



NEWSLETTER
Volume 8, Number 4

May, 2010

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

Welcome to spring everyone! Since this is my first official assignment as President, I thought it best to tell you about myself, and the goals I have, to move our club forward.

For those of you who do not know me, I live in Plainview with my husband Ray, my 14-year-old son Matthew and 3 Vizslas. Cliffy is 8, Jake is almost 4 and Rusty, our latest rescue and permanent foster is 11. We purchased Cliffy from Anne Denehy 8 years ago. During my association with Anne, she became my close friend, mentor and second Mom. Anne taught me most of what I know. She was also the impetus for me to start our club's Rescue program.

Like many of you, we got Cliffy as a pet to complete our family. We never had any intention of doing more with him, but life throws you curves and our Cliffy became a finished champion show dog, was entered in Westminster with my then 11-year-old son Matthew showing him and is a certified therapy dog. Who knew?

Personally, I think this all happened because we had the guidance and support needed to understand the ins and outs of the crazy show world with the help of many people, especially Kathie Amore and Joe Diaz. Kathie was my travelling partner and Joe handled Cliffy to his Championship. The guidance we received made us feel a part of the excitement, and not just along for the ride.

We have made many wonderful friends in the club over the past 8 years. Our family met and formed close relationships with people we would have never met without our dogs. We have taken advantage of hunting, hiking, wine tasting and numerous other social events with Cliffy and Jake and it has enriched our family as a whole.

I am most proud of our Rescue program. We have placed 57 dogs to date, and I could not have done it without a wonderful committee backing me and the help of the entire club, when needed. I have maintained friendships with many of the rescue families, so I have seen these dogs flourish! As you can see, my family and I have done a lot over the past 8 years. Again this was all possible because we felt welcome.

My goal, moving forward, is to make EVERYONE feel as welcome as I did when we first started the club! This way, more members will be more apt to join a committee, volunteer when necessary and just come out and have fun during our events! The common bond we share is our dogs, whether pet, show, agility, or rescue, we love them just the same. I will be making phone calls to invite you to join in and join a committee or just volunteer your time for an event. In any case, I promise to make you feel comfortable!

We recently had our annual dinner and general membership meeting at La Famiglia. The feedback from all who attended was a good time was had by all. Funny enough, we found out that our waiter also had a Vizsla--what a small world! We will try to get him in the club as well!

Please mark your calendars for our next big event. **We will hold our annual Fun Day on Saturday, August 7.** If you have not participated before, this is a wonderful event where everyone enjoys themselves with good food and events for adults, children and dogs alike. More info will follow soon, but for the first time, this year we will be having a Bar-B-Que. Anyone wanting to be part of the planning committee for this event, please contact me.

We will also be offering a pet first aid course through the Red Cross--dates and info will follow.

The club will publish a calendar of events for the year. Board meetings will be put on the calendar so any items the general membership wants to discuss, can be brought to the table.

A merchandise section is being added to our website for those who want clothing or accessories with our club's logo. I have samples at my house for those interested.

As you can see I am very excited about the future of the club. I hope my enthusiasm is contagious! Contact information for all board members is published in each newsletter. Please feel free to contact me or any of the board members by phone or email with your ideas and comments. We will always have an open ear.

Stephanie

2010 is the 50th Anniversary of the Vizsla becoming an AKC registered breed.

Vizsla Historical Fact

Ch. Harann's Tulipann is the first, and to date the only Vizsla to win the Sporting Group at Westminster in 1983. Owned by Charles Spalding and Anne Denehy.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Club funds: \$2855.57

Rescue Funds: \$8350.43

Ray Fischer, rfischer22@aol.com

Membership Report:

I am still waiting for about 25 renewals to come in. Please send them in quickly so the new membership list can be emailed to everyone. The renewal application is also posted on our website in case you need another copy

Stephanie Fischer, ilovtrav@aol.com

Rescue Report:

These days we seem to have more people looking for Vizslas than Vizslas in rescue. So except for the numerous phone calls, things have been pretty quiet. Rusty is still living happily in our home with my 2 boys. Since placing an 11 year old is difficult both in finding the right family and psychologically for the dog, he will remain a foster in our home. This way he will be able to live out his days with lots of love and attention.

