

The Complete Dachshund Guide

Loving & living with your Dachshund.

Step-by-step training plans for real family life.

The Complete Dachshund Guide

Before You Start

Congratulations. You share your home with one of the bravest, funniest and most loyal little dogs in the world. You also share it with a hunting hound, bred to go underground after badgers, who has very strong opinions about almost everything.

If your Dachshund barks at every sound, has accidents indoors, ignores you when they've found a smell, digs up your garden, or growls when you try to move them off the sofa, you're not alone, and your dog isn't "bad." They're a clever, independent hound who hasn't been shown a better way yet.

This guide shows them. Every chapter follows the same pattern:

- **Why it happens:** what's going on inside your Dachshund's head.
- **The method:** a named, step-by-step plan, with how long, how often, and when to move on.
- **If this happens:** fixes for the most common problems.
- **Practice games:** short daily games that build the skill.
- **Your action plan:** exactly what to do today.

> **Back safety comes first.** Dachshunds have long backs and are at higher risk of a spinal condition called IVDD. Throughout this guide, you'll see tips to protect your dog's back. Your IVDD Prevention Blueprint bonus covers this in detail.

> **A quick safety note:** if your dog has bitten, guards things seriously, or shows sudden pain, wobbliness or weakness in the back legs, please see your vet. Back problems can be an emergency.

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Plus: 20 Popular Questions Answered.

The Dachshund Mind

In this chapter, you'll learn why your Dachshund behaves like a much bigger dog in a small body, why "they're just small" is the biggest training mistake owners make, and the daily "Hound's Day" plan that gives your Doxie's busy nose and brain what they need.



Bred to Go Underground

Dachshunds were developed in Germany centuries ago to hunt badgers. Their name literally means "badger dog." Their job was to follow a scent, dig into a burrow, and face a badger underground, alone, without a human telling them what to do.

That history explains almost everything you see at home:

- **The nose rules.** Dachshunds are scent hounds. Once they've found a smell, the rest of the world (including you) can disappear.
- **They're brave.** A dog who faced badgers isn't easily scared off. That's why many Doxies take on dogs ten times their size.
- **They're independent.** They were bred to make their own decisions underground. That's not stubbornness; it's design.
- **They dig.** Gardens, sofas, blankets, beds; digging is in their DNA.
- **They bark.** A loud, deep bark let hunters find them underground. Your neighbours may hear it too.
- **They're loyal.** Many Doxies bond very strongly with one person.

Smooth, Long or Wire?

- **Smooth-haired** Dachshunds are often lively, bold and attached to their people.
- **Long-haired** Dachshunds are often a little softer and calmer.
- **Wire-haired** Dachshunds, with some terrier in their background, can be extra feisty and busy.

Every dog is an individual, but knowing your type helps you plan.

The Dachshund Mind

The "They're Just Small" Trap

The biggest mistake Dachshund owners make is not training their dog the way they would train a big dog. A Labrador who barks at visitors, guards the sofa or ignores recall would get help. A Dachshund doing the same thing often gets laughed at, carried around or let off.

The result is a little dog who has learned that barking, growling and ignoring cues all work. Dachshunds are clever; they learn quickly what they can get away with.

Your Doxie deserves the same clear, kind training as any other dog. They're more than capable of it.

The Method: The Hound's Day

Give your Dachshund four short "jobs" every day. Together they take about 30–45 minutes.

Step 1: The Nose Job (10–15 minutes)

Scatter breakfast in the garden, use a snuffle mat, or hide food around a room. Sniffing is calming, satisfying work for a scent hound.

Step 2: The Dig Job (5–10 minutes)

Give your Doxie a legal place to dig: a sandpit in the garden, or a box of blankets and toys indoors with treats hidden inside. Digging somewhere allowed makes digging somewhere else less tempting.

Step 3: The Thinking Job (2 × 3–5 minutes)

Two short training sessions a day. Dachshunds learn fast but get bored fast, so keep sessions very short and fun.

Step 4: The Rest Job

Adult dogs need around 16–18 hours of rest a day. Many Doxies love to burrow, so a covered bed or a blanket to tunnel into helps them switch off.

Step 5: Check the Results

After 7 days, ask yourself: Is my Dachshund calmer in the evenings? Barking less? Digging less in the wrong places? Small improvements mean it's working.

If This Happens

"My Doxie ignores me when sniffing." That's normal for a scent hound. Build focus with the games below, and keep them on a lead or long line outdoors.

"My dog won't do anything without food." Use food. It's the fastest way to train a hound, and you'll reduce it later.

"My dog digs my sofa cushions." Give a "dig blanket" on their bed, and reward digging there.

Practice Games

Game 1: Find It

Show your Dachshund a treat, then toss it a short way while saying "find it!" Then hide it behind a chair leg. Then in another room. Most Doxies love this game, and it gives their nose a job.

Game 2: The Name Game

Say your dog's name once. When they look at you, say "yes!" and reward. Ten times a day. Focus is the foundation of everything else.

Game 3: Dig for Treasure

Put a few treats in a cardboard box filled with scrunched-up paper or old towels. Let your Doxie dig for them. Supervise so they don't eat the paper.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Feed breakfast as a Nose Job starting tomorrow.
- ☐ Set up a legal dig spot.
- ☐ Do two very short training sessions a day.
- ☐ Give your Doxie a covered bed or blanket to burrow in.
- ☐ Train your Dachshund like a big dog: clear, kind and consistent.



Building Trust

In this chapter, you'll learn why many Dachshunds become wary of hands and handling, how to pick your Doxie up safely, and the "Trust Builder" plan that helps your dog feel safe with you, at home, at the vet and at the groomer.



Small Dogs, Big Feelings

Dachshunds are often picked up, cuddled and moved around without being asked. Imagine being lifted off the ground suddenly by a giant, several times a day. Many Doxies learn to growl, snap or run away when hands come towards them, simply to protect themselves.

The goal of this chapter is to show your Dachshund that you're safe, predictable and fair.

How to Pick Up a Dachshund Safely

Lifting a Dachshund the wrong way can strain their back.

