

National Miniature Dachshund Club, Inc.
National Specialty

Frequently Asked Questions

What events are included? The National Specialty, supported entry show, and usually one (sometimes two) all breed show or specialty show. The National Specialty is held the first day, the supported entry the second, followed by the all breed shows(s) and/or specialty show(s). The NMDC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner (including a raffle) are held the night of the Specialty. Host clubs and NMDC often have other events, such as evening barbecues, hospitality, etc. NMDC also plans to have educational seminars in the evening. All in all, this is a great time to learn about Miniature Dachshunds, meet new Dachshund friends, see Miniature Dachshunds from all over the country and often other countries, and just have a good time!

How often are these events held? Once a year.

Where are the events held? NMDC rotates the annual National Specialty in its 6 geographic regions to ensure that Miniature Dachshund fanciers in every part of the U.S. have the opportunity to attend the events in their respective regions. In 2009, the events will be held in Albany, Oregon; 2010, Valparaiso, Indiana; 2011, Northeast; 2012, Southwest; 2013, Midwest; 2014, Southeast.

How big an entry might a host club expect? Entries have ranged from 150 to 225 Miniature Dachshunds during the past three years. This means that Dachshund fanciers in your area would have the opportunity to see more Miniature Dachshunds than they could expect to see at any other show. We usually have five point majors in all coats at the point shows!

What is the National Specialty? The NMDC National Specialty is an exposition (similar to a conformation match, with no AKC championship points) of Miniature Dachshunds sponsored by the National Miniature Dachshund Club, Inc. The Specialty is run just like any other licensed specialty show and conforms to AKC rules. The Specialty includes two classes for exhibition only: Parade of Veterans and, just for fun, a Costume Class (often both dogs and humans are in costume.) We also offer Obedience classes Novice A through Utility B, along with Non-Regular Classes of PreNovice, Graduate Novice, Brace, and Veterans. Rally classes, Novice, Advanced, and Excellent, are offered as well. We also offer generous cash prizes. The National Specialty judges are usually experienced Miniature Dachshund fanciers and need not be licensed by the AKC.

How does the supported entry work? NMDC will support the entry of Miniature Dachshunds in the Open Miniature Class at the next day's AKC point show (all breed or specialty). Most judges weigh the entrants in the Open Miniature Classes. In each of the Open Miniature Classes, the NMDC offers a medallion for first place and the host club offers rosettes for first through fourth place.

How are judges selected for the National Specialty? The NMDC members attending the NMDC Annual Meeting (2 years prior to the show) nominate and elect judges for the Specialty. Generally we have enough entries to have one judge for each coat. NMDC covers a portion of the judges' expenses.

How are judges selected for the supported entry show (and other AKC point shows that weekend)? The NMDC members attending the NMDC Annual Meeting (2 years prior to the show) nominate a slate of judges. NMDC sends this slate to the host all breed or specialty club and strongly recommends that the host club hire this slate of judges, assuming that the judges on the slate are available. The host club is responsible for judges' fees and expenses.

What facilities are needed for the Specialty and supported entry show? For the Specialty, we usually use the same site as is used for supported entry show. It is much more convenient for the dogs and the exhibitors to have one site for all of the shows. The site can be indoors or outdoors (if outdoors, the grass should be cut very short.) We also need a reasonably priced hotel that accepts dogs with convenient access to the local airport. We prefer to have this event in a location that has direct airline service (without connections) from most major cities.

What responsibilities will be handled by the NMDC? For the Specialty only, NMDC through its volunteers and committees, will handle entries, premium lists, mailing, judging programs, catalogues and catalogue sales, advertising, hiring of judges, stewards, trophies, all arrangements for the NMDC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner (including the raffle), weighing, hospitality, and grounds. For the supported entry shows, the NMDC will coordinate various activities, as necessary, with the host club. The NMDC works closely with the host club and local NMDC members to make this event a success for everyone.

What responsibilities the host club will handle? The host club is specifically responsible for hiring judges for the supported entry, covering judges' expenses, and providing rosettes for the first through fourth places for the Open Miniature Classes. The host club is also responsible for all other normal activities required of a show-giving club for its own show – hiring a superintendent, show site, premium lists, catalogues, and everything else required by AKC (the club would be responsible for these tasks anyway when it holds a show).

Why would an all breed club or specialty club want to host the National Specialty? The Specialty and the supported entry show will generally increase the number of usual Dachshund entries at its show by double, triple, or maybe even more, depending on the show. Specialty clubs have the opportunity to significantly increase their Miniature Dachshund entries from across the country. Hosting the National Specialty generally requires little additional work from the host club.

Who does the rest of the work at the Specialty and supported show? The NMDC spreads the work among several committees and individual volunteers, so no one person or group has too much to do. We do need one or more local Miniature Dachshund fanciers to help us with local arrangements, such as finding a hotel as our show headquarters, locating a restaurant for our Annual Meeting, helping with hospitality, etc. – in short, those things that are difficult to handle by long distance.

If I'm interested in having a local club in my area host the National Specialty and supported entry show, what do I need to do? Ask the prospective host club to fill out and return the enclosed "Information Form for NMDC Specialty Show Proposal" included in this mailing. Or visit the NMDC Web Site (<http://www.dachshund-nmdc.org>) and download the form. (The form provides us with the information we need to evaluate the host club's proposal.)