Stephanie Fischer, ilovtrav@aol.com

Show Report

On Sunday February 14, 2010 the Vizsla Club of Long Island hosted a specialty with the Garden Specialty Association Club.

The specialty was held this year on Long Island at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY. We had an entry of 68 Vizslas coming from all over the United States. Our Judges for this event were Judy Harrington and John Marinos. Mr. Marinos who is from Long Island judged Puppy Sweeps and Veteran Sweeps.

Mrs. Harrington, who is from Massachusetts judged Regular Classes and Best of Breed. Before I list our winner's of the show, I want to recognize the following people:

First I wish to thank Anne Denehy and Eddie McAuliffe for all the hard work in the preparations of the show. I could not have done this without them. Anne, thanks for keeping me on the right track at all times. I tend to get lax at times. But I get it done.

Eddie thanks for all your hard work leading up to the show. We all worked hard and all that work really came together.

THANK YOU

In order to put on a successful show, you need the help of many people.

I want to thank the Members of the Vizsla Club of Long Island for all the contributions they made to make our show a success. The donations made for the raffles were such a hit with the spectators and exhibitors. I want to thank Melissa Modica for the job she did arranging and decorating the baskets. They were so beautifully done. I could never put a basket together like she did. A lot of hard work went into them. **THANK YOU MEMBERS AND MELISSA.**

Next I want to extend a Special Thank You to Cathy Jones for all the hard work and hours she put into making the Vizsla Quilt. I am sure Cathy's hands must have been killing her. The Quilt was Beautiful. Thanks to Ron Jones the display of the quilt was done so well. Our Judge Mrs. Harrington made a point to come over to see the Quilt and commented on how lovely the quilt was.

All of Cathy's work paid off, and we took in a nice sum of money for the club. The winner of the quilt was Tom Bresko. **THANK YOU CATHY FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND THANKS TO RON TOO....**

When you put a show on like this, you give out what they call trophies and rosette ribbons to the Winners. Trophies are what the club wants to give. Our Trophy Chairman was Eddie McAuliffe. During the year Eddie had looked around and selected Oak Pottery with Vizslas hand painted on them. These went to the Top Five Winners. He also selected coffee cups with paw prints on them for all the First Place Winners in each Class. We had so many spectators coming over asking if they could buy them. He also selected Dog Bowls with Gold Trim and paw prints for first in other classes. All the trophies looked so nice on the table and all the winners seemed happy to receive them.

THANK YOU EDDIE FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

I wish to thank the following people for all the generous donations they gave to make our Trophy's so spectacular.

- Steve and Tina Romano
- Meryl and Bill Fiedelman
- Pam Schider
- Ron and Cathy Jones
- Toni Allocca & Nick Hartman
- Zelda Randel
- Mary K Cheltan
- Anne Denehey
- Jackie and Ed Mc Auliffe
- Jay and Georgia Rezler
- The Shepard Family
- Judy and Michael Tanur
- Pam and Al Flamm
- Sara and Less Bluestone
- Lauren and Andrew Goldsmith
- Chris and Christine Arnone
- Pam and Bert Rowley

Before the show begins everything needs to be set up. This means coming an hour before to get things going before the exhibitors get to the show. **A Big Thank you** to the following people: Eddie McAulffie, Anne Denehey, Cathy Jones, Ron Jones, Tim Bresko, Pam Schider, and Mary K Cheltan. These people also stood around selling raffles for the club during the show. Hats off to them.

NOW THE WINNERS

It is with Great Pleasure to announce our BEST OF BREED for the day. The winner of the Vizsla Specialty is owned by two of the members of our club. A member of our club also owns Reserve Winners Dog. It was so exciting to see members of our club receive such honors. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL....**

Class
Name of Dog
Owners

Best in Puppy Sweeps

Dynata's Bound to Have It All Laurie Fairchild

Best of Opposite in Puppy Sweeps Dynata's Bound For Pub-Licity

Sean Martin & Laurie Fairchild

Best in Veteran Sweeps

Ch Szizlin Kes-Dil Bryce Canyon
Ilanna & Joseph Schwalbe

Best of Opposite in Veteran Sweeps

Ch Starfire's Sportn" Sassdreamon Penny
Carson

BEST OF BREED:

Ch Britannia's Taylor Made for Two Eddie &
Jackie McAulffie

Best of Winners

Starr-Points Celtic Red MH
Joseph Buchanan & Charlene Buchanan

Best of Opposite

Ch Renaissance Girls Gone Wild George &
Linda Durham

Winners Dog

Starr-Points Celtic Red MH
Joseph Buchanan & Charlene Buchanan

Winners Bitch

Brittania's Absolut Finest
Bernadette Allison & Britt Jung

Reserve Winners Dog

Krown's Montauk Pointer-Lorenzo Anne
Maegli

Reserve Winners Bitch

Firepoint's Oak-Ridge Anne
Helen Malchow & Rich Malchow

Awards of Merit

Ch Szizlin Kes-Dil Bryce Canyon Ilanna &
Joseph Schwalbe

Ch Cinnabars Aldebaran Epiphany Allan
Becker & Debra Jean Becker

Stud Dog

Ch Olde Ridge Soar'n Pfallon's Hudson
Henry Grant & Richard Bennington

Brood Bitch

Ch Dynata's Bound to Know It All SH, NAJ
Laurie Fairchild

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS SUCH A
SUCCESSFUL SHOW

Kathie Amore, Shpw Chair,
kamore3235@aol.com

"TAYLOR"



*BISS CH. Britannia's Taylor Made For Two TDI CGC
OFA VZ-11465excellent25M-VPI*

VCLI BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW WINNER 2010

judge:

Ms Judy A. Harrington

owned by:

Jackie & Ed McAuliffe

Avatar Vizslas

&

Britt Jung

Brittania's Vizslas

handled by:

Carissa Demilita-Shimpeno

Local Upcoming Events

Non Hunting

May 21-22 Ladies Kennel Assn. All-breed, obedience, rally show/trials Planting Fields, Oyster Bay

May 23 Long Island Kennel Club all-breed, obedience, rally show/trials Old Bethpage

June 12 CVVC Specialty Show at Greenwich Kennel Club at Taylor Farm Park, East Norwalk, CT

July 16-17 Riverhead Kennel Club all breed, obedience, rally show/trials, Suffolk Comm. College, Riverhead.

August 7: VCLI Fun Day in Cathedral Pines Park

September 11: Somerset Hills Kennel Club all breed, obedience show/trial. North Branch, NJ.

October 1: Brookhaven Kennel Club all breed, obedience show/trial, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay.

October 2: Suffolk County Kennel Club all breed show, and Suffolk County Obedience Training Club rally trial, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay.

October 3: Nassau Dog Training Club rally trial, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay.

October 10: Ladies Kennel Club agility trial, Old Westbury Gardens.

Hunting

October 23 and 24: CVVC fall hunt tests, Flaherty Field, East Windsor, CT.

November 20 and 21: Pointer Associates of New England hunt tests, Flaherty Field, East Windsor, CT

For more information:

<http://www.lipdc.com/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/search/>

<http://www.vcnnj.com/> <http://www.ctvalleyVizslaclub.org/CalendarofEvents.htm>

<http://www.thevcgny.com/Events.html>

<http://www.vccne.net/events.html> <http://www.infodog.com/showinfo/state.htm>



Karen & Keith Sucrato sent pictures of Willow's 8th birthday celebration and his having a cuddle with buddy Sage.



MEMBER PROFILE: The Modica Clan



We are an active family of five. Hiking, beaches, fishing are some of the activities we enjoy. About four years ago, our oldest son Ryan began asking for a dog. Citing friends and family who have dogs, he pointed out that he, along with his sister and brother were living a denied childhood without a family dog. Further, he couldn't understand why we couldn't have a dog since he would singlehandedly provide all of the care the animal would need. He'd walk him, feed him, clean up the yard. Seeing that I was once 8 years old, I figured this was a phase and would pass. Two years later he was still at it.

One day, after coming home from a long day, I was confronted by the whole family--3 kids and the wife glaring at me from the other side of the table. "We've decided." was the chant. "What did we decide?" I asked. "We've decided to get a dog." My wife had been recruited and it was 4 against one.

