



Lifestyle FACTORS

Source: DachsLife 2015
Survey of 2000 Dachshunds

1

NEUTERING

The odds of a neutered Dachshund suffering IVDD over the age of 3 was nearly double (1.8x) that of an entire Dachshund. Neutering under the age of 12 months had higher odds of IVDD than neutering over the age of 1.

2

DIET AND SUPPLEMENTS

There was no difference in IVDD rates between any diets (complete, wet, raw, or combinations). IVDD risk was no different between dogs receiving supplements such as Glucosamine and Chondroitin and those not. Dogs supplemented with Cod Liver Oil had half the rate of IVDD.

3

BODY CONDITION

In their 2013 research, the Royal Veterinary College found that dogs that were fat or obese were more likely to suffer from IVDD than fitter, thinner dogs. We weren't able to replicate that finding in our 2015 survey, but there are plenty more health reasons not to let your dog to get fat.

4

COLLAR VS. HARNESS

Dogs over the age of 3 that were exercised in harnesses were 2.3 times more likely to have suffered an IVDD incident than those exercised in collars. This does not imply causation; it may simply be that dogs that have suffered IVDD may be exercised in harnesses rather than in collars.

5

JUMPING AND STAIRS

Dachshunds over the age of 3 that were allowed to jump on/off furniture and go up/down stairs every day had a lower probability of IVDD than those not allowed to. High impact stresses can be a risk factor for back injuries, but most IVDD cases are not directly attributable to jumping.

6

EXERCISE

Highly, or moderately, active dogs over the age of 3 had half the rate of IVDD incidents than dogs described as mildly, or not at all, active. Dogs exercised only with free running/playing in the garden were 1.8 times more likely to suffer IVDD than dogs taken for walks on/off the lead as well.