



**NEWSLETTER**  
**Volume 3, Number 3**

**February, 2008**

*From our President, Ann Denehy (Vizsla73@aol.com)...*

Happy New Year to one and all, and of course to our beloved Vizslas. May there be many bones and birds and places to run and frolic for their delight in 2008.

First, as usual, I want to bring you all up to date with our current efforts to achieve our goal of becoming recognized by the AKC as an official breed club. In December we were advised that due to our having completed all the requirements so far, we have now been granted "A" status. That means we will now be working on the last steps necessary before we can request full approval. This is no small achievement, the objective being to demonstrate that in the Vizsla Club of Long Island we have a strong base of members who are willing to provide continuity, serving the interests of the whole group and the welfare of the Vizsla breed. And so, the Board continues planning for you.

As you know the first of our required "A" level matches was held in February and a second will be planned for the summer. This kind of match show is similar to what we have held before; only we have had to do more administrative Work, closely resembling how an official AKC

show is held. We can also make more progress in our planning for the Hunting Test Program, with the goal of one day in the near future being able to hold official tests leading to hunting titles for the successful participants. As you may know, there is a dedicated core of members who are enjoying this activity with their dogs, regardless of weather.

The next big event for you to be aware of is the Annual Dinner Meeting to be held this year on April 8th. Watch for announcements, but be sure to save the date. Those who have attended in the past have always enjoyed themselves. This year, we have scheduled Lynn Worth as our speaker, who for approximately 40 years has been involved in almost every phase of Vizsla activity. Lynn was originally from Connecticut, and she now comes to us from Virginia to share her experiences. A very interesting person, she has a great many stories to tell us and much Vizsla history to share. Don't miss it.

Your Board will continue to try to plan what we feel is of interest and value to you. Please get in touch with us and give us feedback. Is there something else you wish the club to accomplish?

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Nominating:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Vizsla Club of Long Island (Article IV, Section 4) the nominating committee for the 2008 club year has proposed the following slate of Officers and Directors to the membership:

#### ***Officers:***

President—Anne Denehy  
Vice President—Ed McAuliffe  
Secretary—Marisa Pollina  
Corresponding Secretary—Cathy Jones  
Treasurer—Stephanie Fischer

#### ***Directors:***

Ron Jones  
Pam Scheider  
Kathy Amore  
Rich Mayer  
Tim Bresko

Additional nominations may be made from the membership at large by presenting the name to the Secretary, providing the proposed member does not decline. The proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No further nominations may be made at the annual meeting at which the elections take place.

*Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee,  
Stephanie Fischer, chair  
Stephanie Malin and Sharon Mayer, members*

Elections will be held at the Annual Dinner Meeting in April, time and place to be designated at a later date. All members will receive a notice of this meeting in the near future.

**Treasurers:**

We have \$6505.13 in our Rescue Fund and \$1175.36 in our checking account.

**Membership:**

***Please notice the Membership renewal forms that have come with this newsletter. There is an April 1 deadline this year. Help us to continue to keep our club strong with your support.***

**Rescue:**

Fortunately, Rescue has been relatively quiet around the holidays. Unfortunately it will pick up with a vengeance in about 2 months when last years "Holiday Gifts" are no

longer cute and manageable. It always amazes me when I hear people say we bought a Vizsla because they are beautiful, but did no research on the breed itself. These dogs come into our program as adolescents and are totally untrained and boisterous. They are placed with families who work with them to be loving and obedient family members, and we pat ourselves on the back for another placement well done.

This month's featured family story is Odie, who has been renamed Jaeger. The club rose to the occasion when I needed help picking him up and you will all be happy to read he is doing quite well in his new house in New Hampshire, with his brother Hunter and two cats.

*Stephanie Fischer*  
[ilovtrav@aol.com](mailto:ilovtrav@aol.com)

The following resolution was passed to honor Stephanie Fischer's work with rescue at the holiday party/meeting:

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE FISCHER

Whereas,

*Stephanie Fischer, despite being vertically challenged, is a strong woman who can multitask just about anything; and*

*Stephanie Fischer agreed to take on rescue for the VCLI without knowing a great deal about what she was getting into; and*

*Stephanie Fischer has mastered a steep learning curve, created a useful committee of VCLI volunteers, and spent innumerable hours on the phone helping people; and*

*Stephanie Fischer, despite having red hair, manages to remain calm when faced with human behavior and ignorance that can defy description; and*

*Stephanie Fischer manages to educate many people who contact Rescue when they do not know what to do, thus preventing their dogs coming into rescue; and*



like and dislike, like typical siblings, and are great playmates.