Now the obvious next question was, "What kind of dog have you decided on?" The answer was as shocking as it was disturbing (not that there's anything wrong with the Maltipoo, if you're into that). When I explained the improbability of a maltipoo living in the Modica household (or me walking one), they seemed to understand, and the search

began for a breed that would better fit our lifestyle. After speaking with some breeders and visiting some families with Vizslas, (Thanks Ron and Cathy Jones) we agreed that the Vizsla would be a great addition to the family. We took a trip to Maryland to visit Iva Fisher at Cameo Vizslas and came home with the new addition.

The first 18 months were interesting. I went through three pairs of running shoes and a pair of roller skates chasing Copper. He is now just about 2½-years-old and is a wonderful family pet. We've become interested in the field aspect of the breed and in October of 2009, Copper earned his JH. It was a lot of fun and a good life experience for the family to work with him to earn his ribbon. We hope to be able to take him to senior next.



On a scale of 1 to 10, Copper is an 11 as it relates to being friendly to people and other animals. I've had several dogs in my life but have never met a breed that loves people more. So in the end, I find it ironic that I scoffed at the Maltipoo. We now own the neighborhood's largest lap dog with bony elbows.

Kevin Modica kmodica1@gmail.com



Tim Bresko and Chili enjoy the quilt Tim won at our specialty show in February.

Training Resources

Ian Dunbar, the trainer who founded the Association of Pet Dog Trainers <http://www.apdt.com/> and does a blog at <http://www.dogstardaily.com>, has started a web-based series of training videos through YouTube. You can access them at <http://www.dogstardaily.com/videos/tv/part-1-mel-bussey-real-life-rewards>

Shirley Chong is a positive dog trainer who uses clicker training. Her website is filled with useful training information <http://shirleychong.com/index.html> including her "Six Lessons" and how to make a doggie nail file.

Susan Garrett, a Canadian trainer, has a series of articles on her site, <https://www.clickerdogs.com/index.php>

Pet Expertise, besides offering a free training Ebook, has many articles on solving common dog problems at <http://www.petexpertise.com/>

Member Tips

Debbie Fields offers the following:

An inexpensive nail file kit for reluctant dog toenails. She says, "Here's the starter kit link: <http://nailfilestore.com/pro-sticks-block-starter-80.aspx> (80 grit is the coarsest). I find that the abrasive stickers don't stick that well so I use some double stick tape in addition to the adhesive that's on the nail file pad.

A walking harness for on-leash walking: "The harness that I have used on Tawny since she was a tiny puppy is called Sense-ation and it is truly amazing."
http://www.softouchconcepts.com/products/sense_ation_harness.php

BRAGS BRAGS BRAGS

Anne Maegli reports that Krown's Montauk Pointer Lorenzo (aka Enzo) went Reserve Winners Dog at our VCLI specialty show on February 14 after winning his class all 3 days of his debut; then two weeks later, took Reserve Winners Dog, Best Puppy and Sporting Group 3 in Chicago on February 27 and then took Best of Winners in Chicago on February 28.



He was handled by Jenna Iacobellis who owns his father, KaraJen's Put Me In Coach (aka Hank). Hank won our club's show in '09 finishing his championship, and Enzo is his first-born son. The breeder is Karen Brown (her mother is Carol Brown, the judge who was the steward at the Coliseum shows.)

Pam Rowley reports, "We do have a brag for our Kizmet Hi Time Magic (aka Maggie). She won Winners Bitch and Best of Winners two days in a row at the New Brunswick KC show, March 26 and 27. She also won Reserve Winners Bitch at the Bronx County KC show on March 28. All in Edison, NJ."

Also, Pam's dog, Kahalie's Hitime Independence CD, RE, MX, MXJ (aka Gunner), did qualify in the Standard class on April 10 at the Brookhaven KC Agility Trial and on April 11 he qualified in the Jumpers with Weaves class at the Golden Retriever Club Agility Trial. On April 24 he double Qd (qualified in both Standard and Jumpers with Weave classes) at the Suffolk Obedience Club trial.

Mary K. Chelton's new puppy, Everedi's Golden Nugget (aka Nugget), had his first vet visit photograph chosen by the vet (Dave Hensen of Paumanok Veterinary Hospital who took the photo and takes them of all his new puppy patients) to be on a new brochure advertising the practice.



