

# Puppy Love

August 2017

Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

Volume 7, No.8



## Mother Nature's Best Shovels!

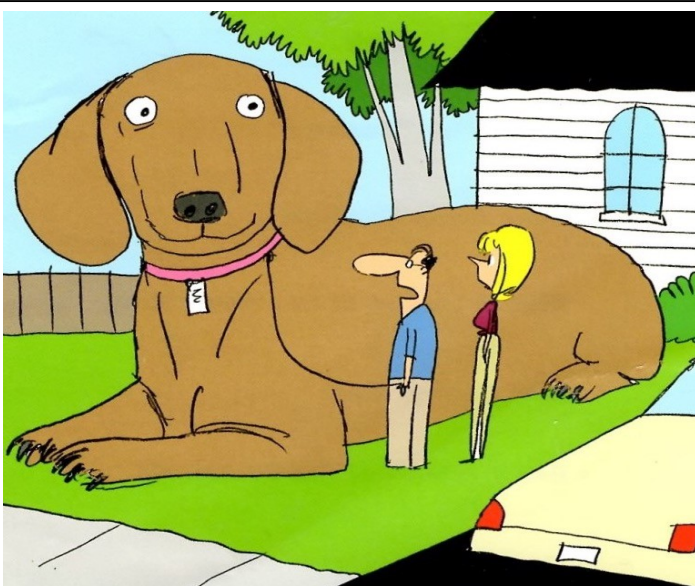
Anyone that has a dachshund knows they love to dig when given the opportunity, some more than others, but the instinct still remains firm even after years of being loveable couch potatoes. Dachshunds were bred to have oversized front feet; broad, compact, with strong nails and thick pads. Although the back feet are smaller than the front they still have rugged back pads. There was a time in dachshund history when the doxie was considered a working member of the hunting party and not a family companion. For centuries their job was to tunnel down into burrows with their long, slender body, using their huge paddle like feet to capture their prey. Mother Nature designed these unique paddle paws to be powerful tools for the dachshund to perform their designated role as hunters. They are indeed Mother Nature's best naturally made shovels.



Our sweet, beautiful Chanticleer is growing up. He reminds us every day how special a little doxie can be.

## Love THOSE PaWS

A dog's feet are complicated appendages. Of its 319 bones, a handful are dedicated to a dog's paws. Along with bones a dog's feet include: skin, tendons, ligaments, blood supply and connective tissue. Individual specialized pads serve as shock absorbers, brakes, abrasion resistors, insulators, and sweat glands. You can consider a dog's toes equivalent to your fingers. If your little doxie has soft, cushy feet he might suffer from "pampered feet syndrome," a sure sign that he is dearly loved.



"I don't understand it. She had the smallest paws in the entire litter."



## Do you enjoy having your feet massaged?

The answer is probably yes! Well, your little doxie loves it too! According to the ASPCA, a paw massage will relax your dog and promote better circulation. They recommend rubbing between the pads on the bottom of a paw, and then rubbing between each toe.