

Practical Suggestions

to Improve Dachshund Puppies

1. Form in your mind, an image of the ideal dachshund, and get competent opinions besides your own, of the qualities of your bitch to try to improve upon, in the puppies you plan to breed.
2. Breed toward the standard. Do not try to over-correct a fault; two wrongs don't make a right. Part of your litter should inherit correct characteristics from the sire, in traits of which he is a good example.
3. The title champion does not automatically qualify a dog as an advantageous mate for any particular female. Most champions are better-than-average dachshunds but may not transmit superiority to progeny.
4. Except to favor friendly temperament, do not permit your sentiments toward a dog-or his owner-unduly to influence your appraisal of the qualities he offers, and you seek, in a stud.
5. Don't be over-impressed by photographs. Despite the chinese maxim about the thousand words, pictures have been known to flatter, sometimes don't do justice; and either way, require skill to interpret.
6. Don't be dazzled by the latest 'matinee idol' until he proves he is not going to over-develop, and until superior offspring prove him more than just fertile. He'll still be around, later, for you to use.
7. Appraise potential of a sire by the quality of his maturing puppies, particularly whose dams are related to yours. Test contemplated matings in your mind, before investing a year of your bitch's life.
8. Breed colors for strength: Clear reds, the darker the better; black and tans for dark red markings of correct patterns. Don't let color distract you from equally desirable qualities.
9. Avoid too light or too heavy bone; as body-size diminishes, it is necessary to resist a tendency toward spindley appearance, just as coarseness or clumsiness can be equally undesirable.
10. Do not cross-breed longhairs, smooths or wirehairs. Every desirable quality of conformation or temperament is available in each coat, without risking coat deterioration, or grab-bag doubts about the progeny.
11. Do not cross between standard size and miniatures.
12. There is no magic formula by which to select particular qualities of each parent to assemble in your puppies. They will inherit more nearly the general average of their combined ancestry.
13. Wait until your bitch is fully mature with of bone-minerals to protect her and her puppies from deficiencies; never breed her before her second heat, nor oftener than once a year.
14. Use all possible restraint; do not breed dachshunds with faults which should not be perpetuated, such as shy temperaments or serious defects of conformation or pigmentation.
15. There is personal satisfaction in breeding good dachshunds, and justifiable pride in the constant increase in the proportion of creditable dachshund puppies. Good individual puppies bring better prices than do whole mediocre or inferior litters. Comparing the post-war expansion of the dachshund breed, with past records of other breeds which have become so popular, it will be wise to consider that the demand and prices for really good puppies has continued strong, when the bottom has dropped out of any market for the products of ill-considered casual matings or mass production.