****SAVE THIS DATE****

August 7: VCLI Fun Day in Cathedral Pines Park with barbeque and another photo contest this year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Nancy Kay, author of *Speaking for Spot* and her blog, "Spot Speaks," <http://speakingforspot.com/blog/> about how to advocate for your dog with your veterinarian, suggested another great blog called "Fully Vetted" written by Dr. Patty Khuly DVM for pet lovers and veterinary voyeurs. For an example, go to <http://www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/>

Dogwise has a new selection of books and CDs on kids and dogs, including one with the sound of babies to help condition dogs to the sounds they make ahead of time. They also sell a *Pet Emergency Pocket Guide*. More information at <http://www.dogwise.com/index.cfm>

A recent study found that dogs with osteoarthritis fed food high in fish oil omega-3 fatty acids with a low omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acid ratio improved. Source: *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Assn.*, Jan. 1, 2010, Vol. 236, No. 1, PP. 59-66. <http://avmajournals.avma.org/loi/javma>

People Foods that Can Harm Older Dogs:

Grapes and raisins,
Onions
Chocolate
Mushrooms
Candy & sweeteners
Caffeine products
Milk
Tomatoes (especially green)

Source: <http://www.pedigree.com/>

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has an Animal and Veterinary alert service that recently published 11 reasons why you should not give your dog any bones:

1. Broken teeth. (Veterinary dentistry—very expensive)
2. Mouth or tongue injuries. (Very bloody and messy.)
3. Bone could get stuck around the dog's lower jaw. (May look funny, but it's not. Time to see your vet.)
4. Bone could get stuck in your dog's esophagus (food tube). (Time to see your vet.)
5. Bone could get stuck in your dog's windpipe if he accidentally inhales a small enough piece. (This is an emergency! Very dangerous.)
6. Bone can get stuck in the stomach. (It went in just fine, but is too big to pass out of the stomach into the intestines. Time for surgery.)
7. Bone can get stuck in the intestines and cause a major blockage. (Time for surgery.)
8. Constipation due to bone shards. (Your dog can't pass the bone shards because they're very sharp and are scraping the inside of your dog's intestines, causing him severe pain. Time to see your vet.)
9. Severe bleeding from the rectum. (Known in veterinary speak as Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis—or HGE. Very messy and dangerous.)
10. Peritonitis. (A nasty, difficult-to-treat bacterial infection of the abdomen caused when bone shards poke holes in your dog's stomach or intestines. This can kill your dog.)
11. Death.

For more information, go to <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm>

Focus On The Field

By Rich Mayer, bytheseavizslas@optonline.net

As warm weather approaches some handlers struggle with ideas for their training and conditioning regimen. A Vizsla is a versatile gundog, one of the continental breeds, and as such can hunt a variety of game. The variety of game can sometimes take us to places where you'll be hunting in close proximity to water. Those bodies of water can be small streams or they can be ponds, lakes and rivers. There are several places here on Long Island that you don't have to be a waterfowl hunter to encounter bodies of water that could require your Vizsla to perform a water retrieve. The NAVHDA folks include water work such as searches and retrieves as part of their curriculum. (That's the "V" in NAVHDA – Versatile) I have had instances where an upland bird was shot over a pond and had one chukar retrieved from the Delaware River. I've seen some hunters pass on a bird that flushed over a body of water because they knew there was no way to recover the bird because either the dog wasn't a reliable retriever or because the dog hadn't been acclimated to water. As the warm weather continues to settle in, now is the time to introduce a young dog to water. As is the case with all gun dog training, the steps need to be gradual and never proceed past a point that you're certain the dog understands and is comfortable with the command. In the case of water introduction, comfortable is more important than understanding.

As you know, Vizslas are not coated like labs and goldens and as such are not well suited to hunting ducks in the dead of winter. Their first introduction to water,

whether a young puppy or an older dog not accustomed to swimming, needs to be positive. I suggest a body of water like a pond or lake. No current, no surf and a gradual slope that allows both handler and dog to enter and exit the water easily. The

water should be a comfortable temperature and you should always lead the way. Trial by fire, i.e. dropping the dog over the side of your rowboat or throwing their favorite toy 40 feet into the lake should be avoided. Start in knee-deep water yourself and encourage the dog to come to you. Those that are reluctant should be allowed to explore the water at their own pace. As always, provide lavish praise for boldness and success.