1. **Ask first:** say "up" and let your dog see you coming.
2. **Support both ends:** put one hand under the chest, behind the front legs, and the other under the bottom and back legs.
3. **Keep the back level:** lift your dog horizontally, like a loaf of bread, never by the front legs or under the tummy only.
4. **Hold them close** to your body.
5. **Put them down gently,** back legs and front legs at the same time.

Teach everyone in the family, especially children, how to do this. Young children shouldn't pick up a Dachshund at all.

The Method: The Trust Builder

Step 1: Meals Become Paychecks (Days 1–14)

Measure your dog's food each morning. Use part of it through the day to reward good choices: lying calmly, coming when called, sitting quietly. Your Doxie learns that you notice and pay for good behaviour.

Step 2: The Pet-Pause-Ask Test (Daily)

Stroke your Dachshund for three seconds, then stop. If they nudge you or move closer, carry on. If they move away, lick their lips or turn their head, respect it. Your dog learns that you listen.

Step 3: Handling = Treats (Daily)

Touch one body part briefly, then give a treat: ear, paw, collar, tail, back. One touch, one treat, five times. Build up to holding a paw for two seconds. This is especially important for Doxies, who need regular nail trims.

Step 4: The "Up" Cue (Week 1–2)

Say "up," pause, then lift your dog using the safe method, and give a treat once they're in your arms. Say "down" and put them down gently. Your Doxie learns that being picked up is predictable, not a surprise.

Step 5: Choice Time (Week 2+)

Let your Doxie choose to come to you for cuddles, rather than always being picked up. Sit on the floor and invite them over. Reward when they come.

Growls Are Information

If your Dachshund growls, **never punish it.** A growl is a warning. Calmly give space, then work out why: pain, fear, being disturbed, or guarding.

> **Sudden grumpiness can mean pain.** If your Dachshund suddenly growls when touched, especially along the back, or doesn't want to be picked up, please see your vet. Back pain can show up as a change in mood.

If This Happens

"My Doxie growls when I move them off the sofa." Don't lift them. Toss a treat on the floor and say "off." Use ramps or block the sofa (Chapter 10).

"My dog hides from me." Sit on the floor and toss treats. Let them come to you.

"My dog only likes one person." Other family members take over meals, walks and treat games.

Practice Games

Game 1: Approach & Add

While your Dachshund eats, walk past and drop a tasty extra near the bowl. Then walk away.

Game 2: Collar Touch

Touch the collar, treat. Hold for one second, treat. Build to three seconds.

Game 3: Lap Invitation

Sit on the floor. Pat your lap. When your Doxie climbs on, give a treat and gentle strokes. Let them leave whenever they want.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Teach everyone the safe way to lift a Dachshund.
- ☐ Use part of daily food as Paychecks.
- ☐ Do the Pet-Pause-Ask Test daily.
- ☐ Practise handling for treats, five times a day.
- ☐ Teach the "Up" cue.



Calm Daily Routines

In this chapter, you'll learn why many Dachshunds are "on duty" all day, how much rest they really need, and the "Burrow & Rest Routine" that teaches your Doxie to switch off.





Calm Daily Routines

The Little Security Guard

Dachshunds are alert, watchful dogs. Many spend their day patrolling the windows, listening for the postman and barking at every sound. A Doxie who is always on guard never truly rests, and a tired, stressed dog barks more, guards more and finds it harder to learn.

Adult dogs need around **16–18 hours of rest a day**, and puppies even more.

A Dachshund-Friendly Day

- **Morning:** toilet trip, a sniffy walk, breakfast as a Nose Job.
- **Mid-morning:** rest in a covered bed or crate.
- **Midday:** toilet trip and a short training game.
- **Afternoon:** rest, then a chew in their bed.
- **Late afternoon:** a walk or a dig game.
- **Evening:** dinner, a lick mat, cuddles, and the Burrow & Rest Routine.
- **Bedtime:** last toilet trip, then bed.

The Method: The Burrow & Rest Routine

Step 1: Set Up a Burrow (Day 1)

Choose a covered bed, a cave bed, or a bed with a blanket your Doxie can tunnel under. Place it somewhere quiet, away from windows and the front door.

Step 2: Reward Going In (Days 1–3)

Toss a treat into the bed. When your Doxie goes in, say "bed" and give another treat. Ten times, twice a day.

Step 3: Reward Lying Down (Days 3–6)

Wait for your dog to lie down in the bed. Reward between their paws. Keep sessions short.

Step 4: Reward Calm (Days 6–10)

Reward signs of relaxation: a sigh, curling up, head down, eyes closing. Place the treat quietly and say nothing.

Step 5: Use It Every Day (Days 10+)

Use the burrow while you cook, eat and work. Give a chew or lick mat there. Over time, your Doxie learns that the bed means "off duty."

Block the Lookout Posts

Dachshunds often climb onto sofas or window sills to watch the street. This keeps them on alert and puts their back at risk from jumping down. Block access to window lookouts, use frosted window film, and play quiet background sound.

If This Happens

"My Doxie won't stay in their bed." Make it extra cosy, add a chew, and sit nearby at first.

"My dog only settles on my lap." That's fine sometimes, but practise the burrow too, so your dog can relax without you.

"My dog barks at the window all day." Block the view (Chapter 9).

Practice Games

Game 1: Treats for Nothing

Whenever your Doxie is lying calmly, quietly place a treat by their nose and walk away.

Game 2: Blanket Burrito

Teach your Doxie to go under a blanket on cue. Lift a corner, say "burrow," and reward when they tunnel in. A great way to settle.

Game 3: Lick and Relax

After dinner, give a lick mat in the burrow.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Set up a covered bed or burrow.
- ☐ Practise the Burrow & Rest Routine twice a day.
- ☐ Block window lookouts.
- ☐ Plan rest times into the day.
- ☐ Reward calm moments.



Toilet & Marking Fixes

In this chapter, you'll learn why Dachshunds are known as one of the trickiest breeds to house-train, why many refuse to go out in the rain, and the "Potty Clock" plan that gets toilet training back on track at any age.



