



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Number 3

February, 2012

From our President Stephanie Fischer (ilovtrav@aol.com)

Welcome to winter everyone. As I write this, I have just come in from two hours at the dog park, feet and hands frozen, but with two very happy and tired Vizslas. The days have started to get longer and spring for me cannot come fast enough.

I want to thank Ellen and Ron Padilla again for hosting a very fabulous holiday party. All of us who attended laughed and ate until our sides hurt! The pictures are now posted in the gallery section of the website for everyone to view.

All of you have just received the email regarding our Specialty Show in Secaucus. For those of you who have

never been to a show this large, it is incredible to see typically more than 70 Vizslas in one place. The year Cliffy was entered there were more than 100. These dogs come from all over the country to compete at Westminster, and these shows are the "warm-ups" for the following Tuesday. If you cannot attend, think about making a raffle basket or donating a trophy. This is a fundraiser for our club. Our show committee has worked very hard on putting together what will be a very successful show.

It is also time for the nominating committee to get to work on board positions. For anyone interested in possibly joining the board, or joining a

committee, please contact me and I can steer you in the right direction.

In conjunction with the presidency and rescue, I also chair the membership committee. I would love to find someone to take this over for me. It involves the membership renewals, and keeping the email list up to date.

As the club continues to grow, I am seeing new friendships form and more people attending our events. I want the

momentum to keep going. Please email us with any new ideas you may have for group functions. My motto has always been let's all get together with our dogs and have a bit of education sprinkled in. Our annual general membership meeting will be again in April with the nomination of our Board of Directors. Emails will follow with the exact date and location.

Stay warm,
Stephanie

Treasurer's Report: The Club fund balance is \$3,137.43

Ray Fischer, Treasurer

Membership Report: In February, the new membership renewal will be emailed out. We currently have 98 families with active memberships.

Selected Upcoming Events

CONFORMATION

VCLI Conformation Specialty 2/11

Meadowlands, Secaucus, NJ

Westminster Kennel Club, 2/13-14 NYC
Elm City Kennel Club 2/18 Hartford, CT
First Co. Governor's Foot Guard Athletic Assn. 2/19 Hartford, CT
Rockland Co. Kennel Club 2/25-26 Suffern
Monticello Kennel Club 3/9-10 Milton
Saw Mill Kennel Club 3/11 Milton
New Brunswick Kennel Club 3/24 Edison, NJ
Bronx Co. Kennel Club 3/25 Edison, NJ
Trenton Kennel Club, 5/6-7 W. Windsor Twp, NJ
Ladies Kennel Assn. 5/18-19 Oyster Bay
Monmouth Co. Kennel Club 5/25-26, Freehold, NJ
Plainfield Kennel Club 5/27 Freehold, NJ

HUNT TESTS

LIPDFTC 3/10-11 Riverhead
LI German Shorthaired Pointer Club 3/31-4/1 Riverhead
Nutmeg Weimaraner Club 3/31-4/1 Simsbury, CT
Vizsla Club of Greater NY April 14-15, Clarksburg, NJ
Southern New England Pointing Dog Club 3/21-22 Wolcott, CT

For more information, go to:

<http://www.akc.org/events/search/>
<http://vcaweb.org>
<http://www.vcli.net>
<http://www.vcnnj.com/>
<http://www.ctvalleyVizslaclub.org/CalendarofEvents.htm>
<http://www.thevcgny.com/Events.html>
<http://www.vccne.net/events.html>
<http://www.lipdc.com/>
<http://www.infodog.com/showinfo/state.htm>



Rescue Committee Report

The past four months has been a very busy time for rescue. Seven dogs have found permanent homes and Rusty and Remington are living a wonderful life at their foster home. Within all of these cases, there was a tremendous joint effort among people, clubs and other rescue groups to get these dogs in their forever homes. I am most proud of the group effort that took place and the network that seems to be forming. I have to thank all of you who phoned, emailed, offered monetary help or your homes for fostering the same weekend Long Island breeder Barb Ehlers passed away, and Rusty and Remington entered our program. All of Barb's dogs have also found forever homes, with the help of Carol Phelps in Connecticut and New Hope V Rescue in Pennsylvania.

Rusty and Remy are being fostered in Connecticut with a wonderful family who lost their last Vizsla last year. I have had many inquiries about them from as far away as Ottawa Canada, but the foster family and I believe that they should remain in the tri-state area. I would not be comfortable re-homing them that far away. They have both been perfect gentlemen, are great with the kids and are very easygoing. Again, we would like them re-homed together.

