# Dachshund Puppy Checklist

Your first weeks with a long, low companion

Shopping list | Ramps, gates and back-safe gear
First-night plan | Daily routine | Vet worksheet
Jump safety and weight control | Coat and nails
Toxic foods | Emergency numbers | Socialization tracker

Free from Dachshund Daily. General education only; it does not replace advice from your veterinarian.

Some guides on our site may contain affiliate links; this checklist has none.

# 1. Shopping list

Must-haves before pickup. Nice-to-haves can wait.

## Must-have before pickup

- [ ] Crate or pen sized for a long, low adult, with a divider
- [ ] Washable bedding (nothing your puppy can shred and swallow)
- [ ] Puppy food: keep the same food the breeder or rescue used at first
- [ ] Food and water bowls (stainless steel or ceramic)
- [ ] Chest harness that fits, plus ID tag and phone number
- [ ] Standard 4 to 6 foot leash and poop bags
- [ ] Enzymatic cleaner for accidents
- [ ] Chew toys in a few textures; check for loose pieces
- [ ] Soft brush suited to your puppy's coat type (smooth, wire or long)
- [ ] Puppy-safe nail clippers or grinder
- [ ] Baby gates to block staircases
- [ ] Pet ramp or low pet stairs for sofa and bed
- [ ] Training treats: small, soft, pea-sized
- [ ] Dog-safe shampoo and a dog toothbrush with dog toothpaste

## Nice to have, can wait

- [ ] Non-slip rugs or runners for slick floors
- [ ] Long-bodied orthopedic bed your vet or trainer is comfortable with
- [ ] Snuffle mat for calm, low-impact enrichment
- [ ] Car restraint (crash-tested harness or secured crate)
- [ ] Puppy class signup (ask your vet when it is safe to start)

**Breed tip:** Dachshunds are a long-backed breed. Stairs, jumps and extra weight are worth planning for early. This is general education, not a diagnosis—ask your veterinarian about safe handling and exercise for your own puppy.

# 2. First-night plan

Calm and predictable beats exciting.

## Before bedtime

- [ ] Last meal a couple of hours before bed (follow your vet's plan)
- [ ] Last potty break right before bed, quietly, with a treat
- [ ] Crate or pen near you so your puppy can hear you
- [ ] Soft bedding and one safe chew; no loose swallowable items
- [ ] Quiet, dim room at a comfortable temperature
- [ ] Water available as your vet advises

## During the night

- [ ] Plan one or two overnight potty trips at first
- [ ] Keep night trips boring: no play, straight back to bed
- [ ] Check whether whining is a potty need, then settle calmly
- [ ] Do not leave a truly distressed puppy to cry for long periods
- [ ] Note times in the potty log later in this booklet

## Morning

- [ ] Straight outside for a potty break, with a treat
- [ ] Breakfast, then another potty break
- [ ] Short play and training, then a nap

**Reminder:** Puppies sleep a lot. Call your vet if your puppy seems lethargic, refuses food, or has vomiting or diarrhea.

# 3. A sample daily routine

Adjust to your household and your vet's feeding advice.

| Time of day | What happens |
|---|---|
| Wake | Straight outside to potty, treat |
| Breakfast | Meal, then potty break |
| Play + training | A few short, reward-based sessions |
| Nap | Crate or pen |
| Wake + potty | Out immediately after waking |
| Midday meal | If your vet advises 3 or more meals |
| Play + nap | Repeat the cycle |
| Dinner | Last meal a couple of hours before bed |
| Evening | Calm social time and chewing |
| Last potty | Right before bed |
| Bedtime | Crate near you |

**Rule of thumb:** Potty after waking, after eating, after play, and about every hour or two when awake and young. Reward in the potty spot. Every puppy is different.

# 4. Puppy-proofing

Get down to puppy height.

## Living areas

- [ ] Electrical cords tucked or covered
- [ ] Houseplants moved or checked for toxicity
- [ ] Small objects, socks, remote controls out of reach
- [ ] Trash cans secured
- [ ] Gates up for stairs and off-limit rooms
- [ ] Plan furniture access with a ramp, pet stairs or lifting—ask your vet what fits this breed

## Kitchen, bath, yard

- [ ] Cleaners and medicine secured
- [ ] Chocolate, grapes, xylitol gum and human food stored away
- [ ] Fence gaps checked; pools and ponds secured
- [ ] Toxic plants, antifreeze and pest poisons locked away
- [ ] Vet and emergency clinic numbers saved in your phone

**Talk to your vet:** Dachshunds are a long-backed breed. Stairs, jumps and extra weight are worth planning for early. This is general education, not a diagnosis—ask your veterinarian about safe handling and exercise for your own puppy.

# 5. Vet visit worksheet

Book a first visit within the first few days, or as your health guarantee requires.