Why Doxies Find It Hard

- **They're small.** A small puddle behind the sofa is easy to miss, so accidents go unnoticed and the habit grows.
- **They hate the rain and cold.** Short legs mean wet tummies. Many Doxies simply refuse to go out in bad weather.
- **They're independent.** They make their own decisions about where to go.
- **Smell keeps them coming back.** If an accident isn't cleaned properly, the smell tells your dog "this is the toilet."

The good news: with a clear routine, most Dachshunds can be reliably house-trained.

> **Check with your vet first** if your previously house-trained dog suddenly has accidents, is going more often, or is straining. Urinary infections and other health problems can cause accidents.



The Method: The Potty Clock

Step 1: Set the Clock (Day 1)

Take your Doxie out:

- first thing in the morning
- after every meal
- after every nap
- after play or excitement
- before bed
- every 1–2 hours for puppies, every 3–4 hours for adults in training

Step 2: One Spot, on a Lead (Days 1–30)

Take your dog on a lead to the same spot every time. Stand still and be boring. Say a cue like "be quick" when they start to go.

Step 3: Reward Within Two Seconds (Days 1–30)

The moment they finish, say "yes!" and give a tasty treat right there, outside. Not when you get back inside. Then have a short play or sniff as an extra reward.

Step 4: Supervise or Contain (Days 1–30)

Indoors, your dog is either:

- in sight (on a lead attached to you, or in the same room behind a gate), or
- in their crate or a pen for short periods.

Unsupervised freedom is how accidents happen.

Step 5: Watch for the Signs

Sniffing the floor, circling, going behind furniture, or walking towards the door. When you see these, take them out straight away.

Step 6: Give Freedom Slowly (Weeks 4+)

After two weeks with no accidents, give access to one more room. Add freedom gradually.

Accidents

- **Don't punish.** Rubbing noses in it or shouting teaches your dog to hide when they go.
- **Interrupt calmly** if you catch them, then take them outside.
- **Clean with an enzyme cleaner** made for pet accidents. Normal cleaners can leave a smell that attracts your dog back.

The Rain Plan

- Create a sheltered toilet area with a canopy or umbrella.
- Use a dog raincoat.
- Go out with your Doxie, under an umbrella if needed.
- Make bad-weather toilet trips quick, with a great reward.
- Keep up the routine, even when it's raining.

Marking

Some Dachshunds, especially un-neutered males, lift their leg indoors to mark their territory.

- Clean marked areas with an enzyme cleaner.
- Supervise closely and interrupt calmly.
- Belly bands can help in the short term while you train.
- Talk to your vet about whether neutering may help your dog.

If This Happens

"My Doxie goes straight after coming back in." Stay outside longer, and wait until they've finished completely.

"My dog only goes on the carpet." Block that area, clean thoroughly, and take your dog out more often.

"My dog won't go in the garden." Try a short walk on a lead. Some dogs prefer to go away from home at first.

Practice Games

Game 1: The Toilet Treasure

Keep a jar of extra-special treats by the back door, used *only* for toileting outside. Your Doxie learns that going outside earns the best rewards of the day.

Game 2: Bell Training

Hang a bell by the door. Each time you take your dog out to

toilet, touch the bell to their nose, say "outside," then open the door. Over time, many Doxies learn to ring the bell when they need to go.

Game 3: The Boring Wait

Stand still and quiet in the toilet spot for up to five minutes. No games, no chatting. Once they've been, celebrate. Your Doxie learns that the fun starts *after* the job is done.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Book a vet check if accidents are new.
- ☐ Start the Potty Clock today.
- ☐ Use one spot, on a lead.
- ☐ Reward within two seconds, outside.
- ☐ Buy an enzyme cleaner.
- ☐ Set up a rain plan.



Crate & Sleep Training

In this chapter, you'll learn how a crate can become your Dachshund's favourite den, why it helps protect their back, and the "Den Builder" plan for peaceful nights.





Crate & Sleep Training

Why a Crate Helps a Dachshund

- **A safe burrow:** Doxies love small, covered spaces.
- **Toilet training:** most dogs avoid going where they sleep.
- **Back safety:** a crate stops your dog jumping on and off furniture when you can't supervise.
- **Recovery:** if your Doxie ever needs crate rest (for example after a back injury), a dog who already loves their crate will cope far better.

Adult dogs shouldn't be crated for more than about four hours at a time during the day.

Setting Up

- **Size:** big enough to stand, turn around and lie stretched out.
- **Cover:** a blanket over the top, back and sides.
- **Bedding:** soft bedding and a blanket to burrow into.
- **Location:** quiet, and for puppies, near your bed at first.



The Method: The Den Builder

Step 1: Treasure Hunts (Days 1–3)

Hide treats in the crate with the door open. Let your Doxie discover them.

Step 2: Meals in the Den (Days 2–7)

Feed every meal in the crate. Close the door while they eat, then open it.

Step 3: Door Closed, You Nearby (Days 5–10)

Give a chew in the crate, close the door, and sit nearby. Build to 20–30 minutes.

Step 4: Short Steps Away (Days 8–14)

Leave the room for short periods, building slowly.

Step 5: Bedtime Routine (from Day 1)

Last toilet trip, a small chew, lights down, a quiet "goodnight." Puppies may need a night-time toilet trip. Keep it calm and boring.

Beds and Back Safety

Many Dachshunds sleep in their owners' beds. If yours does, use a ramp or dog steps so they never jump down. A crate or a floor-level bed is safer for many Doxies.

If This Happens

"My puppy cries at night." Put the crate next to your bed for the first few weeks.

"My dog barks in the crate." Check their needs (toilet, comfort, warmth), then wait for quiet before opening the door.

"My dog panics in the crate." Stop and use a pen instead. Speak to your vet if the panic is severe.

Practice Games

Game 1: Crate Dash

Toss a treat in and say "bed!" Reward again once they're inside. Repeat 5 times.

Game 2: Door Zen

Reward your Doxie for waiting calmly while you open the crate door.

Game 3: Burrow Bonus

Hide a treat under the crate blanket. Let your Doxie find it.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Set up a covered crate with burrowing blankets.
- ☐ Do treasure hunts for three days.
- ☐ Feed meals in the crate.
- ☐ Use a ramp or steps for beds and sofas.
- ☐ Start the bedtime routine tonight.



