

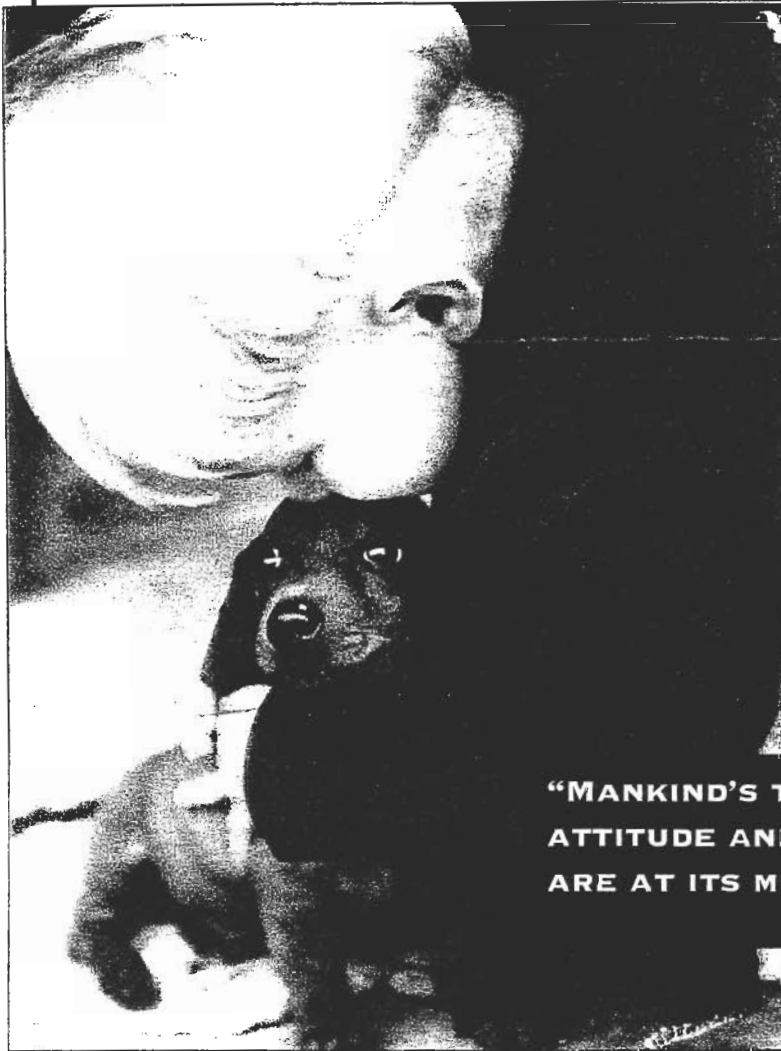
# The Dachshund Friendship Club<sup>®</sup>

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*The Dachshund Friendship Club is a non-competitive club. Our purpose is to promote responsible pet guardianship, to introduce dogs and their guardians to each other, and to encourage a friendly interaction.*

## From Owners to Guardians



Last May, an historic event took place in Wanaque, New Jersey, when the mayor and the council amended the municipal code to read: "Animal Guardian" instead of "Owner" in all recorded references. It will be the first city in New Jersey to do so, and has already generated enormous media attention, causing nine other towns to follow suit. The group In Defense of Animals has initiated animal guardianship resolutions around the country.

By referring to pet owners as guardians, the entire human-animal relationship takes on another meaning and hopefully will inspire better stewardship of the animals in our care and around us. Dr. Eliot Katz, veterinarian and president of In Defense of Animals, praised the Wanaque ordinance change. "I am delighted that Wanaque has recognized the importance of this seemingly subtle word change. Because almost all animal abuse and neglect stems from viewing animals as property, this is an important step in changing people's consciousness regarding the animals with whom

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we share our lives."

DFC members Bruce and Jillyane Zeman of Wanaque spearheaded this campaign and carried it to

fruition through three years of hard work. The Zemans were inspired by the shoddy treatment they received from a landlord regarding their pet. The law has been nicknamed "Nathan's Law" in honor of the Zeman's dachshund companion, Nathan.

Nathan underwent major back surgery at the Red Bank Animal Hospital in New Jersey and continues to make a remarkable recovery, Bruce says. "We are really grateful to Dr. Murray. If you looked at Nathan you would not know that he had a serious operation. We count our blessings daily, that's for sure."