

Dach-Facts: Weighing of Miniatures at Shows

Health & Welfare Information from the
Dachshund Breed Council



Miniature Dachshunds

Miniature Dachshunds are defined in the Breed Standard as follows:

Ideal weight 4.5 kg (10 lbs). Desired maximum weight 5 kg (11 lbs.)

All the UK Dachshund Clubs wish the weighing of Miniatures to continue at shows. It is felt that, without a means of ensuring Miniatures fall under the 5 kg/11 lbs limit, it is inevitable that their size will increase and they will become indistinguishable from the smaller specimens of Standard Dachshunds and thus the Miniature status will be lost. Countless breeders have shown, over 60 years, that it is possible to breed fit and healthy Miniature Dachshunds that do not exceed 5 kg/11 lbs.

Health and Welfare Issues

The Breed Standard states: **Exhibits which appear thin and undernourished should be severely penalised.**

It is equally important to recognise that an **over-weight** Dachshund is also at risk of health problems (e.g. Heart Disease & Slipped Discs).

The Breed Council wishes to make it clear that the health and welfare of all dogs entered at shows is of the highest importance.

Advice for Judges

- If a dog goes over the maximum 5 kg/11 lbs it is to be considered a fault, the seriousness depending on how many grams/ounces over the 5 kg/11 lbs it is.
- This fault should be taken into consideration with all the dog's other virtues and faults by judges.
- Judges should **penalise** any dog shown up to weight, but in a **thin** condition.
- A dog that is over 5 kg/11 lbs can no longer be disqualified from receiving an award and **must not** be dismissed from the ring for this reason.

If a judge wishes to put up a dog that is slightly over the 5 kg/11 lbs then, to make it known that

the judge has noted this, in their critique they could possibly say "the fault of being marginally overweight was outweighed by its other good points".

If a judge feels a dog is thin and under-nourished he/she should advise the exhibitor accordingly. In severe cases this should also be reported to the Show Manager.

When accepting offers of appointments to judge Miniature Dachshunds judges should confirm with the Society that:

- calibrated scales will be provided, and
- that both the Schedule and Catalogue will clearly state that Miniature Dachshunds will be weighed.

Judges who refuse to weigh Miniature Dachshunds **may** have their names removed from the Breed Council (and UK Clubs') Judging Lists and **will not** be offered appointments at any Breed Club shows.

Advice for Exhibitors

The Animal Welfare Act became law in England on 6 April 2008. The focus is now on the responsibility of the owner, as seen in the 'Duty of Care'. Those who own a dog are legally responsible for its welfare, otherwise they may be found to be committing a 'Welfare Offence'.

Dachshund Breed Club Committees will take action against any exhibitors who are found to be depriving their dogs of water and/or food in order to meet the desired maximum weight requirement for Miniatures in the Breed Standard. Weighing dogs + food on ring scales is not acceptable as it may give the impression that food is being withheld to achieve the weight limit.

Where to find out more

Visit www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk for the latest information and advice.

The Miniature Dachshund Club will be happy to provide guidance to any General Show Society, or judge, that requires clarification of the revised Breed Standard and judging procedures.
<http://www.miniaturedachshundclub.co.uk/>