Socialisation Basics

In this chapter, you'll learn why many Dachshunds are wary of strangers and bigger dogs, what socialisation really means, and the "Watch From Afar" method for building a confident Doxie at any age.



Socialisation Basics

Why It Matters for Doxies

Dachshunds are brave, but they're also small. The world is full of giant feet, loud children and big dogs. A Doxie who feels unsafe often deals with it by barking, growling or snapping first. That's why confident Dachshunds are happier, calmer dogs.

Socialisation means helping your dog have **calm, positive experiences** with people, dogs, places, sounds and handling. It's not about how many things they meet; it's about how they *feel*.

The Puppy Window

Puppies are most open to new experiences until about **12–16 weeks**. Short, positive experiences during this time are valuable. But socialisation continues for life.



The Method: Watch From Afar

Step 1: Make a List

People (men, children, hats, beards, uniforms), big dogs, small dogs, cats, bikes, buggies, traffic, the vet's, grooming, different floors, stairs (carried safely), umbrellas and loud noises.

Step 2: Start at a Distance

Find a spot where your Doxie can see one thing from your list and stay relaxed. Each time they look at it calmly, say "yes" and reward.

Step 3: Let Your Dog Choose

If your dog wants to move closer, let them. If they want to move away, let them.

Step 4: Keep It Short

Five to ten minutes, then go home.

Step 5: Tick and Repeat

Tick things off as your Doxie becomes calm around them, and revisit them every few weeks.

Don't Let Strangers Swoop

Many people love Dachshunds and want to pick them up or reach down to stroke them. That can be scary. It's fine to say, "Please don't touch her, she's in training." Let your dog decide if they want to say hello.

Big Dogs

Big dogs can injure a Dachshund, even in play, and rough play can hurt their back. Choose calm, gentle playmates of a similar size, and avoid busy dog parks.

Reading Your Dachshund

Signs your dog needs more space:

- lip licking or yawning
- turning the head away
- ears pinned back
- tail low or tucked
- freezing, a stiff body or a hard stare
- growling or barking

Practice Games

Game 1: Café Watching

Sit outside a quiet café with your Doxie on your lap or on a mat. Reward calm looks at people passing.

Game 2: Surface Safari

Lay out different surfaces at home: a bath mat, a crinkly paper tray, a flat cushion. Reward your dog for stepping on them.

Game 3: Sound Party

Play sounds very quietly while your dog eats. Increase the volume slowly over days.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Write your Doxie's socialisation list.
- ☐ Practise Watch From Afar three times this week.
- ☐ Say no to strangers who want to pick your dog up.
- ☐ Choose calm, gentle playmates.
- ☐ Learn the signs your dog needs space.



Leash & Outdoor Skills

In this chapter, you'll learn why your Dachshund's nose takes over on walks, why a harness matters so much for their neck and back, and the "Sniff and Stroll" method for calm, enjoyable walks.





Why Doxies Pull (or Stop Dead)

- **The nose is in charge.** A scent hound on a walk is reading the news. They pull towards smells, or stop and refuse to move until they've finished sniffing.
- **Prey drive:** squirrels, birds and cats are very exciting.
- **Short legs, fast feet:** Doxies trot surprisingly quickly.

The Right Gear

- **A well-fitted harness,** not a collar, for walks. Pulling on a collar puts pressure on the neck, and Dachshunds are prone to back and neck problems. Choose a harness that fits their long body without rubbing.
- **A light, fixed lead** of about 1.8 metres.
- **A long line (5–10 metres)** for sniff walks in open spaces.
- **A raincoat** for wet weather.



The Method: Sniff and Stroll

The idea is simple: your Doxie gets to sniff, as a reward for walking nicely.

Step 1: Reward Next to You (Days 1–3)

At home and in the garden, reward your Doxie for being next to your leg. Short sessions, lots of treats.

Step 2: Stop When the Lead Is Tight (Days 3–7)

On a quiet street, walk forward. When the lead goes tight, stop. When it goes slack, say "yes" and walk on.

Step 3: "Go Sniff!" (Week 2)

After 10–20 steps of nice walking, say "go sniff!" and let your Doxie explore. Then "let's go," and walk on.

Step 4: Moving On From Smells (Week 2–3)

If your Doxie won't leave a smell, wait a few seconds, then say "let's go" cheerfully and take a step. Reward when they follow. Don't drag them.

Step 5: Sniff Walks (Weekly)

Once or twice a week, take a slow sniff walk on a long line where your Doxie chooses the pace and route. It's great for their brain.

Off-Lead Safety

Many Dachshunds have a strong prey drive and a "nose first, ears later" attitude. Keep your Doxie on a lead or long line unless you're in a safe, enclosed space, and check fences for gaps; Doxies are excellent escape artists and diggers.

Weather

- **Rain:** a raincoat helps, and short trips.
- **Cold:** many smooth Doxies need a coat in winter.
- **Heat:** walk early or late. Pavements get hot, and short dogs are close to the ground.

If This Happens

"My Doxie refuses to walk." Check for pain first. Then try shorter walks, more sniffing, and treats for moving with you.

"My dog lunges at other dogs." See Chapter 9 and your Behavior Reset Guide.

"My dog eats everything on walks." Practise "leave it" (Chapter 8).

Practice Games

Game 1: Follow Me

In the garden, walk in random directions with your Doxie on a loose lead. Reward each time they choose to follow you.

Game 2: Sniff Permission

Stop near an interesting smell. Wait for your Doxie to look at you, then say "go sniff!" They learn that checking in with you unlocks sniffing.

Game 3: The U-Turn

Say "this way!" and turn around. Reward as your Doxie turns with you. Use it when you see a dog, cat or squirrel ahead.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Switch to a well-fitted harness.
- ☐ Practise rewarding next to you at home.
- ☐ Use "go sniff!" as a reward.
- ☐ Plan a weekly sniff walk on a long line.
- ☐ Check garden fences for gaps.