Assuming your Vizsla retrieves, you can then begin to introduce short tosses that are just 5-10 feet beyond the point that your dogs' feet will leave the bottom. In the beginning they may turn around once they realize they're over their head. Continue the short tosses or move out to the point that they need to swim and provide encouragement. Sometimes some support under their chest is just enough to get the dog to improve their stroke. Initially some dogs are trying harder to climb out of the water then they are trying to make forward progress. A little support helps trim their bodies and they'll soon realize that keeping their front feet in the water improves their efficiency and is also less tiring. Vizslas are natural swimmers and once they get some confidence you'll only need to be in the water if you want to be.

A few words about training and playing in water. Always be aware of potential hazards like submerged trees, etc. that a dog can get hung up on. For those of you that enjoy watching dog jumping competitions, make sure you've thoroughly investigated their landing zone before you throw the first ball. One last piece of advice is that it's a little known fact that dogs doing numerous, successive retrieves have been known to drown without sinking. Dogs will ingest water as they return with an object in their mouth. It's possible that sufficient water ends up in the dog's lungs as it

enthusiastically plays fetch at the beach. This can have fatal consequences, hours after you leave the water. Lastly, be mindful of what you throw for your dog and praise them for retrieving. You don't want your Vizsla sent to retrieve a bird in a pond to stop and grab every floating stick in the lake because that's what you've always thrown for them. Throw objects that they won't encounter when you're hunting.

Point It Out: Tick Season is here. Consider a topical treatment such as Front Line to protect your dog. Speak to other handlers or your vet for the treatment best suited to your dog and your activities.

VCLI MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE WITH LOGO

All merchandise has an embroidered VCLI logo. More information (color swatches, pictures and pricing) can be found shortly on the VCLI website. S&H not included, pick up at meetings and club events--Great Gift Ideas!!! Please contact Stephanie at ilovtrav@aol.com with your order or with any questions. If S&H needed, price will vary depending on order. Items include unstructured ball caps, hooded sweatshirts, Hanes Beefy-T shirts, a small duffel, crew sweatshirt, ball cap with suede rim, small duffel, crew sweatshirts, cotton polos, a boater tote bag, a fleece jacket, and baseball jerseys.

AKC News

AKC will begin offering the Grand Champion title at AKC Conformation events. This new title will be available to AKC Champions of Record, giving the opportunity for Champion dog owners to return to the show ring with their dogs and further showcase the quality of their breeding stock. Competition for this new title will begin at AKC all-breed, group and specialty shows on May 12, 2010, concurrent with the implementation of the 2010-2011 [AKC Point Schedule](#).

AKC along with hundreds of its licensed clubs around the nation are gearing up to welcome mixed-breed dogs to compete side-by-side with purebreds in Companion Events as part of the new AKC Canine Partners program. Starting April 1, mixed-breed dog owners who have already enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program will not only receive listing benefits but also have the ability to enter the exciting world of dog sports and have "Lots More Dog Fun" with their dog at AKC events.

VCA News

In honor of the 59th anniversary of the Vizsla becoming an AKC registered breed, an historical slide show is on the VCA website, created by Jan Wallace. Go to http://vcaweb.org/events_nf.htm



From member Anne Maegli comes the perfect link to a YouTube video, which is perfect as we move toward summer: http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pkPNa4DBFHI

RESCUE TALES FROM THE DARK SIDE

KATE PAYNE, VCA NATIONAL RESCUE COORDINATION

(Reprinted with permission)

After a bumper crop of rescues last year--don't have the exact year-end total for all our volunteers, but it was pretty high, we're off to a running start in 2000. Shelters all over the country are seeing big increases in numbers of dogs being surrendered, largely due to the economic crisis. It seems to me that we're getting more ridiculous requests than ever from people who want very young puppies from rescue. Maybe everyone is looking for a bargain. All of us doing rescue are concerned about how we'll keep up with the increasing flood of dogs unless more people will step up to the plate and volunteer to assist us with various rescue chores (foster care is always our biggest need).

