

Knowing what to avoid..



1-

Don't pick up a dachshund by his upper body. Many are accustomed to picking up dogs as if they were human babies by putting one hand under each of the dog's "armpits."

However, this is unsafe for dachshunds. This puts an unnatural stress on the dog's back – the spine simply isn't built to support his long body without any other support.

supports only half of the dog's body length. This is true even if the dog is already standing on one set of legs – like, for instance, if he is propping himself up on his hind legs while looking over the top of a sofa. In this case, you'll want to lean down so that you can support his rump before picking him up :)



2 -

To set the dachshund down, slowly lower him to the floor. If you've had experience with other dog breeds, you may be used to "dropping" or gently heaving them back to the ground when you're done holding them. With dachshunds, instead, you'll want to lower the dog all the way to the ground before letting go. As always, keep his back well-supported as you lower him down.

Ideally, you'll want his feet to be touching the ground before you let go. As you'll read below, even a drop of a few inches can put stress on the dachshund's back and joints.



3- Never drop the dachshund back onto the ground. As noted above, dogs should be set down gently, not dropped. A dachshund's legs are very short compared to other dog breeds'. This means that they can't bend very far to absorb the shock of hitting the ground, which puts most of the impact stress on the leg joints and back. Getting rid of the dog's "fall" eliminates this danger.

Dachshunds don't know that their skeleton can't support falls, so they may be perfectly willing to jump out of your hands. Even if this doesn't cause them immediate pain, it can lead to painful problems if continued in the long-term.



4 -

Never make a dachshund bend or twist when you pick him up. Dachshunds' long, slender spines are especially vulnerable to injury, which is why it's so important to keep their bodies straight when you pick them up. You will definitely want to avoid any activities that put a twist or bend in the dog's back, as this increases the stress on it and can contribute to conditions like slipped discs.

For example, one way you might accidentally do this is by scooping the dachshund up suddenly when he doesn't expect it. If you startle your dog, he may wriggle or twist out of one of your hands, putting an unnatural bend in his spine as he hangs. Make sure your dog is calm and aware of you before you attempt to pick him up.



5 -

Show family and friends how to hold dachshunds properly before letting them play!

Nothing's more frustrating than when you take the time to learn how to hold your dachshund properly, only for well-meaning relatives to come over and treat him like an ordinary dog. To avoid problems, be sure to educate any visitors about the proper ways to hold your dog before they play with him. This is especially true for children, who can sometimes be too rough with dogs by accident. It's a wise idea to supervise children when they first

interact with your dachshund until you're confident that they know how to play safely.

TIPS...

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You may want to consider investing in a ramp or a set of doggie stairs to help your dachshund get up and down from high places. For instance, if your dog sleeps in an elevated bed, these allow it to get out without hurting its joints by making the drop to the floor. Something as simple as a plank of wood will work, but retail options are usually no more expensive than \$20 or so :)

I hope you found this information Helpful and Interesting 🙌