



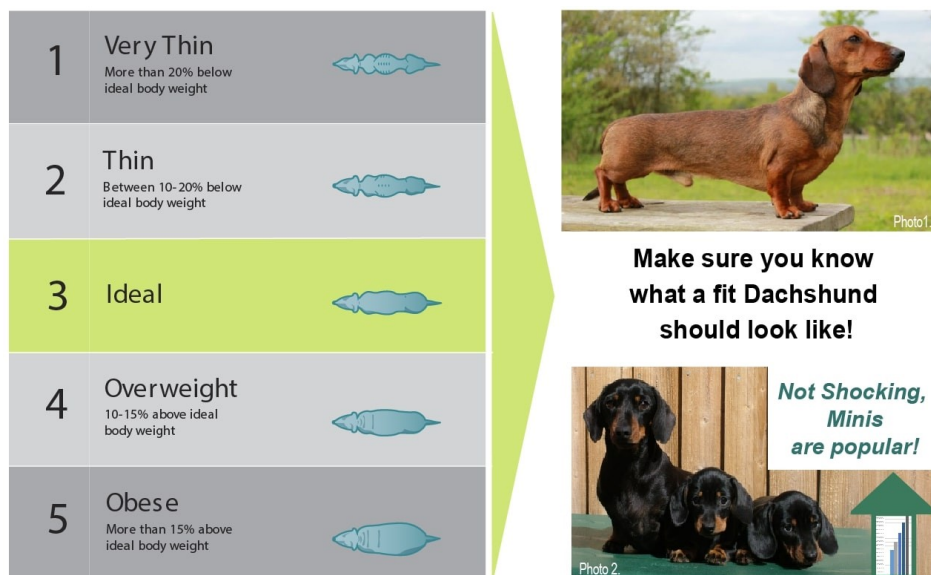
# Dog Breeds: What you need to know

🕒 August 17, 2020    📁 Committees



Staying up to date with common, let alone rare, health risks in susceptible dog breeds can be difficult. In this regular feature, our Educational Partner, [International Partnership for Dogs \(IPFD\)](#) signposts resources on a particular breed and highlights breed-specific diseases.

## Meet the Dachshunds



BCS chart cropped from: [https://www.pfma.org.uk/\\_assets/docs/pet-size-o-meter/pet-size-o-meter-dog.pdf](https://www.pfma.org.uk/_assets/docs/pet-size-o-meter/pet-size-o-meter-dog.pdf)  
 Photo1. source: <https://www.dachshund-ivdd.uk/s/img/emotionheader4893957.JPG> | Photo2. source: <https://sunsongdachshunds.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/merypup.jpg>

- Okay – everyone has met a Dachshund – but there are some interesting aspects and issues about this breed that are worth discussing – especially as some varieties are on the rise in popularity (see [Get a GRIHP! on Dachshunds](#)).

- The Dachshund comes in 3 sizes (Standard, Miniature and Rabbit) and 3 coat types (short, wire and long haired), and was originally – and in some countries still - bred for hunting. The trendy mini

dachshunds are primarily companions. For more info on populations in different countries, disease statistics and genetic tests, see the [Get a GRIHP](#) article.

- All vets know about back problems in chondrodystrophic breeds, so education and warnings about intervertebral disc disease are made routinely. But depending on where you practice, the type and variety of dachshund, it is important to know that responsibly bred dogs, kept fit and at a good weight can be active and healthy. We know client communication about obesity can be challenging, but veterinarians must take the responsibility not to normalize what can be both a welfare problem and a health issue, and – importantly - one that can be prevented. There are sensational media reports ([Fat Vincent](#)), international initiatives ([Pet Obesity](#)) and practical resources available to support you and your clients (e.g. [BCS charts](#) – [WSAVA](#) and below).
- Despite valid concerns about extreme conformation in this breed, there are great health initiatives in e.g. the UK and Sweden where responsible breeding and attention to soundness are maintaining and improving health in dachshunds.

Check out the Dachshund, [Miniature](#) and Dachshund, [Standard](#) pages in our [IPFD Breeds Database](#) on [DogWellNet.com](#) for information for veterinarians and clients, video clips, and links to breed groups, health surveys and research.

*The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) is a non-profit working for dog health, well-being, and welfare. This article has been prepared by its CEO, Dr Brenda Bonnett, DVM PhD*



#### More resources to help you:

'Fat Vincent'

Global Pet Obesity Initiative

WSAVA body condition score

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