

Slightly Chewed – Indoor Fun & Brain Games for Dachshund Puppies

(Back-Safe, Engaging, and Perfect for Growing Minds)

Treat Muffin Tin Puzzle

Type: Puzzle & Scent Game

You'll Need: Muffin tin, tennis balls (or smaller balls), small healthy treats.

How to Play: Place a few treats in random muffin tin cups. Cover each cup with a tennis ball. Let your dachshund sniff and nudge the balls to uncover treats.

Why It's Great: Stimulates problem-solving and nose work without any jumping or strain.

Towel Roll-Up Treasure Hunt

Type: Scent & Unwrapping Game

You'll Need: A clean towel, small treats or kibble.

How to Play: Lay the towel flat. Scatter treats along one edge. Roll the towel up, hiding the treats inside. Your dachshund will unroll it with nose and paws to find the rewards.

Why It's Great: Engages natural foraging instincts and encourages gentle paw work.

Cardboard Tube Challenge

Type: Puzzle & Slow Feed

You'll Need: Clean cardboard tubes (e.g., from paper towels), treats or kibble, paper to scrunch as filler.

How to Play: Place treats inside the tube. Scrunch paper loosely to make it a little tricky. Always supervise and remove once the treats are eaten.

Why It's Great: Mental challenge, easy to refresh with different fillings.

Gentle Tug with Soft Toy

Type: Bonding & Play

You'll Need: Soft, back-safe tug toy (avoid heavy or jerky pulls).

How to Play: Sit on the floor and let your dachshund take one end. Gently pull side to side, keeping movements low and smooth — no lifting off the ground.

Why It's Great: Builds connection, safe energy outlet when done gently.

Shell Game (Dachshund Edition)

Type: Puzzle & Focus Game

You'll Need: Three small cups, one treat.

How to Play: Place the treat under one cup while your dachshund watches. Shuffle cups slowly. Encourage your dog to choose the right one with nose or paw.

Why It's Great: Improves concentration, can be made harder as they learn.

Hallway Fetch (Low Impact)

Type: Fun & Controlled Exercise

You'll Need: Soft ball or toy.

How to Play: Sit at one end of the hallway and roll (not throw) the toy along the floor. Keep distances short to avoid sprinting or sudden stops.

Why It's Great: Burns energy safely indoors without stairs or jumping.

Potty Bell Game (Training Aid)

Type: Practical Skill & Positive Reinforcement

You'll Need: Dog doorbell or hanging bell by the door.

How to Play: Show your dachshund the bell and give a treat when they touch it with nose or paw. Every time you take them out for potty, encourage a bell touch first. Reward after they go outside successfully.

Why It's Great: Teaches a clear, low-impact signal for potty time and reduces accidents.