



ENGLISH CREAM MINIATURE DACHSHUNDS

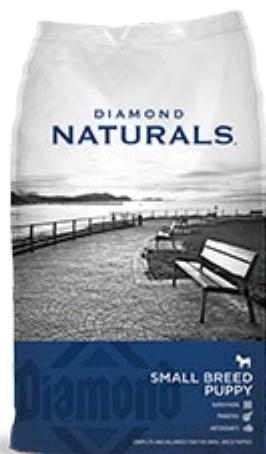
*Leslie Urso – Owner*  
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**Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. No problem is too small!**

### YOUR NEW “DREAM CRÈME” PUPPY INFORMATION

#### 1. GOING HOME

- a. When you pick up your puppy at our home, we will supply you with a few days of food with instructions on feeding. A general rule of thumb is to feed the dog an amount of food about the size of the dog’s head. We allow our puppies to free feed by keeping their food bowls full at all times as well as their water bowls. During the transitional period, you will need to feed your new puppy 4 times a day which we will cover in the transitional period information as well as leave dry kibble in its bowl at all times. WE SUPPLY AND RECOMMEND DIAMOND SMALL BREED PUPPY FOOD. IF YOU LOOK AT THE FIRST FIVE INGREDIENTS OF A DOG FOOD, YOU WILL COVER ABOUT 90% OF THE INGREDIENTS. INGREDIENTS ARE LISTED BY LARGEST AMOUNT TO SMALLEST. **DIAMOND PUPPY HAS THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS LISTED IN THIS ORDER: “REAL’ CHICKEN, CHICKEN MEAL, RICE, CHICKEN FAT, PEA PROTEIN, EGG PRODUCT, BARLEY, AND BEET PULP PLUS OTHER HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS IN**



**SMALLER QUANTITIES WHICH PROVIDE THE NUTRIENTS FOR A HIGH QUALITY AND BALANCED DIET!** For the price, you will not find a higher quality dog food. **IF YOU SEE CORN AS A PRIMARY INGREDIENT, PASS THAT FOOD UP! Please do not change your puppy’s food. This adds extra stress and causes additional intestinal**

**problems. You can find diamond small breed puppy at most Tractor Supply Stores and many feed or farm supply stores. [www.diamondpet.com](http://www.diamondpet.com) has a list of local distributors.**

- b. Water is very important to the health of your new puppy. We have good quality well water with a good taste; therefore, your puppy may need bottled water because of the chlorine smell and taste of municipal water supplies. Make sure your puppy drinks plenty of water!
- c. We spend quality time loving and playing with our puppies so that your puppy is well socialized by the time he/she leaves for his/her forever home. They are raised in our house with the usual noise of a typical home with human interactions several times a day. The new puppies and their mommy spend the first three weeks in our guest bedroom to insure the puppies are in a safe, secluded, calm, soothing environment where mom can nurture her new puppies. We sometimes feed the puppies supplemental meals until Mom's milk comes in to give them the nutrition that each one needs.
- d. Your puppy is pretty well pad trained by the time that they go home. If he/she becomes restless on the drive home, please put a pad on the floor of the car and usually your puppy will use the pad. I would caution the use of **rest areas** because thousands of dogs have been there, so all the diseases are there also. **PARVO IS EVERYWHERE ESPECIALLY IN THESE COMMON AREAS FOR DOGS INCLUDING DOG PARKS, PET STORES, AND VETERINARY OFFICES. I ADVISE YOU NOT TO PUT YOUR PUPPY ON THE GROUND UNTIL HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED ALL VACCINATIONS! I WOULD AVOID HIGHLY CONTAMINATED AREAS LIKE DOG PARKS, PET STORES, (During puppy's vet visits, absolutely no direct contact with any surfaces. Use disposable potty pads on the scale, exam table, and keep the puppy in your carrier or stroller. Have the vet techs throw away all potty pads; you don't want to touch the bottoms or use them again), ETC.**
- e. Once home, play with your puppy but remember to allow him/her to rest. The first night the puppy may be upset in his new surroundings. If you allow your puppy to sleep with you which will usually calm him/her down, you will probably have a bedfellow for a long time. Keeping the puppy in a smaller puppy nursery in your bedroom will be easier to comfort the puppy if your main nursery is too far away. Some customers create 2 -3 different puppy nurseries in their homes if they are multi story. One in the bedroom or office, main living area, and the basement if they have a man cave or place in the basement where the family spends a lot of time.

