

IVDD diagnosis & prognosis

Clinical grade	Findings on veterinary examination	Description	Prognosis with non-surgical treatment	Prognosis with surgical treatment
1	Normal gait. Paraspinal hyperaesthesia.	Walking normally. Painful.	70-100%	About 95%
2	Ambulatory paraparesis. Paraspinal hyperaesthesia.	Walking but weak and wobbly. Painful.	55-100%	About 95%
3	Non-ambulatory paraparesis. Paraspinal hyperaesthesia.	Unable to walk or stand unassisted. Painful.	55-80%	80-90% Recovery times vary. Dogs typically walk within 1-3 weeks, though some take 2 months or more.
4	Paraplegia. Paraspinal hyperaesthesia. +/-Urinary incontinence.	No deliberate or voluntary movement of affected limbs. Painful. +/- Loss of bladder control.	40-80%	
5	Paraplegia. Absent deep nociception in affected limbs. Paraspinal hyperaesthesia. +/- Urinary incontinence.	Loss of deep pain sensation in toes of affected limbs. No deliberate or voluntary movement of affected limbs. Painful. +/- Loss of bladder control.	Only up to about 30% of these dogs walk again without surgery.	About 50-60% will walk fairly normally again. Recovery can take up to 9 months or more, though most "successful" dogs walk within 6-12 weeks. Delaying surgery >48 hours does not affect outcome (though of course these dogs are painful and need immediate care).

Prepared for the Dachshund Breed Council by
Marianne Dorn BVM&S PGCert SART MRCVS