I've always found that a bit of dark humor gets me through the most trying times, so I polled our volunteers to ask what they thought of sharing some of our more quirky and annoying rescue stories in the Vizsla News. A bit of comic relief seems to be in order. So, here are just a few of some of the more ridiculous situations we deal with. Annoying rescue inquiries tend to fall into some basic categories: (i) infuriating reasons for surrendering dogs and (ii) totally ridiculous reasons – and requests – pertaining to adoption.

As you might suspect, there are a lot of “typical” reasons for surrendering a dog to rescue. (change in lifestyle, new baby in the house, Grandpa died and left his dog, divorce, kids and dog don't get along well, allergies, etc) A huge number of surrenders could be avoided if only people would do their homework, and believe what they read. It is simply amazing the number of people who surrender their dog because they had no idea what they were in for in terms of energy level, exercise requirements and social neediness of this breed. People just don't get it. They must do little to no research before purchasing a Vizsla, and believe even less of what they do read. How about the following excuses? “She isn't calm like my Great Dane,” “Doesn't this dog ever sit still?” “The dog needs way too much attention.” And one of my all-time favorites is: “he won't even let me go to the bathroom alone.” Gotta admit I didn't have much sympathy for that caller since I had not been to the bathroom alone in many years.

Moving up the maddening scale there are things like the following:

- I'm getting married in two weeks and my fiancé is allergic to the dog. *Uh, did you just meet this fiancé last week? Surely you knew he was allergic before now.*
- I'm moving from Chicago to Houston next week and need to find someone to do long term foster care (several months) for a 12 year old bitch that hates other dogs and has severe separation anxiety. *And you decided *when* that you were going to move?*
- We've decided to have a human baby. *Gee, what happens to the first human baby when you decide to have a second?*
- We've changed the décor and the dog no longer matches the carpet (or upholstery). *Think that is preposterous? Well, it is an excuse that has been offered to more than one of our rescue volunteers!*
- Wife #2 wanted to get rid of the dog because she was jealous of the attention her new husband paid to the dog, which belonged to his deceased wife #1.
- When told that we could not accept a dog that was a serial biter into our program, the owner's protesting comment was **“But he doesn't bite white people.”** *That is absolutely a true, non-exaggerated story, and yes there are times when the conversation is clearly ended – right then and there.*

While you might expect that we get some infuriating callers trying to offload their dogs, how many of you would have thought that the inquiries for adoption could be as absurd? We get some real doozies! A daily annoyance to me, who checks the vcarescue@yahoo.com mailbox several times a day, is the number of people who write and ask if we have any dogs they could adopt. That's all – no address, no phone number, no name, no indication of why they want a dog or where they want it. Are we supposed to somehow acquire that knowledge by intuition, crystal ball, Ouija Board? Do they think we have some sort of central “used dog lot?”

Here are a few examples:

- Are Vizslas hypoallergenic?
- Will you have a dog available for me to adopt, in Dallas, during Spring Break? I'd like a well-behaved, housebroken female under the age of one year. (*Oh yeah, those are a dime a dozen and we know just when & where they'll show up.*)
- Lots & lots of very specific requests for well-behaved, housebroken, good with kids & cats, pretty and – above all - cheap puppies under the age of 6 months. *Those we often cheerfully refer to the nearest club's breeder referral chair for a reality check. Rescue is NOT a cheap alternative to buying a responsibly-bred puppy.*
- A recent request was received from someone who just bought a puppy from a breeder and has already decided she wants to go into the breeding business. She would like a rescued 1-2 year old female, intact, so that she can "bring God's blessings to the earth." Papers are not an issue because she just knows that the AKC will give her papers if she tells them the dog is purebred. **Yes**, she was referred to someone in her area for some serious mentoring!
- And another request came from a grandmother with a grown daughter and her three kids (10, 5 & 3), and they're all considering the Vizsla as a family pet. She claims to be aware of the high energy level and hopes it is compatible with the children's "high energy and love for play." *Is that a euphemism for spoiled brats?* They would like a young female under one year old, 40-45 lbs, definitely bathroom trained. (Visions of a pretty little Vizsla perched on the toilet are dancing in my head!). Oh, and she thought maybe she could foster a dog with similar characteristics for a few days as a way to experience the breed.

And some even more absurd scenarios....

