

**5 Common Dachshund Behavior Problems
AND HOW TO SOLVE THEM**



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Five Common Dachshund Behavior Problems ... and How to Stop Them

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Introduction

Every Dachshund owner has had the problem you do – trying to teach their dog to overcome a specific behaviour problem. Often owners give up, finding it impossible to get through to their Dachshund and resolve the obedience issues they have.

There are several possible reasons why. Your Dachshund may not be getting enough exercise and have too much pent up energy. They may also be challenging your position as pack leader – something you must address immediately to prevent even worse problems. Your Dachshund may also have never been shown what is allowed and expected of them.

No matter what the cause, 99% of dogs of any breed or age can relearn how to behave; you just have to find the training technique that works for your Dachshund and then be consistent with them.

That's why you're reading this; to find out what your Dachshund wants and needs to see and hear from you. So, let's get started and take a look at how you can stop everything from urinating in the house to flat out aggression.

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1. House Training Problems

If you are having a problem with your Dachshund urinating in the house, they are not doing so to annoy you, rather they either can't hold on long enough or they don't understand that they are supposed to go outside to use the bathroom.

Start Early

Dachshund puppies can't hold their bladder for long periods. Until they are around six to eight months of age they can manage only one hour for each month of their age. While you may not be able to fully houstrain them at eight weeks old, by starting Dachshund houstraining this early you are teaching them that outside is the place to go.

Be Consistent

When out in the house the key to Dachshund house training is consistency and vigilance. Develop a routine and stick to it. This is not just potty schedule but one for the whole day. For example, feed at same time, always take your Dachshund puppy out after eating, as soon as wakes up, after playing and before bed time, praise whenever they do anything good and reprimand verbally for any unwanted behavior that you catch. If you are not consistent the result is that your Dachshund puppy becomes confused and house training takes much longer. If you need to houstrain an adult Dachshund you can use the same methods as you would with a puppy. Houstraining an adult shouldn't take as long as a puppy as adults can hold their bladder longer.

Take your Dachshund Puppy outside regularly, even when it is cold, wet or snowing. Give them time to sniff round. Encourage them when they pee or poop, using words like "go potty". Only use this phrase when you want them to use the bathroom and eventually you will find your Dachshund puppy will go on command, which is very useful if you are short on time or the weather is bad. As soon as your Dachshund urinates or defecates praise them enthusiastically. Go back inside straight away so your puppy links going outside with using the bathroom.

When you are Dachshund houstraining you need to supervise your puppy closely, being ready to take them outside at a moment's notice. Accidents will still happen. Never punish your Dachshund puppy for making a mess. They don't understand why they're been punished and you can end up with other behavioral issues later in life. Just clean the mess, and go about your business.

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Methods of Dachshund Housetraining:

1. Puppy Pee Pads

Commercial puppy pads are available at pet stores and most grocery stores. They are made of absorbent cotton and paper with a plastic backing, coming in differing sizes and quality. You should select ones that is big enough for your Dachshund puppy and that retains and traps a lot of liquid.

Puppy pee pads help with Dachshund Housetraining as they train your puppy to use only one place to go to the bathroom. Set up a pad in the place where you want your Dachshund puppy to pee and poop and whenever you see them sniffing, scratching at the ground or doing something that makes you think they need to use the bathroom take them to pad, wait, and then praise them when they go. Gradually move the pee pad closer to the door and eventually outside at which point you can stop using them.

2. Litter pans

Some small dog owners who don't have fast access to outdoors train their dogs to use litter pans. The principle is the same as a cat litter box although dog litter boxes are deeper.

3. Crate Training

Using a crate is the fastest and most efficient Dachshund housetraining technique. A crate is not somewhere you lock up your Dachshund, but rather is their den, a safe and comfortable place where they enjoy staying.

The key to crate training is getting the correct sized crate. The crate should be large enough only that your Dachshund can stand up, turn round and lie down. If it is too big there is enough space for them to use part as bathroom, defeating object of crate training.

Start Dachshund housetraining by leaving the crate with its door open and lots of toys and comfortable bedding inside. Use treats to encourage your Dachshund to go inside. Once they are happy inside, close the door for a few minutes, gradually increasing the time they are in the crate until they can go through the night without becoming anxious.

You must remember to take your Dachshund puppy out of their crate regularly to use the bathroom, especially first thing in the morning, after eating, and before bed. While crate training encourages them to hold their bladder, they will have accidents in their crate if left too long.

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2. Aggression

There is nothing more frightening than a Dachshund with aggression problems. Dominance, fear, injury, genetics and disease are all things that may cause Dachshund aggression. No matter what the cause, aggressive behavior needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Ignoring the problem can be dangerous for you, your dog and any other person or dog they meet.