A few months ago I got a call from a woman with a 5-month-old Vizsla puppy. She bought the puppy, and then did her research (imagine that). She walked into Shake-A-Paw with a 3- year-old and twin 3-month-old kids and they sold her a V saying they were great with kids. Here we go again!

Fortunately that puppy ended up in our program and was placed with a wonderful family in Connecticut. Ziggy, as he is now called, will grow up with a family that knows the breed and loves him and all of his energy.

I came down to the computer one morning to find an email from a woman who ran a Mastiff rescue in Staten Island. Her exact words to me were, "I acquired a 10-month-old Vizsla puppy and need your help!" You see there was a gentleman who purchased a pup for a mere \$3000 in New York City, again without doing any research. The pup was too much work, so he gave him to his receptionist. The receptionist contacted her friend who ran mastiff rescue, and she contacted me.

Nelson, needed to be re-homed pretty quickly, as he was taking up valuable space in a boarding facility over the Christmas holiday. Chris Cheeseman and Lauren Marano have been after me for another dog. I called them about Nelson, and without hesitation, they were on their way to Staten Island. Stephanie, who runs Mastiff rescue thought it was a match made in heaven, as Nelson jumped right into their arms. She commented on how energetic and crazy he was and how they just took it in stride. I explained he was a typical Vizsla, not a passive mastiff. "This is why I own Mastiffs" Stephanie said, "He would drive me crazy with all of his energy."

When I met up with Lauren and Chris, I quickly told them that Nelson, whom they quickly renamed Oakley, was not 10 months old, and when we got his paperwork I was right. They

were lucky enough to get a 6-month-old baby to spoil.

The last of this bunch, Obi, was just placed this past Sunday. Obi's story will be in the next newsletter. Suffice it to say he is now living on 6 acres of rolling hills in Connecticut with an absolutely incredible family and a 12- year-old Vizsla brother.

Stephanie Fischer ilovtrav@aol.com



Ziggy's Story

Ziggy couldn't have come at a better time! Dave and I have had Vizslas for the past 20 years and very sadly, we lost three of them in this past year. Ziggy came into our lives at 5 months of age and has adjusted to our family very well. He has such a wonderful sense of humor and lots of expression when he communicates with us. Yes, he does talk to us!! Sometimes we have full blown conversations! ☺ My teenage son, Jake, says he is the brother he never had and my daughter can't get enough Vizsla kisses.



Love my toys!

He has learned many things since he has been with us including giving both paws, sit, down and stay. He loves to be covered at night and as all Vizslas he can't get close enough to us when he rolls up into his little cinnamon bun

pose. After a nice restful evening in our bed, he wakes bright and early to play catch with his kong in his new yard. He sure can run! He leaps pretty high too. We love watching him leap and catch the kong in the air... pretty cool!!! No soft toys for Ziggy, at least not yet. He just rips them apart. No worries though, he loves kong toys and nylabones. He makes us laugh when he tries to "bury" his bone in all of the corners of the house.

We did have Ziggy during the October snow storm and he seems to enjoy the snow. He has so much energy! We go for a nice walk every day and at least twice a week, we take him to the dog trails where he can run and run and meet new friends.



So, where are the girls?

Speaking of new friends he has three girlfriends that visit him from time to time. He's a busy guy! He won't be too busy for classes in the spring though. Ziggy is a joy and we are so happy he is part of our family. We love him!

Sandy & Dave Wall



Oakley's Story

December 23. Two days 'till Christmas. It was right about that time we started to panic; did we get each other enough this year? What else could we do, could we buy? Let's take this day off with each other and instead split up to go buy some last minute presents; because

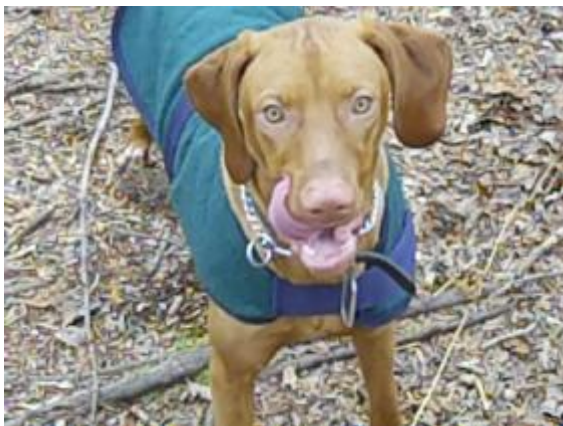
there's sure to be something special left at this point even though we agreed not to do presents this year. Yeah...as we look back, there might have been some divine intervention...setting out to give us a Christmas we'll never forget.

