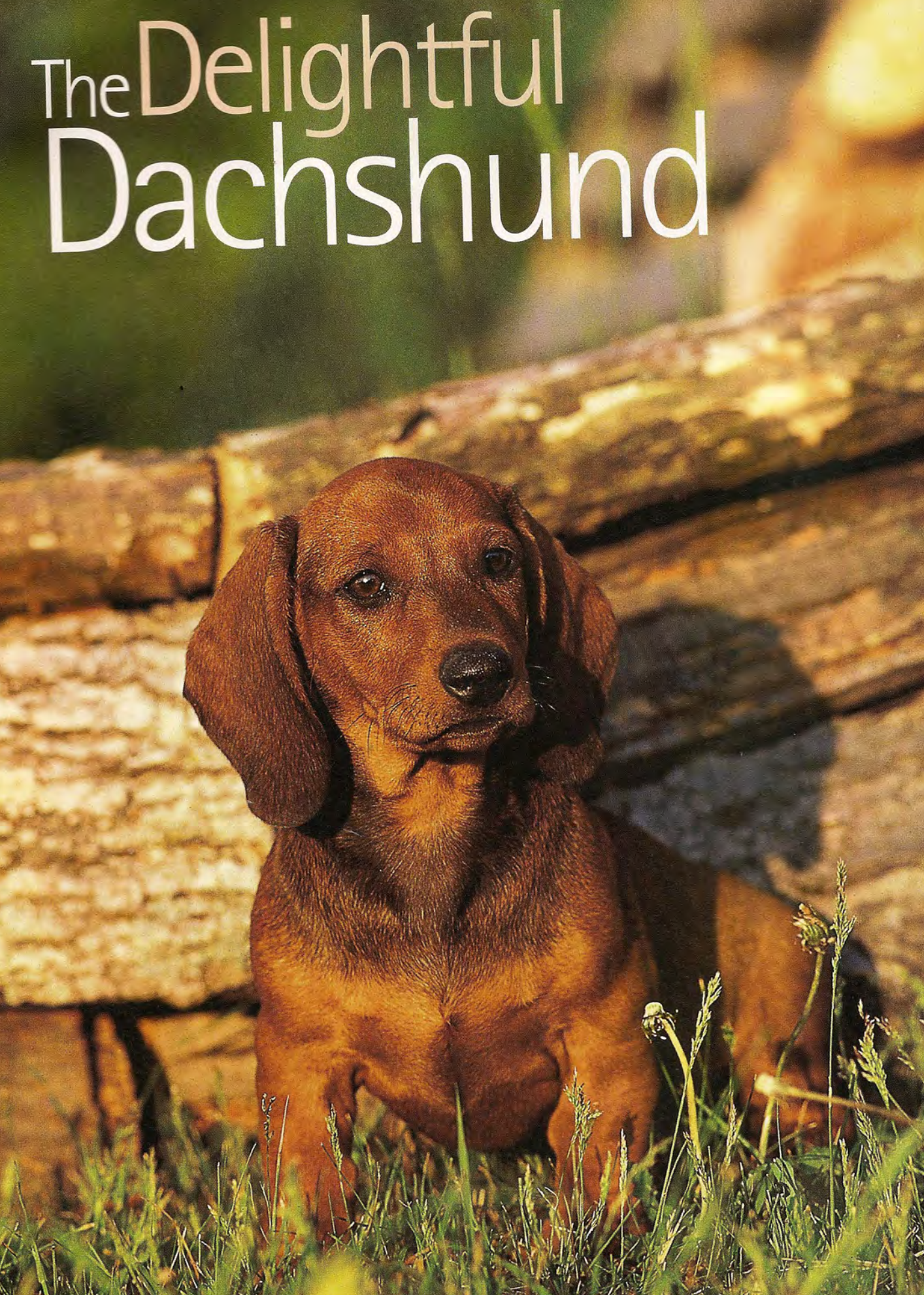


The Delightful Dachshund



Fun Fact

The self-styled world capital of Dachshundom is Gergweis, Bavaria. It once laid claim to having twice as many Dachshunds as people! While this is no longer true, Gergweissians make the most out of the tourist trade by renting Dachshunds to tourists by the hour.



World War II, possibly as a result of increasing urbanization and smaller property sizes. Even today, miniature Dachshunds are shown right along with their bigger cousins and are not relegated to the Toy group. In fact, many people say that the only difference between a miniature and his larger relative is that every personality trait in the bigger dog is intensified in the smaller version.

A Royal Reception

In the 15th century, French nobleman Charles the Bold (1433-1477) gave some Dachshunds to his son-in-law and Holy Roman Emperor-to-be, Maximilian (1459-1519), as a wedding present. The breed has been popular with royalty ever since.

Prince Albert brought Dachshunds to England when he married Queen Victoria in 1839, presenting one to his new wife. (It seems as if Dachshunds were *de rigueur* in the royal wedding gift department.) Her favorite dog was named Deckel, and was buried in the home park at Windsor Castle with the following inscription on his headstone:

Here is buried

Deckel

The faithful German

Dachshund of Queen Victoria

Who brought him from Coburg

In 1845

Died August 10, 1859

Aged 15 years

Dachshunds come in a rainbow of colors and coat patterns.



*To live happily with a hound,
you must think like a hound.*

BY DIANE MORGAN

Your Dachshund puppy has a noble history. Watching him tear into toilet paper and bark at his food bowl may seem a far cry from chasing down caribou and howling on the tundra, but it is a fact nonetheless. Your dog carries the proud blood of the wolf in his veins, even if he is just a little *wienerschmitzel*. His evolution has been a long and winding road, and along every curve, something was changed to make the Dachshund just a little less of a wolf and a little more of a hunting companion, family pet and, in most cases, the lord of the house.

The first written mention of the breed goes back many years in German history, when the Dachsie was known as the *tachs krieger*, or “badger catcher.” These days in Germany, the Dachshund is simply known as *dackel* (or *teckel*), and he is the national dog. The word “Dachshund,” although of German origin meaning “badger dog,” was devised by the English and isn’t used in Germany. Hunting badgers was the Dachshund’s first job, a job he did so well that German breeders ended up with six varieties, each one adapted for a slightly different purpose in the field.

Though the Dachshund was originally bred to hunt badgers, most modern Dachsies are content just being faithful friends.



Even though they are small fries, miniature Dachshunds are part of the AKC's Hound group, not the Toy group, as some believe.

The six types are:

- miniature smooth
- miniature longhaired
- miniature wirehaired
- standard smooth
- standard longhaired
- standard wirehaired

The European badger, a larger but less ferocious version of its American cousin, was definitely *persona non grata* among farmers as their *setts*, or badger holes, were detrimental to agricultural and pasture land. Packs of Dachshunds were also used to chase after wild boar. And it was from this tenacious beginning that the standard for the Dachshund's personality was developed: "Clever, lively and courageous to the point

of rashness," states the American Kennel Club breed standard, and that says it all. That's your baby!

For tamer game, so to speak, the smaller Dachshunds (less than 11 pounds) were used to go after rabbits and weasels, while larger sizes (more than 16 pounds) were selected to dig after foxes and even trail wounded deer. Thus, contrary to popular opinion, the miniature varieties appeared quite early, not to be toys or lap dogs, but to dig their way into smaller holes than could be attempted by standard sizes.

Miniature Dachshunds (only nine of them) were first shown at the Dachshund Club of America Specialty show in 1934. They caught on, and the miniature size became a popular size for pets in the United States very soon after