

Puppy Love

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The National Dog of France

No, it is not the dachshund, but it is another German. The French love their poodles and this glamorous breed has claimed the title of being the *National Dog of France*. However, there is no such breed as the “French Poodle.” In France, poodles are known as the Caniche, or “duck dog.” Despite the poodles’s association with France, the breed originated as a duck hunter in Germany, where the word “pudelin” refers to spalshing in water. The poodle began its development as a retrieving water dog more than 400 years ago in Germany.



Mariah is home in Washington being loved every day by her wonderful family. Mariah joined big sister, Sacha.



Cousins Across the Globe

Dogs have been our helpers, our protectors, and our beloved companions for thousands of years. As they spread across the globe humans began selective breeding for the characteristics they desired in their canines. Some sources identify as many as 42 dog breeds that originated in Germany. Some you will easily recognize, others may surprise you. These German dogs are commonly found here in the USA: American Eskimo (it is not American or Eskimo, it is the German Spitz), Boxer, Doberman, German Sheperd, Great Dane (no, they are not Danish), Pomeranian, Poodle, Rottweiler, Schnauzer, Weimaraner, and of course the best of them all, the dachshund.



IN THE BEGINNING

The American Kennel Club identifies the dachshund as a hound that dates back six hundred years with its roots firmly in Germany. It is not exactly clear when the breed was being specifically bred for the purpose of badger hunting, but it was certainly several hundred years ago. Originally, the breed was a larger dog, weighing up to forty pounds, compared to the modern standard dachshund we have today. Over time, a miniature dachshund was developed to hunt rabbits and other small burrowing animals. This was an important task to farmers in order to prevent livestock from injuring their legs by stepping into a hole in the field. It is as important today, as it was in the past, that a dachshund have a sturdy barrel chest, short legs and big powerful feet. One of the most fun facts is the anatomy of the dachshund’s tail. As a hunter, it was desirable for a dachshund’s tail to stand up tall while in pursuit of his prey. This part of their anatomy served two purposes. It was easier for a human to spot their short-legged dog running through fields and wooded areas, and it gave them the ability to pull their dog out of a hole if it got stuck ~ too funny.



Some dachshund experts theorize that the breed has early roots to ancient Egypt where engravings feature short-legged hunting dogs. Discoveries by the American University in Cairo, Egypt, of mummified dachshund-like dogs from ancient burial urns may lend credibility to this theory.