Will he like us??? Will he want to come home with us? Such anticipation as we drove to Staten Island. Between the kisses and throwing himself into our arms, we didn't have to wonder for long. Scrawny, but happy to see us it seemed. Almost pretty like a female Vizsla, you can't help but notice his hazel eyes - so nice, so sweet. Crazy to think that anyone would give him up, that he had no muscle, no manners, and that he had food aggression at such an early age...that someone named him Nelson. One thing at a time...we re-named him Oakley. He's not a Nelson.

And now, time to go home and meet Sake.

Where are they already???? What kind of day off is this? Why did daddy ask me if I wanted a brother? What does that even mean? Time to pick him up? WHO??

Tails wagging and curious pokes by one another all the way to the park...but wow, how nicely they play! Could we be the luckiest family ever? Not so fast. As Stephanie would later tell us: "the honeymoon is not over yet."



I'm a cutie!

Well, this is fun. A new friend! A little unruly, but certainly breaking up the day. So strange that daddy is walking him. Poor guy doesn't have parents? Wonder if he's new to the neighborhood...maybe I'll play with him again some time. Why is he coming in my house? Now this is just getting too much. No one asked me about this. Oh great. He's frisky. I'll show him. Two can play at this game. Umm...How long can this guy keep this up? This is actually getting rather unpleasant. Oh. HOURS!

Christmas morning. Oakley's first Christmas and Sake's third. Oakley learns how to open presents like Sake...who is already a pro. Sake knows to open only the ones you tell him are for him; Oakley...not so much. He loves toys though, he's so playful. It wouldn't be truthful to say there wasn't a fair share of tears, frustration, worry and doubt. We had thought opening our home and family was dependent on space, willingness, desire, having enough love to give...but no amount of good intention matters as you watch the dynamics of your family change. Now the question was what did we do????

Why did mommy and daddy do this to me? So unnecessary. We were so happy, so perfect. Now, I can't even have a moment's peace. This animal takes my food, my toys...I try to be a good boy like they ask me, but how much can I take. Oh no. Not my Christmas presents!!! Are you kidding me? What did I do to deserve this?

Fast forward just a few weeks. A few weeks but now a real family of four. Oakley understands that he is here to stay, that this is his house too and that we love him. He is trying and so are we. He has his own little personality...his favorite spot to curl up, the way he leans into you when he wants a hug. He loves his family! His Aunt Gaylen, his Grandma, his cousins James and Meghin...and they all help take good care of him. We love our family walks in the woods...love to lounge

on the couch in front of the fire after long day of hiking, playing and eating. Speaking of eating...Oakley now knows the wonders of peanut butter and the magic of ice cream....yep, he's officially our boy. We all sleep in the shrinking Queen size bed now...there had to have been a way around that but we couldn't see it...only our Vizsla club family would understand.

Love him? Well, I don't know about THAT. Sometimes it's nice to have him around...he is finally gaining some weight so he's comfy to curl up with. I try and show him what pushovers my parents are. I mean our parents. We can get anything just by sitting! I wish he wouldn't jump on the counter and make mommy so upset. He should just try to be more like me and then he'd be perfect. I guess I have a brother now. I will do my best to be a good big brother...I have a playmate for life. That part is kind of cool.



A new family moment.

Chris Cheeseman, Lauren Marano and Sake

Medication for Your Pet... Questions for Your Vet

Questions you should ask your veterinarian when medication is prescribed

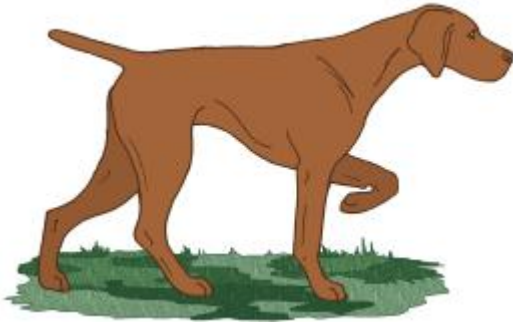
1. Why has my pet been prescribed this medication and how long do I need to give it?
2. How do I give the medication to my pet? Should it be given with food?
3. How often should the medication be given and how much should I give each time? If it is a liquid, should I shake it first?
4. How do I store the medication?
5. What should I do if my pet vomits or spits out the medication?
6. If I forget to give the medication, should I give it as soon as I remember or wait until the next scheduled dose? What if I accidentally give too much?
7. Should I finish giving all of the medication, even if my pet seems to be back to normal?
8. Could this medication interact with other medications my pet is taking?
9. What reactions should I watch for, and what should I do if I see any side effects?
10. When should I bring my pet back for a recheck? Will you be calling me to check on my pet's progress, or should I call you?

