

Slightly Chewed – Dachshund Basic Training Guide

(Sit, Stay, Recall, Heel & Bell Training – Essentials for a Well-Behaved Dachshund)

Training a dachshund is part negotiation, part patience, and part comedy. They're clever, determined, and can sniff out weakness (and cheese) from a mile away. The golden rules: keep sessions short, don't overdo it, and always end on a high note.

Sit

Stages:

1. Hold a treat just above your dog's nose.
2. Move it slowly back over their head so their bottom drops.
3. Mark the moment ("Yes!" or click) and reward instantly.
4. Repeat until they link the action with the word 'Sit'.

Trainer's Tips:

- Keep your tone upbeat and encouraging.
- Don't push their back down – let them work it out themselves.
- Reward instantly for the best association.

Stay

Stages:

1. Ask for a Sit.
2. Show a flat palm ("Stop" signal) and say 'Stay'.
3. Take a small step back, then return and reward.
4. Increase distance and time gradually.
5. If they move too soon, calmly reset and try again.

Trainer's Tips:

- Use a release word like 'Okay' so they know when the stay is over.
- Start with low distractions, then gradually increase difficulty.
- Keep sessions short to avoid frustration.

Recall

Stages:

1. Start indoors, short distance, minimal distractions.

2. Use a single happy cue ('Come!' or 'Here!') and reward every time.
3. Gradually increase distance and add distractions.
4. Practice in safe outdoor spaces on a long training lead.

Trainer's Tips:

- Never punish after they come to you – even if they were slow.
- Make returning to you the most rewarding option.
- For safety, use a long training lead outdoors until recall is reliable.

Heel

Stages:

1. Use a harness for safety and comfort.
2. Hold a treat by your side to encourage position.
3. Reward when your dog walks next to you.
4. Stop moving if they pull; only continue on a slack lead.
5. Vary your pace and direction to keep them engaged.

Trainer's Tips:

- Start training in a quiet, low-distraction area.
- Reward frequently at first, then gradually reduce as they improve.
- Be consistent – don't allow pulling sometimes and not others.

Ring a Bell to Go Out

Stages:

1. Hang a bell by the door at your dog's nose level.
2. Each time you take them out, guide their nose or paw to touch the bell.
3. Immediately praise and open the door.
4. Repeat until they associate ringing with going outside.

Trainer's Tips:

- Consistency is key – ring the bell every time before opening the door.
- Only reward ringing when it's followed by going outside for potty.

Final Thought: Dachshunds learn best in short, fun bursts. Five minutes, two or three times a day, is better than one long session. Always end on success, keep rewards small but exciting, and remember – you're building trust as much as skills.