## **2. THE FIRST THREE DAYS KEEP YOUR PUPPY IN ITS PUPPY NURSERY AT ALL TIMES.**

- a. Watch your puppy for signs of diarrhea and bloody stool. The trip home and change of circumstances is stressful. The stress can cause your puppy to develop coccidiosis, a protozoan in the gut that causes diarrhea and bloody stool. Usually this will clear up, but we require a vet visit within 72 hours for this very reason. This is not life-threatening as long as your puppy continues to eat and DRINK WATER. Serious problems may develop if your puppy becomes dehydrated.
- b. Schedule a visit to your veterinarian within 72 hours for a check up to insure the health of your puppy. Your vet may find intestinal 'worms' which is common in puppies, and the treatment is routine. We treat our puppies for worms on a regular schedule here at Crème of the Crop Dachshunds. Your vet may also find coccidiosis or similar protozoa again requiring simple treatment. **THESE CONDITIONS ARE NORMAL AND ARE NOT LIFE-THREATENING UNLESS THERE IS A SEVERE CASE CAUSING SEVERE DEHYDRATION!** Your vet will

also vaccinate your puppy if that is needed. Crème of the Crop Dachshunds takes our puppies to our veterinarian for their first round of shots at 6 weeks of age along with a physical exam and fecal test. We obtain a letter of health from our vet for each one of our puppies. You will receive a health record with the dates of the vaccinations and other treatments we give your puppy.

- c. Have fun playing and cuddling with your puppy, but allow him/her to rest. After the first 3 days, slowly allow the puppy to become accustomed to the surroundings patiently teaching puppy what to do and not do. **DO NOT GIVE FREE ROAM UNTIL THE PUPPY KNOWS THE PLACES NOT TO GO AND THE DANGERS AROUND THE HOUSE.** Use baby gates and have ramps available to teach your puppy how to use them instead of jumping up and down from furniture and beds. Puppy proof your home and put up baby gates or shut doors to rooms that are off limits to your puppy. Never leave your new puppy unattended in your home outside of the puppy nursery.
  - i. **IF HE/SHE STARTS CHEWING ON ELECTRICAL CORDS, IMMEDIATELY CORRECT WITH A STERN “NO! NO!”** You can get a plastic automotive wiring cover at any auto parts store to protect your puppy from chewing electrical cords.
  - ii. Make sure all poisons are where your puppy cannot get them. Poinsettias, other plants, and toads are dangerous/poisonous to dogs. Some mushrooms are also deadly as well as certain common foods found in your kitchen! Ask your vet for a list or brochure that has all foods good and bad that your dog can/cannot eat. Their life can depend on it. Certain toys that can come apart when chewed are also dangerous. The expense to remove an object from a puppies gut can cost a good bit.
  - iii. Beware of animals such a coyotes, wolves, hawks, owls, bobcats, and other dogs that can kill your puppy. Several customers have lost their dogs to these animals. A Dachshund knows no fear. They were bred to hunt badger and wild boar! (Pound for pound the meanest animals on the planet.)
  - iv. Avoid feeding from the table food unless you want a lifetime of a whining dachshund interrupting your meals. **THEY KNOW HOW TO BEG, AND ONCE FED, LOVE YOU TO DEATH TO GET MORE.** If you are not careful, your dachshund will have YOU as THEIR slave. They are cunning and know how to get what they want. The NuVet vitamins and green beans are good treats that do not add calories to their diet.
  - v. Your dachshund should have just enough fat to cover the ribs smoothly so you can slightly see them. When their back has a valley along the spine, fat deposits create this valley. As the valley becomes deeper, this indicates thicker fat deposits. Added weight is adding risk of back problems.
3. **Several puppies are run over by cars accidently. Please do not allow your puppy free roam until he/she will “COME” on command. (See training your puppy later.) Your puppy will run to meet you when you come home. They will try to get in the car when you leave. Dachshunds love people and want to be with you constantly. They love to “go!” Unfortunately, your puppy does not recognize the danger, so train him/her about the danger of cars as one of the first things you do. Watch that he/she does not run in the road or drive way. Keep a close watch over your puppy the first two years.**