If you have any questions during your pet's treatment, contact your veterinarian.

Center for Veterinary Medicine

**THE VCLI HOLIDAY PARTY REMEMBERED
BY KEVIN AND BOB**





Focus on the Field

by Andrew Campbell (guest columnist)

“You call yourself a hunter... and you have a Vizsla?”

I don't remember when or who said that to me, although I suspect they owned a German Shorthair or an English Setter (insert whatever breed name you want). Suffice to say, it was early in our life with Vizslas, early enough that I felt a little defensive but for no real reason.

2011 was an interesting year for me with regard to my own preferences and predispositions. As an active AKC hunt test judge, I get to see a variety of breeds work their magic--and I have to admit that for 2011, the two Junior Hunter dogs that surprised and impressed me the most were both Spinones. Which made me wonder about what kinds of other prejudice I'd been harboring. I've never seen a Bracco Italiano work and, from what I gather, there aren't many in the United States, but a friend of a friend who has one confirmed what I suspected, that these were a large, fairly lumbering dog. Every dog has its own personality and there are regional variations within every breed, but what my friend said confirmed my prejudice so I attached a high degree of statistical significance to this sample size of one. However, when I mentioned this to

another friend, Craig Koshyk, who has written a tremendous book called *The Continentals* (available from <http://www.dogwilling.ca/volume-one.html>) about the pointing breeds of Europe and North America, he sent me a video clip of a young Italian-bred Bracco working a large field. Vizslas tend to gallop or canter when they hunt, essentially using a two- or three-beat gait. Braccos naturally settle into a four-beat running walk when they hunt akin to the four-beat walk that most walking horses (i.e. Tennessee Walkers, Paso Finos, Rocky Mountain Horses, etc.) employ. To watch this large dog cover territory with a high head and level topline was a real revelation; it didn't make me suddenly want one, but it gave me a new degree of respect for the Bracco Italiano.

A friend active in the Ruffed Grouse Society also asked me if Vizslas would make good grouse dogs. Before moving south of the Mason-Dixon line to manage a private plantation, Don Brown, of Dobrocat Vizslas, was a licensed New York State guide for thirty years and made a decent living using

Vizslas exclusively to guide paying clients on grouse and woodcock.

My own feeling is that no matter how strong the genetics of a particular dog, development and training are what make good (insert bird species) dogs. At the core, birds make a bird dog. Our middle dog, Jozsi, is a lousy woodcock dog because he's maybe been exposed to two or three in his four-year life, but he has successfully pointed Gambel's, blue scaled, and bobwhite quail among others. Our oldest dog, Momo, lacks the boldness and power that Jozsi possesses, but he hates to bump birds into the air by mistake and will pace himself as if he had to hunt all day each time he goes out. Part of it is his personality and part of it is that, as our first pointing dog, hunting is what we did together -- on pheasants, quail, and chukar on preserves, and on woodcock and grouse in the woods.

By suggesting that development and training make a good hunting dog, I don't mean to discount genetics; after all, while I have seen a Jack Russell point a quail hiding under a bush (and Momo subsequently honor its point), if I were looking for a pointing dog, I wouldn't start with a Jack Russell. The same logic nevertheless applies within the breed: if you are looking for a hunting dog, then look for a field-bred Vizsla; on the other end of the spectrum, if you are looking for a Vizsla to go hunting with, then be aware of what some of the stronger field trial lines are and approach them with caution. Exceptional dogs can do both--hunt on foot and field trial from horseback--but that is why they are called 'exceptional'.

Irrespective of the genetic payload they

carry with them, the kind of payload that may inform them that a new species belongs to the same genre of stinky, flying things that their owners also desire, that makes them instinctively stand tall in honor of another dog's point, or retrieve a bird to hand, it is still development, training, and patience that ultimately make the bird dog. Lacking development and encouragement through bird exposure, a dog that isn't excited or motivated enough to go more than 25 yards from his handler gives the foot hunter no advantage in the field when trying to find game; a dog who isn't trained to hold its point and be steady to the shot, at least, is also of very limited use for the foot hunter. But these expectations aren't specific to a breed, nor are they specific to hunting.



