

Puppy Love

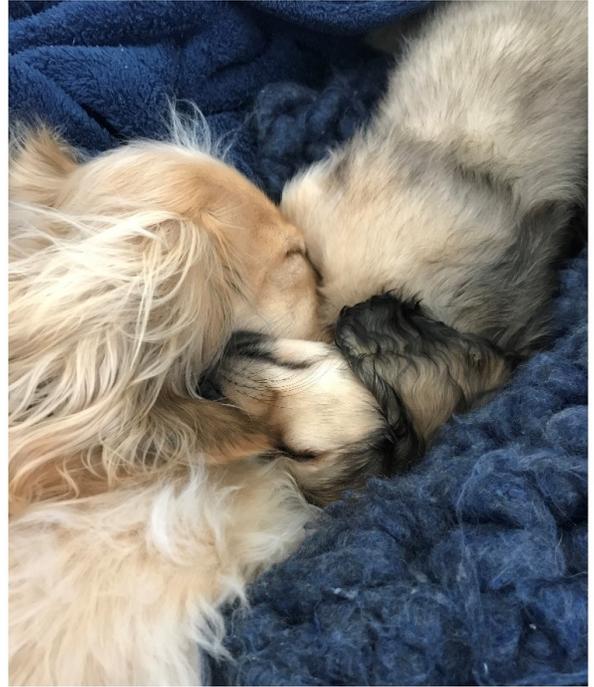
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The Shortest Hero

Germans were early settlers in America, but when a wave of German immigrants, along with their dachshunds, arrived in the United States in the mid 1800's their presence became more prominent. By the turn of the century, German-Americans had become a powerful influence in American culture, many still spoke German fluently. It was a good time, for man and dog alike, to be German in America. German culture swept the nation as we embraced many recognized "American" traditions today. German-Americans brought us: hamburgers, hotdogs and beer; kindergarten; Christmas trees and Saint Nick; but most importantly, our adorable, lovable, little wiener dogs. It should not really be a surprise to find out the U.S. military put these little sausage dogs to use in combat, but somehow we are all still surprised. Probably because when we hear the term "war dog" we envision a muscular German Shepard at the helm. But, the dachshund was the unsung hero of both World Wars. Their compact size and incredible sense of smell made them ideal for sniffing out dangerous land mines, as well as, searching for and rescuing fallen soldiers. Dachshunds are the shortest heroes who served with honor as members of the United States military.



Two year old Ollie welcomed his new baby sister, Rosie home with love. Needless to say they have bonded. They live with their terrific mom and dad in North Carolina.



Heroes Helping Heroes

In 1919, in an effort to stem breed discrimination, the AKC changed the breed name to Badger Dog. Changing the breed name did not really help. In 1923, there were only 26 dachshunds registered with the AKC. Soldiers returning from war were enchanted with the lovable, little dog and became ambassadors for the breed. World War Two again promoted dachshunds as social outcasts. But, the breed survived and was rejuvenated by doxie lovers who imported dogs into the United States. Dachshunds are one of the AKC's top ten breeds today.



**April 2
1917**

On that fateful day, the world changed overnight, America dropped its neutral position on the world theater and declared war on Germany. Everything German had become the enemy. Sauerkraut became "liberty cabbage" and dachshunds became "liberty pups" and "wiener dogs." But, the association with the German enemy and the evil Kaiser Wilhelm II who owned two dachshunds could not be cured with a new name. Sadly, the breed suffered severe persecution because of its German origins. Dachshunds were killed, and dachshund owners were shunned. One man who owned a dachshund kennel was in such fear for his life that he killed all of his dachshunds. Even political ads featured dachshunds most unfavorably.