



www.dodgerslist.com

Dedicated to Dodger:
a Dachshund euthanized prematurely

Treatment

IF YOU OBSERVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS, GET YOUR DACHSHUND TO A VET IMMEDIATELY.

Time is of the essence and could make a difference as to whether the problem can be corrected. You may opt for surgery, in which case a myelogram or MRI can be done to determine the location and extent of the disc rupture. Based on our experience, many if not most of the dogs who have surgery soon after becoming paralyzed, have more rapid and complete recoveries than dogs who have surgery at a later time. *If surgery is to be considered, it should be done as soon as possible with a paralyzed dog. After paralysis there is a window of time 12-24 hours after loss of deep pain sensation (DPS) that surgery can still be successful. The more hours lapse after 24 hours, the less chance of complete recovery.*

Seek a board-certified neuro (ACVIM) or ortho (ACVS) surgeon. You may need a referral to these specialist from your vet. Learn about www.carecredit.com for no or low interest credit.

Alternatives to surgery

- 6-8 weeks crate rest depending on the extent of injury, pain and anti-inflammatory medications
- Discuss new medications with your veterinarian, including benefits, risks, side effects, and any required laboratory monitoring
- Adequan- analgesic anti-inflammatory properties
- Acupuncture for pain relief and nerve regeneration
- Hydrotherapy and sling assisted walking therapy after completing crate rest or on the advise of a vet

Predicting Back Problems

It's important to note that x-rays do not always confirm the presence of a back problem and often where a calcification appears on the x-ray is not where a disc is herniated

Although we are not veterinarians, DodgersList gathers information on current treatments and alternatives for IVDD. Website information reflects what is commonly recommended by experts in neurology, orthopedic and physical therapy fields. Many Dodger members have extensive experience with IVDD, which 1 in 5 Dachshunds develop. As with any treatment or supplemental program, there is no replacement for good, quality veterinary care.

Preventing Back Injury

While there is not much that can be done to prevent a back injury, there are several things you can do to minimize the risk: There are several things you can do to minimize the risk of disc injury:

- Regular exercise
 - Keep them sleek and streamlined as dachshunds were meant to be
 - Additional weight can put more stress on the spine
- Lift your dachshund using two hands, one supporting the chest and one supporting the back
- It is essential to limit your dachshund's use of stairs and to discourage jumping on and off furniture
- The use of ramps is strongly encouraged
- Use a harness rather than a collar

Symptoms of Disc Disease

- **CERVICAL (NECK)**
 - Crying, when eating or drinking
 - Poor appetite due to pain
 - Muscle spasms, and reluctance to move due to pain
 - One or both front legs could be lame
- **THORACOLUMBAR (BACK)**
 - Crying and/or shaking
 - Reluctance to move, jump or to go up/down stairs
 - Poor appetite due to pain
 - Tense abdomen (called referred pain) can mimic the symptoms of other diseases
 - Hunched appearance

An emergency when these functions are lost:

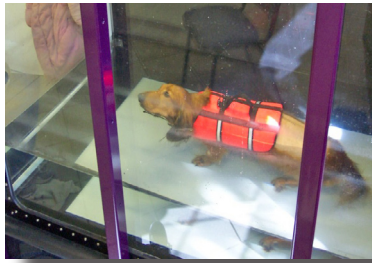
- Total paralysis to rear legs
- Loss of bladder and bowel control

Premature Aging of the Disc

Dachshunds have a condition known as *chondrodystrophy* "chondro" means cartilage and "dystrophy" means disorder. The cartilage is what makes up the disc. As it ages, it becomes brittle, more likely to rupture. Several studies show giving Vitamin C will help the cartilage and discs stay young. There are also several supplements, such as MSM, glucosamine, chondroitin and hyaluronic acid that may help keep discs healthy. Dogs that do have disc disease will typically evidence at 3-7 years of age, but can and does happen at any age.

Rest is critical at the first sign of a back problem & during recovery. Confine your dog in a very small space using a crate. Place the crate in an area of the house where the dog feels a part of the family. At potty breaks use an exercise pen folded up to 3' x 3' or carry dog to and from potty place, use a leash and harness.

Canine Rehabilitation With or without surgery, your dachshund will benefit from canine rehabilitation by a certified canine rehabilitation therapist (either a Physical Therapist or Veterinarian). Services are available by referral only from your specialist or primary veterinarian. Canine rehabilitation consists of a thorough evaluation and a progressive treatment plan that addresses strength, range of motion, pain or discomfort, balance, coordination, quality of mobility and walking, and overall function. The therapy plan is continually re-evaluated, updated and



follows all restrictions set by the referral source. The therapy plan may consist of balance, coordination and strengthening exercises, manual therapies, gait retraining, acupuncture, joint mobilization, and modalities such as laser, muscle stimulation, swimming or underwater treadmill. Some practitioners also utilize herbs and supplements.

There is hope! There are a variety of treatments available and do not give up hope if your dog develops symptoms. Historically, most dogs live pain-free, happy lives after a back injury.

Disc disease is inherent to the breed. It is believed by many to be a genetic problem, when not caused by injury. Buying a dachshund from a reputable breeder may significantly decrease the chances of your Dachshund suffering disc problems.

Websites

DISC DISEASE EDUCATION:

- www.gcvs.com/surgery/interver.htm
- www.lbah.com/canine/ivd.htm
- www-hsc.usc.edu/~bjmcmil/back.html

SUPPLEMENTS, DRUGS, SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

- Adequan: www.luitpold.com/animal_health/canine/
- www.marvistavet.com/html/pharmacy_center.html
- Holistic supplements www.altvetmed.org
- www.handicappedpets.com
- www.naturalrearing.com

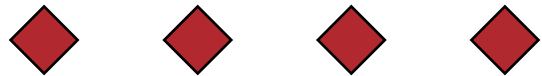
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For quick answers / want to talk?

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Rescue Groups

If an owner is unable to care for a disabled Dachshund, some rescue groups will take surrendered paralyzed Dachshunds and provide medical services and foster care.



Disclaimer: This information is presented for educational purposes and as a resource for the Dachshund community. The coordinators are not veterinarians or health care professionals. Nothing herein should be interpreted as medical advice and all should contact their pet care professionals for advice. The coordinators are not responsible for the substance and content contained herein and do not advocate any particular product, item or position contained herein.

Dachshund Orthopedic Disc Group Email Resource

Dodgerslist: www.dodgerslist.com

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rev. Apr. 2009