Andrew and Jozsi

This is to say that in a time when we lose increasing amounts of bird habitat to housing developments, access to hunting grounds is increasingly difficult. The number of truly wild quail, for example, that may or may not still exist out on eastern Long Island is open to much debate. A less contentious argument might be made regarding what's best for the breed (and in fact, we could insert any of the pointing breeds in here), that whatever games we choose to play with our dogs -- whether hunting, field trialing, or earning hunt test titles -- we

have an obligation to keep the 'sporting' in 'sporting dog.' And by calling these activities 'games,' I don't mean to trivialize that game birds' lives will be taken lightly but rather that each of these activities has a set of rules or performance expectations. A foot hunter with a single dog may care not a whit about training his dog to honor, but he might encourage his dog to circle around upwind of running pheasants to block them. A field trialer would think nothing of singing her dog even further out, but would expect absolute statuesque manners from her dog once it had established point. But I do believe that we have an obligation to the Vizsla to ensure that we continue to test, trial, and hunt our dogs.

William F. Brown, one of the truly great reporters for the *American Field* (and subsequently its editor), the weekly newspaper devoted to the sport of field trialing, wrote in the very first lines of his *How to Train Hunting Dogs* (1942): "A graceful bird dog ranges swiftly through an expansive stubble field, testing each vagrant breeze of the frosty morning for the warm scent of game. Suddenly his rhythmic motion suspends. The dog freezes into a majestic pose, every muscle tense, every fiber aflame, head high and tail aloft... and the hunter can prepare for some exciting sport." The fact remains that whichever game you play with your Vizsla, there is nothing so satisfying as that scene, nothing so satisfying as the sense of

teamwork and companionship that brought you both to that time and place. And it doesn't get old, it just gets more expensive!

In my opinion, the good news is that Vizslas may be the pointing dogs with the highest potential for cross-over between horseback field trialing and foot hunting because of their unusually deep bond with their owners. I'm not suggesting that other breeds with other owners don't love each other, but no-one ever called a German Shorthair a "velcro dog."

Whatever the breed, Horace Lytle, another of the great sporting dog writers (and a judge of the National Championship at the Ames Plantation), summed it up nicely in his *Breaking a Bird Dog* (1923): "this just gets right back to my idea that it is *companionship* and *confidence* that will accomplish the purpose you seek--more than any deep secret or mysterious power or special knowledge about how to secure a given result. Love, backed by common sense and good judgment, will do more than anything else in the world." About the only thing I can think of that might make you think twice about using a Vizsla as a hunting dog would be trying to find your Vizsla on point in the woods in early Fall as the leaves turn an equally beautiful golden-rust color, but the fact is that the only real hunting dog, perhaps the best hunting dog in the world, is the one you take out in the woods.

Andrew Campbell is an AKC hunt test and field trial judge, lucky enough to have a loving wife who indulges his obsession with pointing dogs. Everything he knows about pointing dogs comes from that magical moment of watching their oldest Vizsla, Momo, point grouse in the woods in Maine as a pup. He is now owned and operated by two Vizslas and a pointer.

Resources for Rescues

How To Teach A New Dog Old Tricks by Dr. Ian Dunbar

The methods and advice covered in this book are just as useful today as they were thirty years ago when it was first published. Ahead of his time, Dr. Dunbar was one of the first proponents of the importance of puppy socialization to prevent behavioral problems in dogs, and although this book was originally written as a puppy training guide, according to Dr. Dunbar, the techniques are just as useful for retraining adult dogs. In this book you will find a “Temperament Training” section intended to prevent issues before they begin, a “Behavior Modification” section with ideas for solving nuisance problems like digging, chewing, and barking, as well as a common sense guide to “Obedience Training.” For those who would like to go beyond the basics, this book also includes a short section on “Training Theory,” which will no doubt whet your appetite for more. Although the focus of this book is on “training true companion dogs,” the author encourages owners to also consider training for competition, just because, “it’s a lot of fun.”

Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home by Patricia B. McConnell, PhD and Karen B. London, PhD

This handy booklet is meant to be an introductory guide for the first time adopter, and for the questions it can’t answer among its 83 pages, it provides a comprehensive resource section along with tips on how to choose a dog trainer. The first half of this book describes how to prepare for your new addition, how to introduce Fido to your family, and what to do once you have him in your home. The second half is dedicated to behavioral issues, explaining which you can fix easily on your own, which might just need a bit of patience, and when you should seek outside counsel. In my opinion, *Love Has No Age Limit* would be a great hand out for anyone interested in adopting, and my favorite insight from it was this: “If you are dealing with a behavioral problem, it’s helpful to remember that anyone who adopts a puppy has two to three years of training in front of him. If it only takes you a year, you are well ahead of the game, right?”