Focus & Obedience

In this chapter, you'll learn how to train an independent hound, why "say it once" matters, and the "Short & Sweet" method for teaching sit, down, wait, leave it and recall.





Training a Thinker

Dachshunds are clever, but they were bred to make their own decisions. That means:

- They learn quickly, but ask "what's in it for me?"
- They get bored with repetition.
- They tune out if training isn't fun.

The answer is short, rewarding sessions and plenty of variety.

The Method: Short & Sweet

Rule 1: Three Minutes, Max

Train for 3 minutes, a few times a day. End while your Doxie still wants more.

Rule 2: Say It Once

Say each cue once. If your dog doesn't respond, make it easier next time.

Rule 3: Pay Well

Use small, tasty treats. Food is the fastest way to train a hound.

Rule 4: Practise Everywhere

Kitchen, living room, garden, front of the house, quiet streets.

The Core Skills

Sit

Hold a treat at your Doxie's nose and move it slowly back over their head. As their bottom goes down, say "yes" and reward.

Down

From a sit, move a treat slowly down to the floor between their paws. Reward when their elbows touch the floor.

Wait

Ask for a sit, show your hand like a stop sign, take one step back, then step in and reward. Build to more steps and more time.

Leave It

Hold a treat in a closed fist. When your Doxie stops sniffing or licking it, reward from your other hand. Build up to treats on the floor.

Recall

Choose a fresh word ("here!"). Say it once, then reward with a jackpot. Practise indoors, then in the garden, then on a long line. Never call your dog for something they don't like.

> **Be realistic about recall.** Many Dachshunds will always find smells more interesting than you. Keep your Doxie on a lead or long line in unfenced areas.

If This Happens

"My Doxie ignores me outside." Practise in quieter places first.

"My dog only works for food." That's fine. Mix in life rewards like sniffing and play.

"My dog gets bored." Keep sessions shorter and switch between skills.

Practice Games

Game 1: Name Game

Say your Doxie's name once. Reward when they look at you.

Game 2: Hide and Seek

Hide behind a door and call. Celebrate when they find you.

Game 3: Sit Anywhere

On a walk, ask for sits in five different places. Reward each one.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Train in 3-minute sessions.
- ☐ Say each cue once.
- ☐ Teach sit, down, wait and leave it.
- ☐ Choose a fresh recall word.
- ☐ Use a long line outdoors.



Calm Behavior Tools

In this chapter, you'll learn why Dachshunds bark, guard and react so strongly, and the "Calm Toolkit": five simple tools that help your Doxie cope with the things that set them off.





Calm Behavior Tools

Why Doxies React

- **Barking:** Doxies were bred to bark loudly underground. They bark at noises, people, dogs, and the postman.
- **Guarding:** many Dachshunds guard food, toys, their bed or their favourite person.
- **Reactivity:** being small can make other dogs and people feel threatening, so some Doxies try to scare them away first.

These are understandable behaviours, but they can be changed with patience.

The Method: The Calm Toolkit

Tool 1: Thank You (for Barking)

1. In a quiet room, say "thank you" and toss a treat behind you. Repeat 10 times.
2. When your Doxie barks at a noise, walk over, look, say "thank you," and toss treats behind you.
3. Reward quiet. Over time, your dog learns to bark once, then come to you.

Tool 2: Block the View

Use frosted window film, close blinds, and keep your Doxie off window lookouts. Every bark practised makes barking stronger.

Tool 3: The Trade (for Guarding)

1. Practise with low-value items first. Offer a tasty treat, say "trade," and reward when your Doxie lets go.
2. Give the item back if it's safe.
3. Practise daily, building up to more valuable items.
4. Never grab things from your dog's mouth.

Tool 4: Find It (for Big Feelings)

Teach your dog to search for treats on the floor when you say "find it!" Use it when your Doxie sees another dog or gets worked up. Sniffing calms them down.

Tool 5: Distance (for Reactivity)

Find the distance at which your Doxie can see another dog and stay calm. Reward calm looks. Move closer slowly, over weeks.



Resource Guarding Safety

- Feed your Doxie in a quiet place where they won't be disturbed.
- Don't let children approach your dog while they're eating or chewing.
- Use Approach & Add (Chapter 2) at mealtimes.

> **Get help if your Doxie growls, snaps or bites over food, toys or people.** A qualified behaviourist can help you make a safe plan.

If This Happens

"My Doxie barks at everything." Block the view, use Thank You, and make sure they're getting enough sniffing and rest.

"My dog guards me on the sofa." Remove sofa access for a while and use a bed on the floor next to you.

"My dog barks at dogs on walks." Use distance and Find It. See your Behavior Reset Guide.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Teach Thank You this week.
- ☐ Block window views.
- ☐ Practise the Trade daily.
- ☐ Teach Find It.
- ☐ Find your dog's comfortable distance from other dogs.



Everyday Problem Solving

In this chapter, you'll learn quick, practical fixes for the everyday Dachshund problems that drive owners mad: digging, chewing, stealing, jumping on furniture and refusing to be handled.





Everyday Problem Solving

Digging

Digging is natural for a badger hound. Instead of stopping it, redirect it.

1. Give a legal dig spot: a sandpit in the garden, or a dig box indoors.
2. Bury toys and treats there.
3. Reward digging in the right place.
4. Block or supervise problem areas.

Chewing

- Give plenty of safe chews.
- Keep shoes, socks and cables out of reach.
- Use the Trade if they pick up something they shouldn't.

Stealing

- Keep counters, bins and bags out of reach.
- Teach "leave it" (Chapter 8).
- Never chase; use a swap.

Jumping On and Off Furniture

Jumping off sofas and beds puts strain on a Dachshund's back.

1. Use ramps or dog steps for sofas and beds.
2. Teach your Doxie to use the ramp by rewarding each step.
3. Block access when you're not there.
4. Lift your dog down safely when needed.

Refusing Handling

- Use Handling = Treats (Chapter 2) daily.
- Go slowly with nails and grooming.
- If your Doxie suddenly hates being touched, see your vet; it could be pain.

Burrowing Into Everything

Give your Doxie their own blankets to burrow in, and keep visitors' coats and bags out of reach.