4. **Dachshunds are known to have back problems, and anything you can do to help prevent these problems can save you money and heartache in the long run. Steps and ramps are good ideas, but we know that dachshunds love to jump and run. Hopefully, the characteristics bred into our Crème of the Crop Dachshunds will help overcome some of these problems. WE ONLY BREED FOR PETS. WE DO NOT SELL OR ALLOW BREEDING OF OUR DOGS BECAUSE OF THE SKILL, EXPERTISE, AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO RAISE THESE SMALL DOGS.**
5. **Please do not hesitate to call with questions or problems. We are glad to help.**

## **YOUR NEW PUPPY**

### **HOUSE TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY**

Housetraining is critical in having our puppy live in our home with us and helps foster a healthy relationship between us. When our dog keeps our house clean and eliminates outside, we are all happier right?

**The first thing for puppy success is to set up a Puppy Nursery before your puppy comes home. This is the puppy's personal place to decompress during the transition period from our home to yours. Preferably, you have an area of tile, linoleum, hardwood or other area that is relatively waterproof and easy to clean.**

We will provide a detailed section separately for creating your Puppy Nursery and how to correctly use it along with pictures of previous puppy nurseries.

Puppies keep their sleeping area clean, but they do not realize that means your entire house. So we start by training your puppy in a small space (puppy nursery) and gradually adding additional space when your puppy can keep the current living space both clean and accident free. The nuts and bolts of housetraining are pretty simple. We reward our dog for going outside, and we watch them like a hawk inside to prevent accidents. Okay, so watching them 100% of the time may not be so simple, but it is doable and oh so important. This part of the potty training begins when puppy is in its forever home. Make sure your puppy has had its second immunization and wait at least a week after before taking them only in your own fenced backyard. This is a risk factor for exposing your puppy that isn't fully immunized. You have to make the decision if the risk is worth starting the training at this point. If you do not have a private fenced in yard, wait until the puppy is fully vaccinated before taking them outside to an area that is not a high traffic dog area. Wait a week after the last vaccination!

Puppies need to be one of three places throughout the day.

1. **Inside with you under careful supervision**
2. **Outside with you under careful supervision**
3. **Inside a small confined space (Puppy Nursery) when you can't carefully supervise them**

The Puppy Nursery (after starting to potty train) helps them to learn to hold it, as puppies do not like to mess in their sleeping area. Young puppies need more potty breaks throughout the day than older dogs and they must be taught room by room that each area of your home is considered living space. This takes time - **up to a year** - and necessitates practice, patience, and persistence. Accidents will happen! Don't panic. Simply clean them up and try to do better next time.

## HOUSE RULES

Housetraining is most quickly achieved by monitoring your puppy at all times from the very beginning. Think of this new little puppy as your **CONSTANT** canine companion, a 24/7 sidekick you can't, don't, and absolutely won't lose sight of. Use the **PUPPY POTTY TRAINING TRIANGLE** (Puppy Nursery, Potty Spot, and Play Area) to help you know where your puppy should be at any time of the day. Again, your puppy should either be:

- In the **PUPPY NURSERY** ( a space the puppy understands as “my space”) You will continue to add additional spaces (rooms) as your puppy progresses).
- At the **POTTY SPOT** go with them and reward for proper potty breaks and other good behavior. Puppies need to go every 20 – 30 minutes for potty breaks).
- **IN A SUPERVISED PLAY AREA**
  - In an **exercise pen** or other small puppy safe room with approved play toys. Use a timer to remind you to give your puppy needed potty breaks!
  - **Inside with you**, contained in the same room. Watch to make sure they don't dash off to a far corner of the room or get into other mischievous behavior. Again, as noted above, as your puppy matures and is both more responsible and better trusted, cautiously begin to expand the living space until the whole house is opened up. I only allow my puppies in other rooms of my home immediately following a successful potty trip.
  - **Outside with you** in a secure fenced area.