Do Over Dogs: Give Your Dog a Second Chance for a First Class Life by Pat Miller, CPDT-KA, CDBC

If I had to choose only one book to purchase about rescuing dogs, raising dogs, training dogs, and resolving behavioral problems in dogs, this comprehensive manual would be my first choice. This well written guidebook touches on a broad array of topics, and while the beginning chapters are certainly geared towards owners of adopted dogs, you will find a wealth of information that would be helpful to any dog owner – even the potential one. Pat Miller discusses why dogs end up in rescue in the first place, how to handle “The Honeymoon Period” when you first bring your new dog home, and how to integrate your new friend into your existing pack. This book also includes an extensive “Do-Over Repair Manual” covering everything from common training problems to more difficult issues like resource guarding, separation anxiety, and canine obsessive compulsive disorders. I had a hard time putting this book down, and throughout nearly every section I found myself saying, “I wish I knew that before I got my first dog.”

- Donna Owczarek

Winter Pet Safety

Your pet will stay snug and warm with our handy recommendations.

The old and the young are particularly sensitive to the cold and more likely to suffer in extreme temperatures. Pay close attention to kittens, puppies, and older cats and dogs in the cold weather and react promptly if you sense discomfort.

Proper nourishment helps a pet endure the vicissitudes of winter. Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors may need to eat more than they do in other seasons because they are expending more energy coping with the cold. Snow is not a source of drinking water for pets. You still must provide plenty of fresh water when your pet is outdoors. Change the water several times a day and do not let it freeze. If installed properly and checked regularly, electrically--heated water bowls are an option.

Examine your pet's paws before he comes back in the house, do so several times a day if your pet spends most of his day outdoors. To prevent trapped moisture from causing sores,

remove any snow or ice packed between the toes of your pet's footpads and wipe his paws.

Clip your pet's nails and trim the hair between her toes and on the bottom of her feet. Long nails interfere with your pet's traction on icy surfaces, and hair collects snow that turns to ice balls.

Booties can help protect your pet's feet from cold and from road salt and deicing chemicals. Cats may not tolerate booties. Low humidity and heat from fireplaces can cause dry skin and shedding. Brush your pet frequently to get rid of dead hair and skin and to stimulate oil glands.

When you stock up on essentials like candles and canned goods before a major snowstorm, don't forget pet food and any medications your pet may need. A pet first-aid kit, available at pet supply stores, is a sensible precaution, too.

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Dog Shows In a Nutshell, Part Two, Movement

Show Lead Set-Ups: Type, Position and Pressure

There are all different types and styles of show lead set-ups, and you may have to experiment to find the set-up that your dog works best on. Leather, nylon, parachute and metal collars and leads of various thickness and length are all available. Different materials work for different dogs. There are also one piece, loop leads, metal bolt clasp and martingale leads of varying lengths. For a beginner, try a parachute collar with a 3' loop lead ; however, if your dog is out of control, try a fine metal show choke and soft wide lead. Shorter leads allow less finesse, but they are easier for novices to maneuver.

- *Figure out which lead position works best for your dog. The two most common lead placements are over the head behind the ears, or on the side of the head below the ear. Generally, a novice dog gaits straighter on a lead up over the head.*
- *You will also have to practice to figure out how much tension on the lead works best for your dog. Some dogs fight any pressure on their necks; other dogs need firm pressure to maintain control.*

Patterns of Movement

When exhibiting your Vizsla, there are only a few basic patterns that are used 99% of the time (in the rare case that you are asked to move a pattern you are unfamiliar with, ask the judge to explain how to do it). Your dog is always on your left side for the basic patterns:

- **Go Round:** *Take your dog counterclockwise around the ring and stop where indicated by the judge and free stack (or hard stack if you are first in line).*
- **Diagonal Down and back:** *Take your dog straight to the opposite diagonal corner from where you start. When you get to the corner, bring the dog all the way around your body and line up again with the judge. Come straight back and free stack.*
- **Straight down and back:** *Take your dog straight to the opposite side of the ring where directed by the judge. Bring the dog all the way around your body and line up again with the judge. Come straight back and free stack.*
- **Triangle:** *Take your dog straight down the side of the ring where the judge is standing. Turn at the first corner and take the dog to the next corner. When you get to the corner, bring the dog all the way around your body and line up again with the judge. Come straight back and free stack.*

Run in a straight line.