This is a area to give specific advice on, because all Dachshunds are different and each aggressive tendency needs to be handled with care and specific actions according to the individual dog and their issues. It is a good idea to see a behavior specialist who can work with you to treat your dog's aggression. For general issues, however, here are some tips to get you started.

Sources of Aggressive Behavior in Dachshunds

Dachshund aggression can be seen at a very young age, even before they have left their mother. Socialization with other dogs and people is vital during the first four months of life. It is during this socialization period that your Dachshund will learn from its litter mates about things like dominance and biting. Having exposure to, and kind handling from humans will show that people are OK and can be trusted.

Dachshund puppies that are taken away from their mothers too early (before 8 weeks of age), are treated roughly (shouted at or hit), or have not been well socialized are all at greater risk of behavioral problems, including aggression.

Incidents of Dachshund aggression can be triggered by several factors.

Dachshunds were bred to be hunters, so genetics can play a part, although it is by no means always the case. Intact dogs are also more likely to show aggressive tendencies, one of several great reasons why your Dachshund should be neutered. The most important factor linked to Dachshund aggression is environmental. If your Dachshund has not been well socialized, has had negative experiences with people and other dogs, or has had poor living conditions they are much more likely show aggressive tendencies as they age.

Owners of multiple dogs may see Dachshund aggression related to pack position. Your Dachshunds will likely test other dogs to see if they can move up the pack hierarchy. This aggression can take several forms including biting, body language, and challenging. It is vital that from the day you get your Dachshund you make it clear that you are pack leader, maintaining this position throughout your dog's life. Failure to do so can result in your Dachshund taking over as leader, which can be disastrous and result in aggression towards you and other family members.

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Stopping Dachshund Aggression

Dachshund aggression that starts when they are adults is a serious problem that needs to be addressed immediately. Think about your household, are you the pack leader? Are you rewarding bad behavior, making the problem worse?

When you work with your Dachshund make sure you are a strong leader, teach them basic commands such as sit, down, and stay. Feed your Dachshund on a regular schedule after you have eaten, taking away their bowl after they have eaten. When you go out for a walk make certain you leave and enter the house first, and that your Dachshund is trained to walk on a loose leash, not pulling ahead of you.

3. Barking

If you have a problem with your Dachshund barking, you will probably already know that it is impossible to totally stop them. Dogs are born to bark, it is how they communicate and express their needs and feelings. Before you can address Dachshund barking you need to understand why your Dachshund barks and what types of barking you can control.

What Causes Dachshund Barking?

Dachshunds are vocal dogs and there are many situations that may result in your Dachshund barking. It is important to look closely at what is happening around your Dachshund when they start barking, so you can limit their exposure to the trigger and work towards controlling their response.

A few of the causes of Dachshund barking include:

1. Raising the Alarm.

Dachshunds with an alarm bark are doing so to announce something that worries them, such as people approaching or entering the house. While this type of Dachshund barking can be advantageous, it can also get out of hand, your Dachshund starting to bark at anything they see.

2. Territory.

Dachshunds may bark to show dominance in their territory. Typically this barking is seen this when another dog appears in your yard or can be seen through your windows.

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3. Attention Seeking.

Dachshunds will nudge, paw at you, and sometimes bark in order to get attention. Unfortunately we often reinforce this behavior by giving them (and thus rewarding) the attention they are wanting.

4. Compulsion / frustration.

Sometimes a Dachshund barks for no reason, barking repeatedly because they are bored or frustrated. The tone of this barking rarely changes, and repeats over and over again.

5. Separation Anxiety.

Dachshund barking due to separation anxiety is a significant problem that can divide households and cause problems between neighbors. In addition to barking, you may find your Dachshund is destructive, unable to settle, and urinates or defecates in the house.

How to Stop a Dachshund Barking.

Before doing anything, watch your Dachshund when they bark, noting how long they bark and what they are barking at. If your Dachshund barks only once in a while or if someone comes to the door, then you really don't have a problem, this is normal, acceptable barking. If your Dachshund barking is excessive you should address and control it.

Your first task is to make certain that you hold the alpha position and are a strong leader who your Dachshund respects. You need to train your Dachshund, teaching basic commands in a consistent manner. Training your Dachshund to sit, lie down and stay, will give them something to focus on, and in itself may be enough to stop them barking. In addition to training, remember to exercise your Dachshund as much as you can, you will be amazed at the difference it can make.

What you should not do is to shout at your Dachshund or tell them "no", the chances are they will think you are barking with them, making your barking problem even worse. Also, never give your Dachshund attention when they bark. They will think that they were right to bark at whatever they barked at, again making your barking problem worse.

Remember, your Dachshund doesn't understand what you are saying; you have to teach them in a way that makes sense to them. One simple way to stop your Dachshund barking is to reward them when they stop barking. Train and use a "stop" command, giving a treat when they are quiet. Most Dachshunds quickly learn that a treat is more valuable than barking.