## APARTMENT LIVING

- If you have a private balcony, we suggest setting up a potty yard there using an exercise pen and pee pads or grass patch (real sod in a tray or synthetic turf). Then, your puppy housetraining will follow the same guidelines in our program. Take your puppy out to their potty area as needed. You can even hang the bells on your balcony door.
- If you do not have a private balcony/deck option, you can set up the same potty yard inside your home using an exercise pen or a small bathroom. Keep the door to this area closed and treat it as you would an outdoor potty area. Your puppy can ring bells on the pen or bathroom door to signal their need to use the potty area.
- Once your puppy is fully vaccinated and you wait one week after and it is safe for them to be on the ground in public, you can take them outside but keep them safe by using the above methods (harness and leash) until they are good to go. Speak to your vet about specific concerns in your area.

## TIME RULES

- Puppies in general take eight to twelve months to fully potty train... Yes that's right, puppies in general take eight to twelve months to fully potty train! I would NOT, under any circumstances, allow a puppy to have complete free access to my house any earlier than one year of age to ensure their potty training skills are locked and loaded and their good manners are rock solid.
- Young puppies (8 weeks old) likely will need a bathroom break every 15 – 30 minutes throughout the day while playing (not napping), especially during your housetraining efforts. They are literally input/output machines – if and when something goes in, it will need to shortly come back out within 30 minutes.
- Sleeping (8) hours at night is a good benchmark to reach and is very possible for an 8-10 week old puppy after its transition period is over and it's comfortable and secure in its new home. As your puppy gets older and is more capable of holding it, they can go longer at night, but don't rush it too quickly. Do what works for your puppy based on their age and size. Preventing accidents is important so sleeping inn on weekends may need to go on the back burner for a few months.

That's it really – when it comes to your new puppy it is far better to watch and contain than forget and wish you had not! Unfortunately life is busy and new little puppies may not give much warning before they go potty on

the floor and or chew something they shouldn't, so do your best to pay attention and properly reward them every time they go when and where you want.

Remember that which gets rewarded, also gets repeated. What's more, watch for the signs your puppy needs to go. For example, puppies usually begin to circle when they need to go poop, so look for it and get that puppy to your desired potty location right away. Small breed puppies, take longer to house train – be prepared for this.

Lastly, when you get frustrated, which you likely will at one point or another, DO NOT get angry at your puppy...remember to always keep it positive. Again, positive reinforcement is the most effective way to get the job done right and the best things in life usually take time – this is not something that will happen overnight. ALWAYS reward your puppy with HIGH-VALUE reward for going potty when and where you want! Yes, this means you must take your puppy out ON LEASH every time and give a reward the very second the desired behavior happens, once they finish vs. that of when they return back to the house.

## **HOUSETRAINING BASICS**

- Use your Puppy Nursery to confine your puppy when you can't watch them 100%.
- It is important to go outside with your puppy to mark and reward the second they finish going. Your puppy will not associate a treat with going potty if you wait to give it to them until they come back inside. They will think the reward is for coming back inside. This often leads to puppies who go outside, don't actually go, and then come back inside and potty on the floor.
- Dog doors are great tools. I do suggest putting go potty on cue and having successful potty breaks on leash outside before letting your puppy use a dog door. Why? One, when you travel you'll want your puppy to be able to potty on cue and two, if you never have your puppy go potty on leash, they may refuse to do so and that is a problem when you are not at home.
- If you live in an apartment building without your own private yard, using a balcony or indoor potty yard (a small bathroom or exercise pen with pee pads or litter box) works well until your puppy is fully vaccinated and can walk on the ground outside.
- Set a timer every 30-60 minutes during the day (depending on your puppy's needs) to remind you to take them outside for a potty break (except while napping.)

