



Mark McKinley  
Director of Central Record Services  
Guinness World Records

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Via e-mail: [mark.mckinley@guinnessworldrecords.com](mailto:mark.mckinley@guinnessworldrecords.com)

Dear Mr McKinley:

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide. We were disappointed to see that Guinness World Records gave an award to the “largest dachshund dog walk” recently staged in London. Celebrating unhealthy dog breeds like dachshunds perpetuates animal suffering, and we urge you to please revoke this record and promote records broken only by marvellous mutts in the future.

Dogs bred with intentional deformities often suffer from debilitating health problems, and sadly, dachshunds are no exception. Their unnaturally short legs and long spines put them at a higher risk of developing lifelong spinal, knee, and other joint problems, and one in four dachshunds suffers from painful intervertebral disc disease.

The issues dachshunds face are so concerning that German lawmakers are considering a ban on breeding them and other dogs with “skeletal anomalies” that cause severe health problems. The proposed bill even refers to these animals as victims of “torture breeding”. Of course, health issues also spell higher veterinary fees, which – especially during the current cost-of-living crisis – leads to a rise in abandonments and rehoming. Since there are already an estimated 100,000 dogs without homes in the UK at any given time, promoting more pedigree dogs – particularly those intentionally bred to be malformed – is clearly irresponsible.

We appreciate that Guinness World Records is responsive to requests that can help animals: the group previously rightly removed all mentions of elephant polo due to the cruelty involved. We’re hopeful that you will again do the right thing by revoking this record and ensuring that only rescued mutts snag the spotlight in the future.

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Vice President of Programmes  
PETA UK

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**Affiliates:**

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