

Miniatures Need Definition

As you read the AKC Standard for Dachshunds, notice how Dachshund sizes are defined. "**Size, Proportion, Substance**-- Bred and shown in two sizes, standard and miniature, miniatures are not a separate classification but compete in a class division for "11 pounds and under at 12 months of age and older." Weight of the standard size is usually between 16 and 32 pounds.

Please notice here that miniatures are undefined. Only to say that they are shown in the class Open Miniature when they are over one year of age and weigh 11 pounds or less. The inference here is that there are not miniatures that are under the age of 12 months of age or exhibited in other classes. The point being there is not a definition of miniature Dachshunds. **The definition is only on the class--not on miniatures themselves.**

I think it is this lack of definition that causes us as miniature breeders and exhibitors to be unclear as to what it is we are trying to accomplish. How can we breed and show better miniature Dachshunds if the Breed Standard doesn't clearly define what they are? By defining the standard Dachshund according to weight and not the miniature it is giving more credibility to the standard and is in essence stating that the miniature is of less importance.

The questions continue to be raised:

- * What do we call a small Dachshund that has completed it's Championship and is now being shown as a special?
- * What do we call a 7 pound Dachshund that is 11 months old?
- * What do we call a 10 pound Dachshund that is exhibited only in the bred by exhibitor class?
- * Is there such a thing as an oversize miniature?

These are all questions that cannot be answered based on the information found in our Breed Standard.

The National Miniature Dachshund Club has followed the lead of the International community and drawn a line in the sand saying that a "Miniature Dachshund is a Dachshund of any of the three coats that weighs 11 pounds or less at 6 months of age or older." For this action a number of miniature breeders have gotten very nervous--some even vacating the ranks of the Club. They don't want to be held to the same requirements as other breeds with size and weight restriction. They don't want to be held to the same size requirement as every other miniature Dachshund breeder and exhibitor in the world. I would suggest that this is a matter of principle. Either we accept the definition stated by the rest of the world or state clearly what the definition of a miniature Dachshund is and why the American Miniature Dachshund should be treated differently. It is time for the breeders and exhibitors of this great breed to come together and speak with one voice. That we will accept the mandates from the International community and begin to breed and exhibit miniature Dachshunds accordingly. It is a matter of integrity!