### **Puppies will need to go during the day:**

- when they first wake up
- right after you release them from their puppy nursery
- after eating or drinking
- when they change activities
- if they are more excitable for some reason or another
- when they start sniffing and circling or wandering to a different part of the room you notice pacing and whining
- Keep track when your puppy goes so you know what to expect. Recording times consistently for the first few weeks helps you know and anticipate when your puppy will need to go. This especially helps with knowing when to stay out longer for your puppy to defecate.
- We don't allow free roam of our home until the puppy is at least 12 months old, and we are confident they are completely housetrained.
- It is normal for puppies to go outside and need to go again in ten minutes. If this is a regular occurrence, learn to stay out longer with your puppy to let them finish

- Part of housetraining includes teaching your puppy what is and is not appropriate to chew on. Giving them a variety of chew toys and mixing up what toys are available each day keeps your puppy out of trouble and away from chewing on your furniture. 100% supervision and redirection are also needed to successfully achieve this particular concept of housetraining. Puppy Nursery time when you cannot watch them 100% is required. Giving them appropriate chews in the Puppy Nursery teaches them what they can chew on, and they grow accustomed to chewing on those items only.
- If your puppy gets something they are not supposed to have, swap it out for a higher value item. Do not give attention to the item they have stolen. Instead, walk by with a better thing (food works well) and encourage your puppy to come once you know they know what you have in your hand. Feed the reward to your dog as you scoop up the stolen item and put it away.
- Use gates or their puppy nursery to keep your puppy out of areas of the home where you can't immediately supervise. Close all doors to help make initial training areas smaller.
- Once your puppy can keep one room of your home clean, and they consistently go potty outside for one week straight, add another area to the space. Continue making the living space larger and larger so long as your puppy is successful in keeping the new space clean. This takes up to one year and depends largely on the size of your living space.

## ACCIDENTS

- Puppies are in-the-moment creatures. If you don't catch them in the act, they will not connect any sort of correction to going potty in the house. Simply clean up the mess and remind yourself to watch them 100% when out and about in your house.
- If you catch them starting, startle them by slapping a wall or clapping your hands, then rush them outside to finish. When they go, mark YES and reward with praise or treats.
- We don't recommend punishment for housetraining accidents even if you do see them going. This will only encourage your puppy to hide from you when they need to go.
- Always use an enzyme cleanser to completely rid any indoor accident area of the smell so your puppy won't continue to use the same area to go potty again.

## THE POTTY BELLS

- Your puppy does not know the bells are POTTY bells. It takes time for them to connect the dots that the bells mean go potty.
  - The first connection the puppy will make is ringing the bells opens the door.
  - The second connection is bells mean the door opens and we go outside.
  - Then, they will start to connect the bells mean the door opens, we go outside TO THE POTTY AREA ONLY.
  - Be patient and helpful as they are learning.

- Once your puppy has been taught to ring the bells, they may need help finding them when playing. Stand by the bells and stare at them. When your puppy comes over to see what you are doing, mark and reward when they look at the bells. Do this several times. Then, mark and reward when your puppy rings the bells. Then, take them outside to potty.
- For puppies who find the bells fun and want to play with them, remove them from the wall after a successful potty break then hang them back up again when it's about time your puppy will need to go again.
- You may choose not to use bells. That is completely fine. Be sure to take your puppy out on regular intervals throughout the day to go potty.
- Some dogs naturally give signs they need to go out while others are not so obvious at all. This is normal.

**Potty Training Tip:** It probably isn't what you think! A lot of us were raised in homes where punishment like yelling "NO!" when a puppy piddled was a normal part of potty training. But it's actually counter-productive.

If your puppy piddles in front of you on the carpet and you yell, the only thing puppy learns is it is not safe to potty in front of this human. There is no connection that occurs between inside and outside. Puppy just learns that she should not potty in front of you, so in the future; she just might go around the corner or wait until you aren't looking.

Successful potty training requires an understanding of what works with the puppy brain. One thing is positive association. If you throw a party every time your puppy goes outside, lavishing her with praises and treats, and you do this countless times in her first few days home (we recommend taking the puppy out every 20 – 30 minutes), then your puppy will quickly learn where the party happens. This is only for new puppy parents that have their own private fenced in yards. If you don't have a private area and have to use an area where other dogs have access to, you need to wait until your puppy is fully vaccinated.

She will also develop a comfort level and familiarity with the surface of her potty spot. We find that puppies are very drawn to grass, but you can honestly train your puppy to anything.

Repetition and consistency are your best friends. You are layering learning. Layer positive associations, and you will be shocked how fast your puppy learns to "go potty!" (And if you need to yell at someone, yell at yourself for not getting your puppy outside before she had to go!)