- *Pick an object to run toward so you run straight going away from the judge.*
- *Pause and look at the judge before you start moving back and make sure your dog is lined up correctly.*

- **Make sure that your dog (not you) is lined up directly in front of the judge going and coming.**
- **Do not watch the dog the entire time you are moving because it may cause you to run crooked. Take quick glances back.**

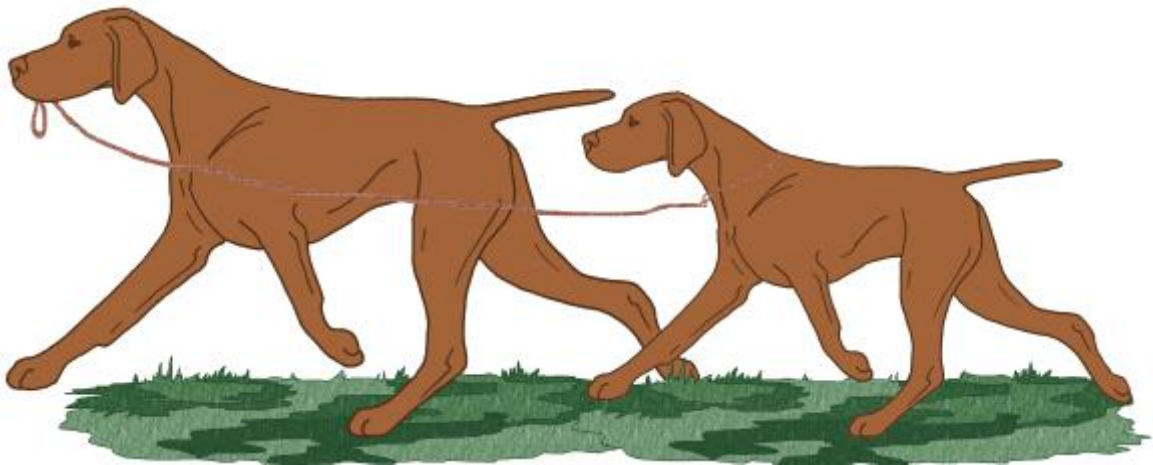
Keep both arms under control.

- **Keep your leash hand (left hand and arm) steady (jerking movements will negatively affect your dog's movement). Keep your left elbow close to your body and hold the lead naturally.**
- **Keep your right hand and arm from swinging wildly (swinging right arms are distracting to the judge).**

Move your dog at a gait at the best pace for your dog.

- **Make sure your dog is gaiting (opposite front and rear foot coming together underneath the dog). Your dog should not be pacing (the front and rear foot on each side moving together in the same direction) or galloping (both front feet moving together and both rear feet moving together). The goal is a dog that reaches its front, drives its rear, converges to a single track under its body and is light footed (floats).**
- **Figure out your dog's best pace. Do not drag your dog or allow your dog to drag you around the ring.**
- **If your dog moves quickly, count to 3 before taking off after the person ahead of you goes.**
- **If your dog moves very slowly, warn the person behind you that you intend to move slowly.**
- **Do not make sudden stops. Pay attention to the person ahead of you so that you do not overrun them.**
- **Do not be intimidated into moving more quickly or slowly; you are presenting your dog and other exhibitors are responsible for adjusting their take-offs accordingly.**

From Szizzlin Vizslas, Reg., <http://www.szizlin.com/>
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How to Read a Dog Advertisement

Noted JudgeHe put up our dog
Respected JudgeHe put up our dog twice
Esteemed JudgeHe puts up anything that crawls
Shown Sparingly Only when we had it in the bag
Show ProspectHe has 4 legs, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 tail
Finished in 5 showsAnd 89 where he failed to win a ribbon
He has good points.....His head is shaped like a carrot
Won in heavy competition.....The others were revoltingly overweight
Multiple group winner..... At 2 puppy matches
Specialist JudgePuts up anything that looks like his own breeding
Well BalancedStraight as a stick, front and rear
Quiet gentle naturedAfter 4 valiums
Excels in type and style.....However, moves like a spider on speed
Personality Plus..... Wakes up if you put liver up his nose
Large boned.....Looks like a Clydesdale
Good bite Missed the judge, got the steward
Lovely head..... 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 mouth, 1 nose
Excels in movementIf he gets loose, put on your running shoes
Gorgeous Coat..... If the hairspray lasts until the class finishes
Handled brilliantly by..... Nobody else can get near him
Won in stiff competition..... Beat 4 puppies and a 9-year-old novice dog
At stud to "approved" bitches.....Those bitches whose owners check is "approved" by our
bank
Linebred from famous champions.....Ch Whoozitz appears twice in 6th generation
Good Obedience prospect.....Smart enough to come in from the rain but he's UG-
LEE
Terrific brood bitch.....Her conformation is the pits, but she throws big litters
Great stud dogMounts anything that can fog a mirror
Loves childrenFor breakfast, lunch and dinner
Wins another Best In ShowHis second, under the same judge, our uncle