## Bring

- [ ] Health records, vaccine and deworming history
- [ ] A stool sample if asked
- [ ] Food name and feeding amounts
- [ ] Your list of questions

## Questions to ask

- [ ] Which vaccines does my puppy need, and when?
- [ ] Which parasite preventives (fleas, ticks, heartworm) should we use?
- [ ] How much and how often should I feed, and how do we track body condition?
- [ ] When do you recommend spay or neuter, and why?
- [ ] What signs mean I should call you right away?
- [ ] What is your emergency policy? Which 24-hour clinic do you recommend?
- [ ] What socialization is safe before vaccines are finished?
- [ ] What exercise and stair use is appropriate at this age for a long-backed puppy?
- [ ] How should we pick up and handle this puppy safely?
- [ ] Any breed-specific screening you recommend as my dachshund grows?

Notes:

# 6. Vaccine and preventive tracker

Your vet sets the schedule. Fill in dates.

| Date | Vaccine / preventive | Vet initials | Next due |
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Typical items to track: core vaccines (your vet will list them), rabies as required locally, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention, deworming and microchip details.

# 7. Back-safe habits and weight control

Long backs do best with lean bodies and fewer high-impact landings.

## Jump and stair safety

- [ ] Block unsupervised stairs with gates
- [ ] Use a ramp or lift for furniture; teach "wait" at edges
- [ ] Support the chest and hind end when picking up a dachshund
- [ ] Ask your vet before rough play with larger dogs

## Weight and body condition

- [ ] Ask your vet how to score body condition (feel ribs with light pressure)
- [ ] Measure food; do not free-feed if your puppy gains easily
- [ ] Count training treats in the daily calorie picture
- [ ] Weigh at vet visits or on a home scale and log the trend

## Coat and nails

- [ ] Brush as needed for your coat type; long and wire coats need more frequent care
- [ ] Keep nails short—long nails change posture
- [ ] Check ears during calm handling sessions
- [ ] Ask your groomer or vet about coat-specific tools

Talk to your veterinarian before changing diet, exercise or home care routines. Individual puppies vary.

# 8. Toxic foods and plants

Not a complete list. If your puppy eats something risky, call right away.

## Foods and household items to keep away

- [ ] Chocolate and cocoa
- [ ] Grapes and raisins
- [ ] Xylitol (sugar-free gum, some peanut butters, candy)
- [ ] Onions, garlic, chives
- [ ] Macadamia nuts
- [ ] Alcohol and raw yeast dough
- [ ] Caffeine
- [ ] Cooked bones and corn cobs
- [ ] Human medications
- [ ] Cleaning products, antifreeze, rodent poison

## Plants often listed as toxic to dogs

- [ ] Sago palm
- [ ] Azalea and rhododendron
- [ ] Oleander
- [ ] Tulip and daffodil bulbs
- [ ] Autumn crocus
- [ ] Check the ASPCA toxic plant list for your garden

Categories drawn from ASPCA Animal Poison Control and common veterinary guidance. Absence from a list does not mean safe. Always call.

# 9. Emergency numbers

Fill this in today. Stick a copy on the fridge.

**My vet** _____

**My vet's after-hours number** _____

**Nearest 24-hour emergency vet** _____

**Emergency vet address** _____

**Breeder or rescue** _____

**Pet insurance policy and claim number** _____

**Microchip number and registry** _____

**Trusted neighbor or sitter** _____

## Poison hotlines (a consultation fee may apply)

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435
Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661

## Call your vet or emergency clinic right away for

- ☐ Trouble breathing, collapse or seizure
- ☐ Repeated vomiting or diarrhea, or blood
- ☐ Eating something toxic or a foreign object
- ☐ Heavy panting, drooling or weakness in the heat
- ☐ Pale gums, extreme lethargy or refusing food and water
- ☐ Sudden back pain, yelping when touched, reluctance to jump, or dragging feet
- ☐ Weakness in the hind end or inability to walk—call your vet or emergency clinic

# 10. Socialization and training tracker

Keep experiences positive and short. Ask your vet what is safe before vaccines are complete.

| Experience | Date | Reaction (calm / unsure) |
|---|---|---|
| New people (different ages, hats, uniforms) | | |
| Children (calm, supervised) | | |
| Other vaccinated, friendly dogs | | |
| Car rides | | |
| Different floor surfaces | | |
| Grooming: brush, paws, ears, nails | | |
| Handling: mouth, paws, collar | | |
| Vacuum, doorbell, household sounds | | |
| Crate and being alone briefly | | |
| Wearing a collar and harness | | |
| Leash walking at home | | |
| Calm greetings | | |

## Skills to teach

- [ ] Name
- [ ] Sit
- [ ] Down
- [ ] Come (recall)
- [ ] Leave it
- [ ] Drop it
- [ ] Crate settle
- [ ] Loose-leash walking
- [ ] Wait at doors and stairs

# 11. Weight log

Weigh at vet visits or on a home scale. Share the trend with your vet.

| Date | Age (weeks) | Weight |
|---|---|---|
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Do not chase an exact number. Growth varies. Ask your vet whether weight and body condition are on track for your puppy.

# 12. Potty log

Mark O = outside, A = accident.

| Date / time | Pee or poop | O or A | Notes |
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