It isn't easy, but it's predictable! And doable.

Here's the thing about puppies and potty training: you are actually helping your puppy develop a preference for a surface. While we like to think that they are developing a preference to go potty outside rather than inside, that isn't what's actually happening in their brains.

Instead, after 50 or 100 or 1,000 times of going potty on a particular surface your puppy develops a preference for that surface. It's called a "substrate preference," and it's something we humans can capitalize on!

One of the best ways to lock in a preference is with treats (at 8 weeks of age, I recommend just using their kibble or cut their Lean Treats to the size of their kibble). In puppy's world, that little bladder needs to empty very regularly (thus FREQUENCY of taking your puppy potty every 20 to 30 minutes).



That supple puppy brain will quickly make connections between going potty on a particular potty spot and treats (thus the mission critical need for REWARDS).

But because puppies do have a very small bladder, and they don't know the difference between the "right" spot and the "wrong" spot to potty, they'll just squat and go when they feel the urge. (Thus, SUPERVISION!).

Raising a puppy is no joke. It requires immense amounts of time and patience. But if you dig in and are consistent (with patience!), the potty training phase will quickly become a distant memory. I promise!

For puppies who don't have a fenced in private yard, remember to rub each new pad on an old pad and put the pad in the same place so the puppy can smell and remember where to go. Or, if the puppy finds a place to go, put a pad there.

Once your puppy has had all its vaccinations, allow the puppy to walk around until he/she finds a place to do his/her business. Hint: set up a poop area outside by putting some feces and urine in an area you want the puppy to use. Dogs instinctively hunt out old poop and urine as a place to continue relief. This is his/her reward. Watch for the puppy to begin sniffing and circling and then assuming the position (squatting or humping is usually too late). Get to know the dog's schedule. You can then take him/her out, and give a command to "Go pee or Go poop." Follow the potty training tip above, and as soon as your puppy goes potty outside, give immediate praise and a high reward treat instantly. Dachshunds are highly food motivated and love to please! Have that potty party!

If the dog goes outside and plays then comes in the house and soils the house, you have trained him/her to do his/her deeds in the house which happens if you don't follow the potty training tip above.

### **FEEDING YOUR NEW PUPPY**

Food and water is very important especially the first two weeks. The first days remember your puppy is under extreme stress.

#### ***WATER:***

Make sure the puppy drinks water immediately upon arrival at the airport or your home. If you are driving long distances, stop and take water breaks every few hours. Our dogs all drink well water and may refuse city water with a strong chlorine smell. In this case, use bottled water, and in a couple of days, he/she will become accustomed to your water. Always make sure your puppy has a good clean supply of water available. If you listen, you'll be surprised what your dog will tell you.

#### ***FOOD:***

We always include food with your new puppy. The food is what the puppy has been eating. We feed Diamond Naturals Small Breed Puppy. Based on our experience, this is the best food available at an economical price. Please do not change you puppy's food for the first week due to the stress of a new home. If you choose to change the puppy's food, do so gradually. Mix a small amount of the new food with the food we sent, and increase the amount over 5 days gradually replacing the Diamond with the new food. We do not recommend Science Diet. Vets seem to love it, but in the past, we have experienced problems when switching in the first month you have a new puppy.

Coccidia can be a common problem caused by stress. One thing you can do to prevent coccidia is to avoid stress as much as possible. Give your puppy time to adapt to the new situation before switching his diet. Allow plenty of rest. He/she is a PUPPY and needs about 2-3 hours rest for every 30-45 minutes of playtime! Let children hold the puppy like a baby and let him sleep. Dachshunds love to sleep on you and in your clothes.

When handling your puppy, support the rear half by putting one hand underneath his/her rear. This will help the back.

We do not encourage feeding at the table. Weiner dogs are chowhounds and will eat almost anything you eat. Some foods are poisonous to dogs like chocolate, grapes, green peppers, onions and others. Also, some house plants are poisonous too like poinsettias. Treats and table food many times result in a FAT dog. Dachshunds have a history of back problems, and you will find our dogs on average are shorter than most due to that problem. We believe that a shorter dog will have less back problems. We try to breed pets that will stand up to hardwood floors and the common every day jumping and playing Dachshunds enjoy. However, do not make a known problem worse by feeding your dog too much or offering fatty or sugary treats. Green beans and carrots make good treats as well a watermelon and very small bites of meat.