Barking for Attention

If your Doxie barks at you for attention or food, wait for quiet before giving them what they want. Reward quiet moments often.

If This Happens

"My dog won't use the ramp." Lure them up with treats, one step at a time.

"My dog digs under the fence." Bury chicken wire along the fence line, and supervise garden time.

"My dog steals socks." Keep laundry out of reach and offer a toy to carry instead.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Set up a dig spot.
- ☐ Put ramps or steps by sofas and beds.
- ☐ Keep tempting items out of reach.
- ☐ Practise the Trade.
- ☐ Reward quiet instead of barking.



Mental Enrichment

In this chapter, you'll learn why brain work is the fastest way to calm a Dachshund, and the "Scent Hound Brain Menu" for every day of the week.





A Nose That Needs a Job

Dachshunds have powerful noses and busy brains. Without a job, they invent their own: barking, digging and stealing. Brain work tires them out without straining their back.

The Method: The Scent Hound Brain Menu

Monday: Snuffle Breakfast

Scatter breakfast in a snuffle mat or on the lawn.

Tuesday: Box Dig

Fill a box with scrunched paper and hidden treats.

Wednesday: Find the Toy

Hide a toy and say "find it!"

Thursday: Trick Time

Teach a new trick: spin, touch, or "paw."



Friday: Scent Trail

Drag a treat across the lawn to make a trail, with a jackpot at the end.

Saturday: Tunnel Game

Use a children's play tunnel (low and safe for their back). Toss a treat through and let your Doxie go through to get it.

Sunday: Lick and Relax

Frozen lick mat or stuffed toy in their burrow.

Simple Scent Work

1. Put a treat in one of three boxes.
2. Let your Doxie sniff the boxes and find it.
3. Reward when they find it.
4. Add more boxes and hide them in different places.

If This Happens

"My Doxie gets frustrated with puzzles." Make them easier so they succeed quickly, then slowly increase difficulty.

"My dog destroys puzzle toys." Supervise, and choose tougher toys made for strong chewers.

"My dog is still restless after brain games." Add more rest time, and check they've had a sniff walk too.

Practice Games

Mental Enrichment

Game 1: Muffin Tin Game

Put treats in a muffin tin and cover each hole with a tennis ball. Your Doxie has to move the balls to find the treats.

Game 2: Which Cup?

Hide a treat under one of three cups. Let your Doxie sniff and choose.

Game 3: Towel Roll

Roll treats up inside an old towel. Your Doxie unrolls it with their nose and paws.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Plan a Brain Menu for this week.
- ☐ Use a snuffle mat daily.
- ☐ Try a scent trail.
- ☐ Teach one new trick.
- ☐ Finish the day with a lick mat.



Safe Exercise & Play

In this chapter, you'll learn how much exercise your Dachshund needs, which activities protect their back, and the "Back-Safe Play Rules" for a fit, healthy Doxie.





Safe Exercise & Play

How Much Exercise?

- **Puppies:** short walks and play, with plenty of rest.
- **Adult miniatures:** around 30–60 minutes a day.
- **Adult standards:** around 45–90 minutes a day.
- **Seniors:** shorter, gentler walks.

Mix walks, sniffing, gentle play and brain work. Every dog is different, so watch yours.

Why Fitness Matters

Strong muscles help support the spine. A fit, lean Dachshund is less likely to strain their back.



The Method: The Back-Safe Play Rules

Rule 1: No Jumping

Use ramps and steps. Lift your dog down from cars.

Rule 2: Limit Stairs

Use baby gates. Carry your Doxie up and down stairs using the safe lift, or limit stair use as your vet advises.

Rule 3: Play Low

Throw toys along the ground, not in the air. Avoid games that make your dog twist, leap or stand on their back legs.

Rule 4: Gentle Playmates

Choose calm dogs of a similar size. Avoid rough play with big dogs.

Rule 5: Keep It Lean

Extra weight puts extra strain on the spine. See your Wiener Meal Guide.



Safe Exercise & Play

Safe Activities

- sniff walks
- scent games
- gentle fetch along the ground
- trick training
- walking on different surfaces (grass, sand, gentle slopes)
- swimming, with a dog life jacket and supervision, if your Doxie enjoys it

Warning Signs

Stop and see your vet if your Doxie:

- yelps when picked up or touched
- has a hunched back
- is reluctant to move, jump or use stairs
- has wobbly or weak back legs
- drags their back paws

> **Back problems can be an emergency.** If your Dachshund suddenly can't walk, call your vet immediately. See your Wiener Emergency Guide.

If This Happens

"My Doxie has endless energy." Add more sniffing and brain work, not more running.

"My dog loves jumping for toys." Keep toys low, and play find-it games instead.

"My dog is getting slower." Check weight, nails and joints, and see your vet if it continues.

Practice Games

Game 1: Ground Fetch

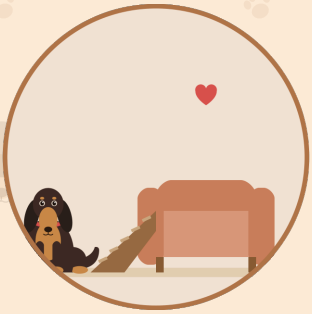
Roll a toy along the ground a short distance. Reward your Doxie for bringing it back.

Game 2: Cavaletti Walk

Lay broom handles flat on the ground, a step apart. Walk your Doxie slowly over them for gentle muscle work.

Game 3: Hill Sniff

Walk slowly up and down a gentle grassy slope, letting your Doxie sniff. This builds strength without strain.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Check your Doxie's exercise suits their age and size.
- ☐ Use ramps and steps everywhere.
- ☐ Play low, not high.
- ☐ Choose gentle playmates.
- ☐ Learn the warning signs of back pain.



Grooming & Handling

In this chapter, you'll learn how to care for your Dachshund's coat type, why nails and teeth matter so much for this breed, and the "Calm Grooming Routine" that makes handling easy.





