



Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ

www.doxierescue.com

Note: The information offered herein is for educational and informational purposes only. Seek the timely care of a licensed veterinarian or veterinary surgeon if you believe your dog is exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms of IVDD. This document does not seek to diagnose or treat IVDD.

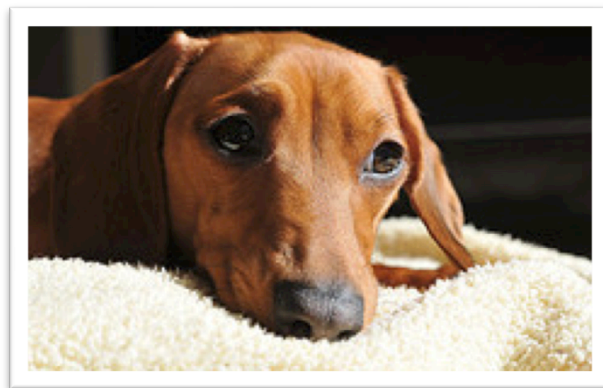
Home Care Issues for the IVDD Doxie

Recovery for the IVDD dachshund is not only a matter of healing time. The home support program your doxies will need is also critical for best outcome.

It is important to get a clear picture of your doxies limitations and capabilities before you bring them home from the hospital. Here at DRBC we work with our veterinarian support staff and develop an individual plan for each doxie to address the issues discussed in this document and on our website.

Bowel and Bladder Expression

DRBC advises that you learn how to perform both bladder and/or bowel expression from a veterinary professional. This is not a skill best learned from an instructional CD or over the Internet. Improper treatment can lead to additional medical problems.



Crate Rest

Crate rest, in some form is usually part of the DRBC Home Care Program. Our crate rest is staged depending on treatment stage [pre vs. post] and is based on recommendations from our veterinary care team.

This **IS** crate rest:

- Crate rest means that downed doxie is in the crate 99.9% of the time.
- They are carried out to go potty, allowed to take no more than 4-6 steps and then carried back inside to the crate.
- They eat in the crate.
- They sleep in the crate.

This **IS NOT** crate rest:

- Not in the crate.
- On the couch with you.
- In an exercise pen [X-Pen].
- In a small room.
- Tied to a doorknob [even while you are showering].
- Sitting near you, because they are 'quiet'.
- In your arms because they seemed unhappy or lonely.
- Riding in a stroller because they need air, you are walking your other dogs, you feel sorry for them all cooped up or for any other reason.
- Dragging the injured or recovering doxie to veterinarian after veterinarian after veterinarian after...well you get the idea. Not believing the diagnosis will not change the truth and it is not crate rest.
- Pushing physical therapy sooner than necessary. Allow proper healing before consulting a physical therapist. Again, not crate rest. Remember, the doxie can meet the physical therapist the day they actually start PT.

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Bedding for the IVDD Doxie

Confine your doxie to an area where there is plenty of soft bedding, when not in its doxie wheelchair or protective sac. It is important to keep your doxie from dragging itself around as this will help prevent pressure sores. It is also crucial to your doxie's health and recovery. Do not use a cart or protective sac unless advised by a member of your doxie's veterinary team.

Laying on a hard surface makes your handicapped doxie more susceptible to developing Decubital, or pressure, sores. This should be avoided at all times. Any existing pressure sores should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian or veterinary neurosurgeon immediately.

We have found the following guidelines to be helpful:

1. We recommend soft blankets such as a folded comforter or a blanket with eggshell foam and a protective cover below [wee-wee pads or human wheelchair pads work well in this situation.
2. Do not allow your handicapped doxie to lie continually on one side. Gently turn it over regularly. For doxies with forelimb weakness, or rear limb problems, it is sometimes better to prop them up in sternal recumbency [on abdomen with front legs extended and hind legs tucked up underneath] using rolled up blankets on either side of their body with their head resting on a rolled up towel.

Confused by that statement? Call your veterinary care team for help.

3. Do not allow your doxie to drag around, unprotected, over any hard surface, as this will cause pressure sores. Once established, these sores are difficult to heal.
4. Wash bedding frequently! Urine scald is a serious matter. Lift the protective pad and top blanket and replace with clean bedding as needed.

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Hygiene for the IVDD Doxie

Good hygiene is critical to the well being and overall health of the recovering dachshund. Bathing and inspection of their hindquarters for pressure sores are two key components of DRBC's home hygiene program.

Regular Bathing

Regular bathing will maintain your handicapped doxie's hair, coat and skin in healthy condition and prevent sores. Your doxie's hindquarters must be gently bathed, at least once daily, with warm water and a soft, clean washcloth. If your doxie has an excessive amount of hair, you may want to clip the rear area for sanitary reasons, ease of care, and to keep the area clean.

Baby wipes or a soft, soapy washcloth may be called for if your doxie is recovering from surgery. Ask your surgeon how long you should wait before beginning full baths.