### **RESTING YOUR NEW PUPPY**

Your puppy is growing and needs rest. Rest reduces stress and stress related problems such as coccidia. One of the first signs of coccidia is mucus in the stool and possibly bloody diarrhea. Anytime you see bloody diarrhea visit the vet. This is a sign of several health problems ALL OF WHICH ARE DANGEROUS. As he/she gets older, you will have plenty of time to play. In fact, you may find as we did that we needed another dog to keep our Weiner dog occupied. We always buy our new puppies in pairs so that they have a playmate. At six weeks, a puppy needs 3-4 hours rest for each 30-45 minutes of playtime. At eight weeks, about 2-3 hours of rest for each 30-45 minutes of play time. By 10 to 12 weeks, you will notice the puppy slowing down and wanting to crawl in your arms to sleep when tired. They love to sleep on your chest. They love to snuggle up in a warm place on your lap, in a blanket, or in laundry fresh out of the dryer. Shorthaired dogs are the worst at trying to find warm places. They love to lay in the sun and by the fireplace. When your dog gets about 6 years old, he/she will slow down and do more sleeping and less running.

### **TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY**

Our puppies tend to be pawing at you when they first start walking. Soon after that, they are playing with toys and soon begin to fetch. The more a dog interacts with a human presence, the easier he/she is to train. I always say, "When you look at a Dachshund, he/she looks back!" These are dogs that are easy to train especially if they are chowhounds which Dachshunds are! Start with the sit command. The dog will naturally sit. What you have to do is to begin to communicate to the dog that you want him to sit when you say sit. He/she has to know what to do when you say sit. THIS IS LEARNED BEHAVIOR! Therefore, you must TEACH your dog to sit when you say sit.

First, give the command "Sit!" Your dog will have no idea what is going on. Watch the dog, and when he/she accidentally sits, give him/her a treat. I prefer a small spoon of Gerber baby food chicken or lean treats cut into puppy kibble sizes. Play this game for about 10 minutes. The dog will start to get bored if you work much longer than this. DO NOT BECOME FRUSTRATED AND PUNISH OR YELL AT THE DOG. If you want to train him/her, it must be enjoyable. If it's not fun, how long do you think you would last? Continue on a regular basis. If your dog responds well, you may find that 30-minute sessions work great. As you move along, add new tricks. I suggest the following order: Sit, Stay, and Come. Why this order? Come is the most important command. When a dog gets loose in a dangerous situation, HE/SHE MUST COME ON COMMAND! A dog naturally sits, so teach him/her to associate the word sit with the action sit. When he/she realizes that he/she gets food when he/she obeys, the battle is won. Sit is the easiest command to teach. Once the dog will sit, teach stay. A hand gesture always helps when directing the dog what to do. A hand up with the palm facing the dog is a good motion to use along with the stay command. Walk a few steps back and stop repeating the command stay. Don't expect to get too far. Once you realize the distance, you can move away

from the dog; stop short of that distance and stand. If the dog does not move, give a treat. Increase the wait time and distance over time.

Now, your dog should be sitting on command and staying on command. Next, teach come. Say “come,” and the dog will probably immediately release and rush to get a treat. Practice too makes perfect. Soon your dog will sit on command, stay on command, and come on command. As you learn how your dog communicates with you, training will become easier. Then, you can try more difficult tricks. Always reinforce the COME command because it is so important. In a dangerous situation along a highway or elsewhere, a dog must come on command to prevent injury or death. Tricks are a lot of fun for you and your dog, but they are also necessary to control your dog in a dangerous situation.

Now, you can move to “roll over,” “play dead,” and any trick you can think of such as ringing a bell to go potty. Several of our customers have their puppy doing these tricks and more in just a few weeks after taking him/her home. Dachshunds love to please and learn to communicate quite quickly. You will find that your dachshund soon becomes a member of the family and will react almost as a person. They watch everything and usually assume the highest spot closely watching everything going on. If anything different happens, you can bet your dachshund will let you know.