Source unknown



Talking with a Long Island Dog Trainer

Susan Scelzi

Blue Ribbon Dog Training School

<http://blueribbondogschool.com/blog/>

(631) 357-2492

493 Johnson Avenue, Suite 11, Bohemia, NY 11716

By Donna Owczarek nickndeeo@optonline.net

Many of our club members might remember Susan Scelzi from several of the VCLI's events, including our Vizsla Fun Day this past August at which she did a K9 Nose Work demonstration and tested many of our Vizslas for their Canine Good Citizen Certificates. Along with being a Canine Good Citizen Evaluator and the ONLY Certified Nose Work Instructor on Long Island, Susan is also a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She has been training dogs for over twenty years and when I asked how she got started, she remarked, "I started training my own dog, and I never stopped."

Susan began training under Eunice Moreno, "who is no longer with us," as well as Helene Doberman and Geraldine Englemark. At first, Susan started teaching after being told, "We need someone to sit in and learn Puppy Kindergarten to be a substitute" and it just snowballed from there. Today, Susan's training method is, "Food based. Mostly positive, with corrections," and if you are deciding on a trainer to work with you and your dog, Susan advised, "You have to be comfortable with them, and with whatever their philosophy is."

At her school, Blue Ribbon Dog Training, currently located in Bohemia, you can enroll in a wide variety of classes, including K9 Nose Work,

Beginner Obedience, Advanced Beginners with CGC, Open & Utility, Agility, Breed Handling/Junior Showmanship, and AKC Star Puppy. Susan and her assistant, Annette Alfieri, teach all of the classes except for Breed Handling/Junior Showmanship, which is currently being taught by Gail O'Connell.

Susan participates in all that she teaches with a red dog of her own by her side, a Rhodesian Ridgeback named Ushamwari's Mwangwi Afrika MC CD RE OF OA OAJ CGC HIC TDI NW1, affectionately known as Riki. Although his career in conformation ended prematurely due to a kink in his tail, Riki currently competes in lure coursing, agility, obedience, rally, and K9 Nose Work – and he was the first Rhodesian Ridgeback in the country to obtain his Nose Work 1 title.



Riki doing nosework.

Proving he can be as versatile as any V, Susan's sight hound even passed a herding instinct test. As a tribute to the breed that has stolen her heart, Susan gives a discount to any rescued Rhodesian Ridgebacks that attend her classes.

At events and in classes, Susan has worked with many breeds, including Vizslas and English Pointers, and I asked her what tips she might have for working with these types of dogs. Susan suggested using "Short sessions" and to "Teach them little bits at a time." She pointed out that for a Vizsla, "Obedience is not going to be their 'fun' thing," and when I asked her why, she said, "They want to hunt, and they want to run" – important points to keep in mind when choosing fun things to try with your pal.

When I asked how to choose if you could only choose *one* sport, Susan

recommended, "You should consider things like availability of classes, and how much of an investment you need to make." She pointed out that "You can do obedience anywhere, anytime, but if you want to do agility, you'll need to buy equipment." The best way to decide? Susan joked, "Basically, you have to do what *you* want to do, and hope your dog doesn't hate it."

All jokes aside, Susan enjoys building teamwork between dog and owner. Originally, her favorite thing about being a dog trainer was "Helping people understand their dogs and how to live together peacefully." Today, Susan's favorite aspects of training include "Seeing the dogs enjoy Nose Work, watching them figure out the puzzle of where the scent is hidden, and seeing a dog and it's owner learning to work together to form a smooth working team."



From Tina Romano:

Thank you to all who responded to my email for advice when Lucy was first diagnosed with mast cell cancer over the summer. I am (cautiously) happy to report she is doing really well. After radiation/ chemo she is now on something called Palladia. She's had no side effects and her energy is great! We have our fingers crossed. She is the girl on the right.





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Articles written or submitted by individual correspondents may not necessarily be in accordance with present VCLI policies.

Newsletter Ad Rates

Cover—\$22.00

1 page w/1 photo \$17.00

1 page w/ 2 photos \$22.00

1 page w/out photo \$12.00

1/2 page w/ 1 photo \$15.00

1/2 page w/out photo \$10.00

1/4 page w/out photo \$5.00

When placing ads, the OFA# is required for the subject Vizsla. If under 2 years of age, the OFA#s of the parents are required. Spayed/neutered and deceased Vizslas need no OFA number.

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE: April 15, 2012

