

# CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT TIMELINE

If your vet prescribes a Conservative Treatment Programme with a combination of cage rest and medication, this guide will help you understand what to expect.

DAY

**1** .....

## VISIT YOUR VET

Your vet will examine your Dachshund and confirm a diagnosis of IVDD for which a Conservative Treatment programme is appropriate: if your dog only has mild pain and no incoordination (ataxia). This will probably combine cage rest and a course of medication. Your vet will probably want to check on progress regularly over the next few weeks.

WEEKS

**3-4** .....

## IMPROVEMENT?

If there has been no improvement, or any deterioration, your vet may suggest you consider surgery as a treatment option.

If your dog is showing signs of improvement, continue with the cage rest routine and any medication prescribed by your vet.

WEEK

**9 +** .....

## STAY ALERT

You'll need to watch out for any future signs of back pain. Ensure you adopt a good lifestyle regime for your Dachshund: a good diet and a regular exercise routine that maintains good body condition (don't let your dog get fat).



WEEKS

**1-2** .....

## STRICT CAGE REST

Cage rest limits further disc extrusion and allows natural healing of the spinal cord to begin. Place the crate in an area of the house where the dog feels a part of the family. When going outside to toilet, use a pen to confine your dog, or use a leash to limit movement. If there is any sudden deterioration, see your vet immediately and consider surgery.

WEEKS

**5-8** .....

## REHABILITATION

If your Dachshund has made good progress, your vet will probably advise that you can return to a more normal routine. Gradually allow your dog more time out of the cage and extend its freedom in the garden. Do not allow ANY jumping up or down from furniture. Your vet may advise a programme of physiotherapy to help rebuild muscle tone.

For more information, visit:  
[www.dachshund-ivdd.uk](http://www.dachshund-ivdd.uk)