**Jaeger is the one without the white.**

They learn from each other. Thus, the love affair continues. Vizslas are wonderful family members, if you are ready for their energy and the love they have to offer. We feel very lucky to have added these two guys to our family. I can't say enough or thank

both Lesli and Stephanie enough, for the work that they do. Their work is from their heart, and thanks to their dedicated efforts, many Vizslas are helped through the adoption process. Thanks again for all that you do!



Melanie, John, Hunter and Jaeger Ratcliffe  
([john.ratcliffe@roadrunner.com](mailto:john.ratcliffe@roadrunner.com))...

## **Member Profile: Zelda Randall (and Panne)**

In 1970 my husband and I decided to get a dog. Our first choice was a Weimaraner. She was a sleek, gray beauty—very aloof and devoted to us for 15 1/2 years.

We then decided to get a smaller, kissier dog. I went to a dog show at Hofstra and found the Vizslas. I sat down on the grass and was completely covered with Vizsla kisses. That sealed it. A breeder told me a name to

contact in New Jersey. We went and found Velvet, the completely perfect Vizsla. She not only loved us, but also everyone in sight, including kids. She was easy to train and didn't eat much of the house; perhaps a shoe or two, but nothing serious. She was the kindest, smartest dog in the world. She even protected a neighbor of mine when a "weirdo" accosted her during a walk.

Unfortunately, she became ill from stomach cancer and at 10 1/2 I had to put her down. My husband had passed away the year before so I was completely devastated. My original

breeder was not breeding so I went looking at a show on Staten Island and met Anne Denehy.



She gave me several names to call, and finally I met the Kriegers in Bowie, Maryland.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999, I made the drive down to Bowie with a friend, prepared to put her in a carrier for the trip home. Forget about it!



Panne (French for velvet) would have no part of it. We drove half a block and she screamed the entire way. We removed her from the carrier and she happily sat on my friend's lap for the six-hour drive home looking out the window. That night I tried to keep her on the floor next to my bed. Another "forget about it." By 3 a.m. she was curled up next to me in the bed, and that was that!

Well, I called the trainer the next day and he came

and worked with her, but having a mind of her own, she just stared him down. I knew I was in for it when he just shrugged his shoulders and left. She knew what he wanted of her but she just refused to do it.

The first year was a nightmare! She destroyed a set of four chairs in the kitchen and a few cabinets besides tons of toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, boxes, socks, chocolate kisses with foil, rye bread, makeup, leashes, etc.—you name it!

By age two she was somewhat better and I lucked out, changed jobs and she was able to come with me to work. As I write this, she is on the back of my chair with her head on my shoulder. She is the biggest baby, but without her, I couldn't live. She gives me unconditional love and devotion; makes me laugh and keeps me from crying.



In terms of hunting, she is not the least bit

interested. She ignores birds, squirrels and raccoons, while Velvet would point immediately. Now, eight years later, she is turning white but still acts like a puppy. She loves to sit in my lap and sleep under the covers with her head on the pillow, snoring.

If I could, I would have at least three more of these redheads running about my house. Maybe, when I eventually retire?



Life without a Vizsla would be no life at all as far as I'm concerned. Let a lot of love into your life and get a Vizsla.



Zelda Randall  
[zrandell@aol.com](mailto:zrandell@aol.com)

## NEWS FROM AKC

### INPUT REQUESTED FOR EXPANSION OF SERVICES TO DOG OWNERS

The American Kennel Club is considering expanding the programs and services it offers to dog owners. Please help us evaluate one such idea, the All American Dog Club, which would provide a way for more dog owners, including mixed breed owners, to become involved with the AKC.

To represent your opinion accurately, please respond to this survey one time only. You may also forward this survey invitation to other dog owners who may be interested in the AKC.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and can be taken by clicking:

[http://www.akc.org/ad\\_clubsurvey](http://www.akc.org/ad_clubsurvey)

When you click the link, you will navigate to a non-AKC website called Zoomerang. This is an official AKC survey. Zoomerang is the tool the AKC uses to collect survey data.

The survey must be completed by February 18, 2008. Thank you for your time and participation.

### AKC ENHANCES AND RENAMES ILP PROGRAM AS "PUREBRED ALTERNATIVE LISTING"

The American Kennel Club® has announced the enhancement and renaming of its Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) program. The new name -- Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program -- will officially take effect February 1, 2008.

The new name more accurately describes the purpose of the program: allowing dogs that are ineligible for registration but are distinguishable as a member of an AKC registrable breed, to participate in AKC

Companion Events, AKC Performance Events and AKC Juniors competition.

