

Puppy Love

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Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

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Coats A-Plenty

The world of dog coat colors and patterns is a fascinating one, filled with a diverse range of styles, shapes, and textures. Our little doxies add much to the spectacular array of possibilities. Most experts agree that the smooth coat came first, followed by the long-haired dachshund. AKC recognized these two coats as an official dachshund purebred in 1885. Five years later AKC recognized and began the registration of the wire-haired coat officially as a dachshund. It is believed the first dachshunds had a flat, sleek shiny red coat. Later the shimmering black coat joined the breed. And lastly, was the unveiling of the gorgeous chocolates and creams. In addition, dachshunds have points of tan and cream to accent their beautiful coats. A solid coat is very rare for a dachshund. But we're still not done with the stunning coat of a dachshund. They can also have a unique pattern in their coat that makes them extra special.



Bindibella is our beautiful chocolate dachshund who came to us from Russia. She has a gorgeous coat, and came with the bonus of being a chocolate dapple. Bindi's dapple is best described as a champagne color. We are very proud of our sweet girl and can't wait for her precious babies to arrive.



The Scientist

Dr. William Nixon is a geneticist specializing in breeding miniature dachshunds, more specifically, he had a passion for dapple dachshunds. His initial impression of dachshunds was not flattering. He characterized them as having chihuahua legs, bat ears, bulging eyes and an apple shape skull. He became determined to improve the miniature dachshund in structure and beauty. The scientist explained that many geneticists work on genetics alone, but you need more than that, you need common sense. He said, "To breed a good dog, you need a sense of beauty, soundness and line. You must see the whole picture and it has to be pleasing. That's art, not science!" Dr. Nixon bred more than 1,000 dogs throughout his career ~ that's a treasure trove of beautiful dapple dachshunds.



Celebrate ~ It's a Fluke!

That's right, dapple dachshunds are one of a kind, much like the finger print on a human hand or the fluke a whale. The diversity of a dapple's pattern is so distinctive that it can actually be used for identification.



Dogs have about 19,000 genes in their genome but only a handful affect the physical variations in their coats. Dapple doxies have contrasting patterns of color over their base coat color. Because of their distinctive dapple coloring they are somewhat rare and are highly popular. If you ever meet a dapple dachshund, take a moment to appreciate the fascinating biology and genetics behind their unique look.