** tease, play roughly, pull the puppy's tail or ears, or shout at the puppy (even if the puppy does something wrong).

Introduce your new puppy to your resident pets gradually and carefully

If you have a resident pet, it is also important to supervise their initial encounters with your new puppy:

- After you bring your new puppy home, keep your new puppy and any resident pets **separated** for the *first few days*.
- For the *first few meetings*, keep your new puppy in his crate (or behind an expandable doorway gate) and allow them to sniff one other.
- After *several days*, place your new puppy in another room, and allow your resident pet to enter and sniff inside your new puppy's den.
- If all goes well, **supervise** their first few *one-on-one meetings* to ensure that your resident pet and new puppy will accept each other.

Safeguard your puppy's health—watch for early signs of illness

For the first few months, puppies tend to be more susceptible to sudden onsets of illnesses that may become life threatening if not caught in the early stages. If you observe **any** of the following symptoms in your puppy, contact your veterinarian **immediately**:

- Lack of appetite/Poor weight gain
- Vomiting
- Swollen or painful abdomen
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing or coughing
- Pale gums (may be a sign of shock)
- Swollen, red eyes or eye discharge
- Nasal discharge
- Inability to pass urine or stool

Flea Control and Other Preventive Health Medications

Although you should **consult** with your veterinarian ***before*** giving your puppy **any** treatment or medication, *we recommend* the following products (subject to your veterinarian's ***final approval***):

For **immediate** flea control: **Capstar**© (nitenpyram)

House training your puppy

The *AKC Good Dog! Helpline* trainers recommend **scheduling, supervision, and responsible crate training** as the keys to **successfully house training** your puppy. Dogs do not like to soil where they sleep, which is why *crate training* is an invaluable tool during your puppy's house training.

Like children, puppies need supervision to keep them safe, need plenty of rest, and respond well to structure and consistency. You should always keep a close eye on your puppy and when you cannot, your puppy should be in his new **puppy den** (i.e., *crate*). You should **never** leave your puppy in his crate for *extended periods of time*, because he will need regularly scheduled mealtimes and bathroom breaks. Remember, the **goal** is for your puppy to become reliable enough to roam free in your house and learn how to ask to go to his **special spot**. It is **not** to stay in a closed crate for life.

1. Preparation:

- a. *Before you bring your puppy home, purchase a medium-sized crate, (18"-24") a blanket or crate pad, an enclosed playpen, and a lick water bottle.* Purchase a crate that's large enough to allow the puppy to turn around, but not so roomy that he can relieve himself in one corner and take a nap in the other.
- b. Select a specific site in your yard that will be your puppy's *designated special spot* for *bathroom breaks*.

2. Introduce your puppy to his special spot:

When you first bring your puppy home—before you bring him into your house—take your puppy **immediately** to his **special spot** to *relieve himself*. Once your puppy has done so, lavish him with love and praise, and take him into your house.

3. Visit your puppy's special spot frequently:

A puppy's bladder is very small, and your puppy's age in **months** is an excellent indicator of how many **hours** your puppy can hold it. For example, you should take a two-month old puppy outside to his **special spot** *at least every two hours*.

4. Introduce your puppy to his new "puppy den":

Your puppy's crate should **never** be used as a *punishment or used outside*; your puppy should associate his **puppy den** with positive experiences.

- a. **Place the crate next to your bed at night**—allow your puppy to sleep next to your bed in his **puppy den**. It speeds the bonding process with you; he will feel less lonely; and you'll have quicker access when it's time to take him to his **special spot** in the middle of the night.
- b. *Whenever your puppy enters his crate, calmly praise him, and give him a toy or treat.*
- c. *For his own safety, your puppy should be in his indoor puppy den (i.e., crate) whenever you cannot supervise him.* Puppies are notoriously curious, supervision is essential not only to avoid accidents and destruction to your favorite things but also to prevent your puppy from chewing on dangerous or poisonous objects.

5. Scheduling & Supervision:

You should schedule your puppy's mealtimes at the **same time** each day, supervise him whenever he is not in his **puppy den**, and you should take your puppy to his **special spot**:

- a. **Every two hours** (even if you need to wake your puppy in the middle of the night)
- b. *Immediately after your puppy awakens from a nap or bedtime*
- c. *Immediately after playing or other physical activity* (e.g., training)
- d. *Within 15 minutes of eating or drinking water*—your puppy should be fed at **least three-to-four** times per day, and **water** should be **available** to him **at all times**
- e. *Immediately*—if your puppy begins **sniffing** or **circling** around a specific area
- f. *Immediately before bedtime* or when you want your puppy to take a **nap** in his **puppy den**
- g. *Immediately before you place your puppy in his puppy den* (i.e., crate)
- h. *Immediately after you return home or when you remove him from his puppy den*

6. When accidents happen, correct your puppy kindly:

Remember that *shouting, scolding, and punishment* serves no purpose and will only confuse and frighten your puppy. If you catch him in mid-act, simply say, "No" in a *firm voice*, and then cheerfully say, "Do you want to go outside?" and immediately take him to his **special spot**.

7. Graduation:

When your puppy learns how to ask to go to his **special spot** and his bladder becomes of his more reliable, you may remove the door of his **puppy den** and allow him to roam more freely through your home.