



#### Standard Regarding Coat

**Coat**—With the exception of jaw, eyebrows, and ears, the whole body is covered with a perfectly uniform tight, short, thick, rough, hard coat, but with finer, shorter hairs (undercoat) everywhere distributed between the coarser hairs, resembling the coat of the German Wirehaired Pointer. There should be a beard on the chin. The eyebrows are bushy. On the ears the hair is shorter than on the body, almost smooth, but in any case conforming to the rest of the coat. The general arrangement of the hair should be such that the wirehaired Dachshund, when seen from a distance should resemble a smooth-haired. Any sort of soft hair in the coat is faulty, whether short or long, or wherever found on the body; the same is true of long, curly, or wavy hair, or hair that sticks out irregularly in all directions; a flag tail is also objectionable.

#### Breed Note

The Wirehaired Dachshund is the youngest of the three varieties of this familiar breed. German sportsmen seeking a dog that could better cope with punishing cover than those they had, crossed Smooth Dachshunds with various harsh-coated terriers and then bred for the Dachshund features after the desirable coat characteristics were fixed.

Seldom seen outside the showing, the Wire combines all the personality traits ordinarily seen in Dachsies with his own unique appearance. The result is a loving,

## The Wirehaired Dachshund

faithful companion with a distinctive look that turns heads and draws admiration everywhere.

#### Grooming Procedure

In grooming the Wirehaired Dachshund, you are attempting to enhance proper body shape and emphasize the wire characteristics. There are basically two methods of grooming the Wirehaired Dachshund—plucking and stripping, or a combination of both. Plucking consists of using the thumb and index finger to pull out the longer hairs. Stripping is done with a "stripping knife." There are many types of stripping knives available; you must find the one which is most comfortable for you to use. Stripping is done by placing the knife against the coat, catching a *small amount* of hair against the blade with your thumb and pulling the longer hairs out of the coat. With either method, small amounts of hair should be taken at a time, and the hair should be pulled in the direction of coat growth with quick, pulling motions. Never pluck or strip the hair against the direction of coat growth.

When you plan to remove a great deal of coat ("take down"), you should do the major work eight to 12 weeks before the dog is to be shown, and then do the fine work on the coat during the last two weeks before the show. The rate of coat growth differs from dog to dog, so you might have to experiment to determine the best time schedule for your dog.

Once you get the coat in show condition, you can maintain it by stripping or plucking the longer hairs on a weekly basis. This removes any dead hair and allows for constant new growth of hair. This method is called rotation or "rolling" the coat.

**Head**—The head should be stripped or plucked from just behind the eyebrows, over the top of the skull and down into the neck area; between the eyes; and the cheek area from the outer corner of the eye to the corner of the lip. Stray hairs at the inner corner of the eye should be removed and the eyebrows should be longer at the inside corner of the eye tapering to the outside corner of the eye where they are flush with the skull structure. The eyebrows should be short enough to allow the eyes to be readily seen.

Since the overall head structure should be uniformly tapered, it may be necessary to thin out the beard to achieve this look. It is also possible to remove some of the coat from the center of the underjaw to allow the beard to lay closer against the muzzle.

**Ears**—Remove all the longer hairs from the outside and underside of the ear. Usually this hair has to be removed only once or twice; it does not tend to grow back. The hair on the inside of the ear where the ear joins the cheek should be scissored very close to the skin to allow the ear to lay flat against the cheek.

**Neck**—The longer hairs on the neck should be stripped or plucked under the chin and down the throat to the breast bone, along the sides of the neck; and on the back of the neck, blending into the shoulder area.

**Body**—The body coat is kept a little longer than the head and neck—about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. Stripping or plucking should be done from the neck area along the topline and sides back to the tail. The underside of the body should be plucked or stripped to conform to the rest of the body. Do not leave great length of coat here as it will look like a skirt. If the dog does not have a deep chest, groom the coat on the underside of the body so

the chest hair is slightly longer, and taper it up into the loin.

**Tail**—The tail should be plucked or stripped to give an even, tapered look. Since the underside of the tail may be sensitive, you may wish to use thinning shears on this area. When using any type of scissor always cut with the growth of the hair, never against it. Be sure to cut the hairs around the anus for a neat appearance which conforms to the rest of the grooming.

**Legs**—The hair on the legs should conform to the body coat, but may be just a little longer. Judicious plucking or stripping of the longer hairs should be done to enhance the full, wire coat growth.

**Feet**—Use straight scissors to trim the hair on the bottom of the feet even with the pads. With the foot placed securely on a flat surface, use a straight scissor to trim the hair around the foot. The desired effect is a round, compact foot.

### **Pet Grooming the Wirehaired Dachshund**

You can achieve the same results in the appearance of the dog by using a clipper; however, in most instances, you will not be able to maintain harsh coat texture with this method. Clipping is a time-saving method of keeping the dog neat and generally conforming to the desired look of the Wirehair.

Follow the same pattern of grooming as outlined before, using the following blades:

Head, Underside of Neck, and Ears: #10

Back of Neck, Body, and Tail: #5 (leaves the hair  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long) or #7 (leaves the hair  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long)

Eyebrows and Beard: Scissor these to the desired shape and length.

*Courtesy, National Miniature Dachshund Club, Dachshund Club of America  
by Jeanne A. Rice*