- A request came from a person debating whether to get the kids a Vizsla or an Easter basket: could we please tell them if a Vizsla would be cheaper than an Easter basket?
- A local rescue volunteer placed an ad in her local paper pertaining to a dog that was in foster care at the time. A caller started asking more and more detailed questions about living with Vizslas, including did the dog sleep in bed with her. The questions got more personal from that point and she quickly realized it was an obscene phone call and hung up.
- We get lots of people who want to adopt to have a companion for their other dog. That's not unreasonable. But what about the guy who wanted to adopt a Vizsla to be a companion for his bunny??? That very idea still makes me giggle.
- A call from a gentleman who was a landscape artist and wanted a Vizsla that could live in the yard. Yep, I've known a few Vizslas that were truly remarkable "landscape artists"☺

And then there are three of my all-time favorites. I know these are true because I took the phone calls and made the home visit.

- A fellow in Tennessee called me to ask about adopting a pure-bred, intact Vizsla bitch to breed to his coon dog. Huh? Didn't I know that combination made fabulous coon dogs (*Well, I can imagine so, judging by how well mine like 'possums, but wasn't going there*)? I explained to him that all of our rescue dogs are spayed or neutered before placing them. He told me that ruined them for hunting; I countered that I seriously doubted that – they either hunted or they didn't – but it darned sure ruined them for breeding.
- A woman in Houston passed the screening process until I went out to do the home check (*points out why home visits are so important*). Her house had spotless, brilliantly shined and bleached white wooden floors. There were little pedestals around the room holding delicate art objects with lights beaming down on them. Numerous sliding glass doors lead onto balconies with railings hardly tall enough to trip a drunk. The balconies overhung a steep ravine. The yard was partially fenced (no gates) and about ½ block from a very busy city street. She stated up front and in person (it wasn't on her written application) that she wanted a dog that would lie quietly at her side while she gardened, and whose physical beauty would grace her exquisite home. She was miffed when I told her the Vizsla was not the breed for her, but did ask what breed of dog I thought would match her lifestyle. My suggestion was.....? Stuffed. Yes, a stuffed dog would be perfect.

- I heard of a potential adopter who was also interested in volunteering as a foster home. The guy lived in a remote area of the Southwest where we had few to zero volunteers, so I was anxious to interview him. All went well until we got to the part about the duties of the foster home, among which was getting the dogs to the vet for neutering. Mind you, he was perfectly OK with spaying females, but told me – in no uncertain terms – that God was going to condemn me to hell for all eternity for neutering male dogs. He argued that it was “right there, in the Bible.” Now then, my counter argument was that even though I was a “recovering Catholic” and hadn’t studied the Bible much in my youth, I seriously doubted that he could quote, to my satisfaction, chapter & verse in the Good Book where it stated “Thou Shalt Not Castrate Dogs.” Again – another situation in which the conversation was clearly at an end.

If you think you’d like to be part of the “fun” and become a rescue volunteer, please do contact me or your nearest rescue coordinator on how you can help us with foster care, transportation, screening adoptive homes, etc., etc.



VCLI Officers

President: Stephanie Fischer ilovtrav@aol.com 516-932-0530

Vice President: Mary K Chelton mchelton@optonline.net 631-286-4255

Treasurer: Ray Fischer rfischer22@aol.com 516-932-0530

Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Jones skyblu47@optonline.net 631-654-4368

Recording Secretary: Evelyn D’Achille missev@verizon.net 516-825-2097

Directors:

Ron Jones: skyblu47@optonline.net 631-654-4368

Rich Mayer: bytheseavizslas@optonline.net 631-368-3184

Tim Bresko: tim.bresko@verizon.net 631-859-3441

Kevin Modica: kmodical@gmail.com 631-751-0922

Chris Cheeseman: cpchristophergc@yahoo.com 516-238-0783

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Stephanie Fischer (516) 932-0530, <mailto:ilovtrav@aol.com>;

Rescue: Stephanie Fischer, Mary K. Chelton, Ron Jones,

Field: Rich Mayer (631) 368-3184, <mailto:bytheseaVizslas@optonline.net>

Show: Kathie Amore (631) 360-0262, <mailto:KAMORE3235@aol.com>

Newsletter: Mary K. Chelton, (631/286-4255, <mailto:mchelton@optonline.net>)

VCLI Newsletter Policy

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: July 15, 2010