Pressure Sores

Pressure sores can be extremely serious and, if not caught in time, can open right down to the bone. Prevention is the best answer. Proper bedding [see our Canine Cooler doxie bed], regular bathing, and use of a K9 handicap doxie wheelchair will also help prevent pressure sores.

Doxies should be checked every day for pressure sores as they can be hidden underneath the hair; be particularly watchful with long-haired doxies as the sores can be hidden in the coat. Check your doxie's hips and elbows for sores if it has a tendency to lie on one side. If your handicapped doxie continually lies on its side, we suggest placing it in a sternal recumbency [on abdomen with the front legs extended and rear legs tucked underneath]. You will also need to place a blanket on each side and one under the head to keep your handicapped doxie propped up.

If your doxie does incur pressure sores, visit your veterinarian immediately. Your veterinarian will probably clip and clean the area and advise you on proper care of pressure sores.

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Medical Support for the IVDD Doxie

Physical Therapy

Physical therapy represents one of the fastest growing segments of the veterinary industry. Recovery from an IVDD injury can be maximized through the use of physical therapy techniques.

DRBC doxie often seeks the assistance of a physical therapist following and appropriate healing time. Working with a certified veterinary physical therapist can help increase the rate and degree of improvement for your doxie. Remember, check with your veterinary surgeon to insure enough time has passed before obtaining a referral for PT! Visit us on the web to find out more about PT and to find a certified veterinary physical therapist in your area. Here are some helpful links:

Within the DRBC Area [PA/NJ]:

[Red Bank Veterinary Hospital](#)

Outside the DRBC Area [PA/NJ]:

[University of Tennessee National Database](#)



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Alternate Therapy: Canine Acupuncture

Acupuncture is one of the world's oldest and safest medical treatments and relies on the use of very fine painless needles placed in strictly defined positions on the recipient, which is thought to affect the flow of energy around the limbs, body and head.

Canine Acupuncture results in the release of the body's own endorphins which are very effective pain killers and can, in correctly chosen cases, have very significant beneficial effects not only on the musculoskeletal system but also on medical complaints. Holistic veterinarians believe it has an important role in the treatment of veterinary patients.

Not Painful

Although insertion of needles may cause in a few cases a very short lived tingling sensation, small animal patients are in general very tolerant of acupuncture and some may even relax so much as to fall asleep during treatment!

Noticeable Improvements

Generally improvement in susceptible cases will be seen after 2 to 3 sessions, though occasionally, animals are immediately better with regards to stiffness and improved mobility after their first treatment.

Medications

Medications for pain, inflammation and general wellness may be utilized as part of the recovery program. Common medications used in the treatment of DRBC doxies can be found in the pharmacy section of the DRBC website.

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Sling Walking

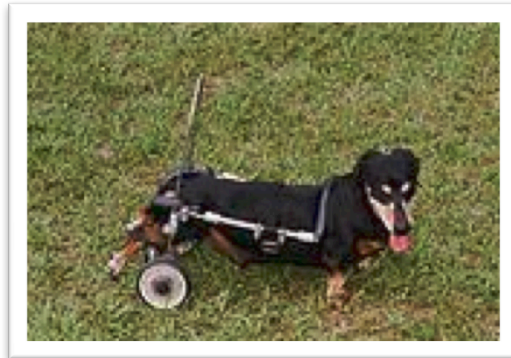


Pictured above is a doxie in a sling. Note that the back is level and although the back legs are not supporting the doxies body, the sling is. Veterinary staff members can teach you the proper way to use a sling or towel to assist your doxie. Talk to your veterinary care team about the use of a sling for your doxie.

Did You Know? This procedure is also know as 'towel walking' as frequently a large towel can be used to make the sling. Your veterinarian can tech you to use a towel for walking although other options are available. Visit us on the web at www.doxierescue.com for additional information.

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Cart Walking



Some doxies need a cart during recovery, others will need a cart for the rest of their lives. Your veterinary surgeon will advise you concerning recovery times and the need for a cart.

Here are some general tips when renting or purchasing a cart for your downed doxie:

- Every doxies body is different...different length, different height, different weight. Avoid 'borrowing' a cart because the doxie that cart was made for will not be the same as yours. Get a custom fit.
- Doxies that will use a cart for life often loose weight due to muscle atrophy. Their cart will need to be adjusted over time. Talk to your cart manufacturer about a refit when ordering the cart.
- Hygiene is key for the IVDD dachshund and for the doxie's cart too. Diapers with belly bands [males] or panties [girls] minimize the inevitable, but do not eliminate urine and stool on the cart itself. Always inspect the cart closely when taking your doxie out for bedtimes or expressions. Clean, clean, clean; it is key.

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Protective Sacs



Here are some general tips when using a protective sac for your downed doxie:

- Hygiene is key for the IVDD dachshund and for the doxie's sac too. Plan on having several on hand as this item will spend a lot of time in the washer. Clean, clean, clean; it is key.
- Always look for pressure sores and scrapes, even when using a protective sac. Remember, doxies, even those with the power of only 2 legs want to run, run run. They may not feel changing surfaces and can injure themselves unintentionally. Inspect, don't expect!

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