Coat Care by Type

- **Smooth:** brush once a week with a rubber brush or grooming mitt.
- **Long:** brush 2–3 times a week with a slicker brush and comb, especially behind the ears, on the chest and under the legs.
- **Wire:** brush weekly. Many wire coats need hand-stripping a few times a year by a groomer.

Nails

Long nails change how a dog stands and walks, which can affect their back. Trim nails every 2–4 weeks, or when they click on the floor.

Teeth

Small breeds are prone to dental disease. Brush your Doxie's teeth a few times a week with dog toothpaste, and ask your vet to check their teeth at every visit.

Ears

Check ears weekly for redness, smell or discharge. Long-haired Doxies may need the fur around their ears trimmed.

The Method: The Calm Grooming Routine

Step 1: Brush Meets Treat

Show the brush, give a treat. Put it away. Repeat 10 times.

Step 2: One Stroke, One Treat

Brush once, give a treat. Do this 5 times, then stop.

Step 3: Nail Touches

Touch the clippers to a nail, then treat. Trim one nail a day if needed.

Step 4: Teeth

Let your Doxie lick toothpaste from your finger, then rub your finger along their teeth, then use a brush.

Step 5: Keep It Short

Five minutes is plenty. Stop before your dog gets fed up.

Grooming and Back Safety

Groom your Doxie on the floor or on a low, non-slip surface. If you use a table, never leave them alone on it, and lift them down safely.

If This Happens

"My Doxie hates nail trims." Go back to touching the clippers to a nail for a treat, and trim one nail a day. A grinder may suit some dogs better.

"My long-haired Doxie gets tangles." Comb behind the ears and under the legs a few times a week.

"My dog won't let me brush their teeth." Start with toothpaste on your finger as a treat.

Practice Games

Game 1: Spa Day

Five minutes of gentle brushing on the floor while your Doxie licks a lick mat.

Game 2: Paw Hold

Hold a paw for one second, then treat. Build up to five seconds.

Game 3: Ear Peek

Gently lift an ear, look inside, then treat. Repeat on the other side.



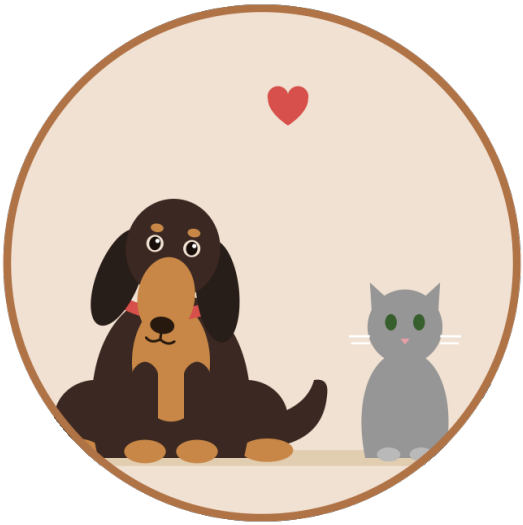
Your Action Plan

- ☐ Brush according to coat type.
- ☐ Trim nails every 2–4 weeks.
- ☐ Start brushing teeth.
- ☐ Check ears weekly.
- ☐ Practise the Calm Grooming Routine.



Multi-Dog Living

In this chapter, you'll learn how to introduce your Dachshund to other dogs and pets, how to keep the peace at home, and the "Peaceful Pack Rules."





Doxies and Other Dogs

Many Dachshunds love living with other dogs, especially other Doxies. But they can also be bossy, guard their things, and play rough with bigger dogs, which isn't safe for their backs.

Introductions

1. Meet on neutral ground, both on leads.
2. Walk side by side.
3. Let them meet briefly when both are relaxed.
4. Use baby gates at home at first.
5. Supervise for the first few weeks.

Cats and Small Pets

Dachshunds were bred to hunt small animals. Introduce cats slowly, with your dog on a lead. Keep small pets like rabbits and guinea pigs well out of reach.



The Method: The Peaceful Pack Rules

Rule 1: Separate Meals

Feed dogs in separate rooms or crates.

Rule 2: Treasures Apart

Give chews and special toys only when dogs are separated.

Rule 3: Safe Spaces

Every dog needs their own bed or crate.

Rule 4: Supervise Play

Break up play every few minutes. Stop rough play, especially with bigger dogs.

Rule 5: One-to-One Time

Each dog gets their own walks and training time.

If This Happens

"My Doxie bosses the other dog." Manage resources, and give each dog their own space.

"My dogs fight over toys." Pick up toys when they're together.

"My Doxie chases the cat." Go back to the lead and gate stage.

Your Action Plan

- ☐ Feed dogs separately.
- ☐ Give chews separately.
- ☐ Supervise play.
- ☐ Introduce new pets slowly.
- ☐ Give each dog one-to-one time.



Health Essentials

In this chapter, you'll learn about the health issues most common in Dachshunds, especially IVDD, the warning signs to watch for, and the "Weekly Health Check."

This chapter is general information, not veterinary advice. Always speak to your vet about your own dog.



IVDD (Intervertebral Disc Disease)

Dachshunds have long backs and short legs, and many carry genes that make their spinal discs age early. This makes them much more likely to develop IVDD, where a disc in the spine bulges or bursts and presses on the spinal cord.

Warning signs

- yelping when picked up or touched
- a hunched back or tense tummy
- reluctance to move, jump, or use stairs
- shaking or panting with no obvious reason
- wobbly, weak or crossed back legs
- dragging the back paws
- loss of bladder or bowel control

> **IVDD can be an emergency.** If your Dachshund shows weakness or can't walk, keep them still and call your vet straight away. Early treatment can make a big difference.

Reducing the Risk

- Keep your Doxie lean.
- Use ramps and steps; avoid jumping.
- Limit stairs.
- Use a harness, not a collar.
- Lift them with both ends supported.
- Keep them fit with regular, steady exercise.

Your IVDD Prevention Blueprint bonus has a full plan.

Other Common Issues

- **Weight gain:** Doxies love food and gain weight easily. Extra weight strains the back.
- **Dental disease:** brush teeth and have them checked regularly.
- **Eye problems:** cloudiness, redness or bumping into things should be checked.
- **Skin problems:** itching, hair loss or red skin.
- **Ear problems:** especially in long-haired Doxies.