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If your Dachshund barks because they are anxious, you may have a significant problem. Dachshunds with separation anxiety can bark for hours until you return home. Often this behavior is reinforced by you giving them attention (rewarding them) as soon as you enter the house. Instead of rewarding your Dachshund for barking, ignore them for 15 minutes or so, going about your normal business until they have settled down and don't link you coming home with them getting attention.

Finally, remember that Dachshund barking can be difficult to stop. If you are having problems stopping your Dachshund barking consider going to see a dog trainer or behaviorist.

4. Digging

Dachshunds were bred to hunt and catch badgers and other vermin. This involved them digging into burrows, so you should not be surprised if you have a problem with Dachshund digging in your garden, especially if you have mice or moles. It is almost impossible to stop all Dachshund digging; instead you have to find ways to distract your Dachshund so they don't have the urge to dig.

Ways to Reduce Dachshund Digging

1. Make Digging Area for Your Dachshund

Rather than get frustrated as your Dachshund tears up your neatly manicured lawn, make them a Dachshund digging area. Either build a sand pit, put sand or dirt in a kiddie pool, or simply set aside a part of the yard where you allow them to dig. Make the soil soft and inviting, hiding toys or treats to encourage your Dachshund only to dig in that one area.

2. Reduce Boredom

Dachshunds are very intelligent and if they get bored will find things to occupy themselves; this may be why your Dachshund digs up your flowers. Make sure that when your Dachshund is out in the yard that they have plenty to do, give them toys and treats, making them as interactive as you can so your Dachshund has to think about what they are doing. Also make sure that your Dachshund gets lots of exercise, as some dogs dig to burn off excess energy. They may be small, but Dachshund's need a good walk twice a day.

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3. *Restrict Access*

It may not look pretty, but a good way to deter your digging Dachshund is to physically stop them getting to your flowers or lawn. You can place chicken wire over your flower beds, or plant thorny bushes, neither or which feel good to dig on. You can also plant flowers in pots rather than in the yard, or fence off part of the yard so your Dachshund cannot gain access.

4. *Deterrent Sprays*

Pet stores carry a variety of sprays that contain nasty smelling and tasting ingredients such as pepper, bitter apple, or citronella. These deterrents work to varying degrees, spraying these may stop your Dachshund digging, or at least keep them away from your precious flower beds.

Most Dachshund owners have had problems with digging. It may take time, but it is possible to reduce or even stop Dachshund digging using one or more of the solutions described above.

5. **Pulling on the Leash**

Does your Dachshund pull when out on a walk? Are you embarrassed walking through your neighborhood? Do your arms and shoulders hurt after a walk? Training a Dachshund to walk on a loose leash can be frustrating, especially if you have adopted an adult dog who has never been trained. It is not, however, impossible.

Before starting to train your Dachshund you will need a collar and leash. The collar should be flat, rolled leather, a martingale or a head collar, and the leash leather or webbing. Avoid retractable leashes, chain and rolled nylon leashes as they will hurt your hands when your dog pulls.

For most dogs the following method works well:

1. **Attach your leash to your dog's collar**, have them sit on your left hand side, and wait until they are relaxed and the leash is slack. Hold the leash in both hands with some slack between your hands.
2. **Have a command** to tell your Dachshund that you are going to start walking (lets go, come on). Say it once and then begin walking.

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3. **When your dog starts to pull**, let go of the slack in the leash, stop, turn, and walk in a different direction. When your dog turns and walks in the same direction as you praise them and give a treat, but **ONLY** when the leash is slack. If your Dachshund keeps pulling, modify this technique. When they pull, stop walking and wait until they come towards you and the leash slackens. When this happens, praise, give a treat, and again start walking in a different direction.

Repeat as necessary. Remember that training a Dachshund to walk on a loose leash takes time and your first few walks will likely be a very short distance only, although you will cover a significant distance as you turn numerous times. Remember to keep the leash loose whenever you are moving.

For puppies, or dogs that are shy, nervous or have never had a leash on, you need to go more slowly and be low key. Attach the leash to their collar, and use treats, a favorite toy and your voice to encourage them to walk with you. Give lots of praise, keeping everything upbeat and positive. You want walking on a leash to be an enjoyable experience for your puppy, not something to be feared.

Training your Dachshund to walk on a loose leash may take time, especially if they are used to pulling. The key is to be consistent and persistent, eventually they will learn and you will be able to go on long walks together that you both will enjoy.

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Conclusion

Your Dachshund is a great dog, they just need support from you, their owner to learn what is expected. It is your responsibility to provide your Dachshund structure, and leadership. If you challenge them intellectually and provide a lot of exercise, many unwanted behaviors will disappear for good.

Remember to be persistent and consistent. It is all down to you wanting a better relationship with your Dachshund. If you're ready, you can bet your Dachshund will be.

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