The Weekly Health Check

1. **Eyes and ears:** clear and clean.
2. **Teeth and gums:** look for tartar or red gums.
3. **Body:** feel for lumps and check their weight.
4. **Back:** gently run your hand along the spine. Notice any flinching.
5. **Movement:** watch them walk. Look for wobbliness or stiffness.
6. **Nails:** not too long.

If This Happens

"My Doxie is shaking and won't move." This can be a sign of back pain. Keep them still and call your vet.

"My dog has bad breath." It may be dental disease. Book a vet check.

"My dog is gaining weight." Measure meals, count treats, and see your Wiener Meal Guide.

Practice Games

Game 1: Vet Practice

At home, gently look in your Doxie's ears, mouth and eyes, and lift each paw. Treat after each step.

Game 2: Happy Vet Visit

Visit the vet just to step on the scales and get a treat.

Game 3: Back Stroke

Gently stroke along your Doxie's back, rewarding calm. You'll quickly notice if anything changes.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Learn the signs of IVDD.
- ☐ Keep your vet's emergency number handy.
- ☐ Do the Weekly Health Check.
- ☐ Keep your Doxie lean.
- ☐ Book a dental check.



Lifetime Care Plan

In this chapter, you'll learn how your Dachshund's needs change from puppy to senior, and the "Care Calendar" that helps them live a long, happy life.

Many Dachshunds live around 12–16 years. Good care helps you make the most of every year.



Puppy (up to about 12 months)

Vaccinations, parasite control and microchipping as your vet advises. Toilet training, crate training, socialisation and gentle handling. No jumping off furniture.

Adult (about 1–8 years)

Yearly check-ups. Lean weight, daily brain work, back-safe exercise, and regular dental care.

Senior (about 8+ years)

Many vets recommend check-ups every 6 months. Soft, warm beds, ramps everywhere, shorter walks, and easy brain games. Watch for changes in movement, appetite, thirst and behaviour.



Lifetime Care Plan

The Method: The Care Calendar

Daily

Walks, sniffing, brain games, rest, and checking how your Doxie is eating and moving.

Weekly

The Weekly Health Check, brushing, and teeth cleaning.

Monthly

Weigh your dog, check nails, and keep parasite treatments up to date.

Yearly

Vet check-up and vaccinations as advised.

Keeping a Senior Doxie Happy

- Warm, cosy beds, away from draughts.
- Ramps for everything.
- Short, gentle walks with lots of sniffing.
- Easy brain games and lick mats.
- Extra vet checks.

If This Happens

"My senior Doxie is sleeping more." That's normal, but see your vet if it's sudden or comes with other changes.

"My older dog seems confused at night." Talk to your vet.

Lifetime Care Plan

Some older dogs develop changes in their thinking that can be helped.

"My senior dog won't use the stairs." Block stairs and carry them safely. See your vet for any new pain.

Practice Games

Game 1: Easy Find It

Scatter treats on a soft rug for your senior Doxie to find.

Game 2: New Old Tricks

Teach simple tricks like nose touches. Older brains love to learn.

Game 3: Sunshine Sniff

Slow sniff walks on soft ground keep senior dogs happy and moving.



Your Action Plan

- ☐ Book your Doxie's next vet check.
- ☐ Set up a Care Calendar.
- ☐ Weigh your dog this month.
- ☐ Add ramps or steps where needed.
- ☐ Plan brain games for every age.



20 Popular Questions Answered

1. Why is my Dachshund so stubborn? They were bred to make their own decisions. Keep training short and rewarding (Chapter 8).

2. Why does my Doxie bark so much? Barking is part of their hunting history. Use Thank You and block views (Chapter 9).

3. Why is toilet training so hard? Small accidents go unnoticed, and many Doxies hate rain. Use the Potty Clock (Chapter 4).

4. Can I let my Dachshund jump on the sofa? It's safer to use a ramp or steps (Chapter 10).

5. How do I pick up my Doxie safely? Support the chest and back end, and keep the back level (Chapter 2).



20 Popular Questions Answered

6. Why does my Dachshund dig? It's natural for a badger hound. Give a legal dig spot (Chapter 1).

7. How much exercise does my Doxie need? Around 30–90 minutes a day, depending on size and age (Chapter 12).

8. Should I use a collar or harness? A harness for walks (Chapter 7).

9. Why does my Doxie growl when I move them? It may be guarding or pain. Don't lift; use a treat to move them, and see your vet if it's new.

10. Can Dachshunds live with cats? Many can, with slow introductions (Chapter 14).



20 Popular Questions Answered

11. What is IVDD? A spinal condition common in Dachshunds (Chapter 15).

12. My Doxie suddenly won't walk. What do I do? Keep them still and call your vet straight away.

13. Why does my dog burrow in blankets? It's a natural den instinct. Give them their own burrow.

14. How often should I trim my Doxie's nails? Every 2–4 weeks.

15. Is my Dachshund overweight? If you can't feel the ribs easily or see a waist, talk to your vet.



20 Popular Questions Answered

16. Why does my Doxie refuse to go out in the rain? Short legs mean wet tummies. Use a raincoat and a sheltered toilet spot.

17. Can I let my Dachshund off lead? Only in safe, enclosed areas. Their nose often wins over recall.

18. Why does my dog guard me? Some Doxies bond strongly with one person. Use the Calm Toolkit (Chapter 9).

19. Should my Doxie play with big dogs? Gentle, calm big dogs only. Rough play can hurt their back.

20. When should I see a behaviourist? If your dog growls, snaps, bites, guards seriously, or isn't improving after several weeks.



A Final Word



Take a moment to look at your Dachshund. Maybe they're curled up under a blanket, guarding the window, or giving you that long, serious stare.

Everything they do comes from a brave little hunter with a big nose and an even bigger heart. None of the barking, digging or stubbornness is your dog trying to be difficult. It's a clever hound waiting for clear, kind guidance.

Pick one chapter. Follow the method. Play the games. Tick off the action plan. Then pick the next.

Small steps, done every day, build a calm, confident Doxie, and a bond that lasts a lifetime.