The ILP/PAL program is designed to address the various reasons a purebred dog might not be eligible for registration: the dog may be from an unregistered litter or have unregistered parents; papers may have been withheld or lost by its owner; or the dog may have been surrendered, lost or abandoned, then adopted by a new owner.

PAL enrollees will receive a copy of *Family Dog Magazine*, a subscription to AKC's e-newsletter "Your AKC," a flyer from the breed's Parent Club and an attractive certificate denoting their dog's place in the PAL program. Also included will be information on AKC Pet Healthcare and AKC Companion Animal Recovery enrollment.

"We currently enroll over 3,000 dogs per year in the ILP/PAL program. It is our hope that we can expand this number and the overall appeal of the program by offering added benefits and renaming the program with this more creative and friendly acronym," said Assistant Vice President of Customer Service, Mari Beth O'Neill.

"Welcoming more ILP/PAL dogs to the world of AKC events and privileges can only benefit both dogs and owners by providing educational resources and also exposing them to the joys of competing with your dog."

Dogs that currently have ILP numbers will retain their original numbers and continue to enter events under that number. PAL numbers will be issued beginning February 1, 2008.

Visit <http://www.akc.org/reg/ilpex.cfm> for more information about ILP/PAL.

## Winter Pet Safety

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

From [TakeYourPet.com](http://TakeYourPet.com) January 2008 newsletter. Reprinted with permission. TakeYourPet.com is a subscription online service that, besides pet care advice, offers information about pet-friendly properties where travelers can stay with their pets.

- 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.

### **Help keep your pets safe with a free pet safety pack from the ASPCA!**

In the event of an emergency, a pet rescue window decal alerts rescue personnel that pets are inside your home. The safety pack also includes an ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center magnet—a great way to keep the APCC's toll-free emergency number and website address handy in case your pets get into something they shouldn't!

Order online for free from [http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets\\_rescue\\_sticker](http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_rescue_sticker)

### **Input Needed:**

**The club is looking into putting our logo on apparel other than, and in addition to, t-shirts. Besides hats, what apparel would you like? Examples are sweatshirts and vests—regular, hoodies and fleece; polo shirts, fleece jackets, and hats, etc. If you have a preference and a color preference, please let the officers know as soon as possible (see last page).**

## **IMPORTANT!!**

### **VIZSLA CLUB OF AMERICA WELFARE FOUNDATION HEALTH SURVEY UNDERWAY**

**PLEASE PARTICIPATE. ALL RESPONSES ARE ANONYMOUS.**

**The 2008 Vizsla Health Survey is sponsored and funded by private donations to the Vizsla Club of America Welfare Foundation, Inc. The purpose of this health survey is to scientifically research what the real current health issues are in the Vizsla breed. It is also important to find if the number of Vizslas affected with certain health issues is actually significant and what the average age of onset is. What Vizslas are dying from is another major question we would like to answer. Due to this survey focusing on current health issues and other questions we have regarding current Vizsla health and research, we are asking that only purebred Vizslas born from 1992 until present time be submitted to this survey. *RESCUES ARE INCLUDED!***

**The link to do the survey is: <http://ipgwcu.org/vizsla/>**

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE VCA WELFARE FOUNDATION MAY BE FOUND AT <http://clubs.akc.org/vizsla/welfarefoundation.htm>**

Anne Denehy, who is also on the board of the VCA Welfare Foundation, has supplied this background for the survey:

One of the reasons why Vizsla clubs exist is for the protection and welfare of the Vizsla breed. The reason our very ancient breed exists today, after many brushes with extinction, is because of the dedication and concern of those who loved and highly valued their precious companions.

It is over ten years since the Vizsla Club of America (VCA) distributed the first Vizsla Health Survey. The purpose of such a project is to try to determine trends in the physical status of Vizslas as we currently view it. Owners were asked to respond to a series of questions, results were returned to professionals, collated and then sent on to a veterinarian at Texas A&M University Veterinary Department. This vet interpreted the data and reported it to us at the National meeting in 1997.

What was voluntarily and anonymously reported at that time indicated that as a whole ours was a healthy breed, with certain numbers pointing to several concerns. Major disorders such as lymphosarcoma and epilepsy were cited, as well as some less threatening problems. Resulting from this was more open inquiry into possible genetic factors with active discussion by owners, as well as the Vizsla Club of America Welfare Foundation becoming involved in two important research projects. These involve Vizslas with diagnoses of lymphosarcoma and epilepsy.

At this time, a renewed process is again in motion. It is urgent to gather information to discover the health trends right now, in 2008. All Vizsla owners, whether they are members of clubs or not, are asked to participate in this new Health Survey. This is the best way possible to continue to track what health issues we should

all be concerned with. There is scientific evidence that certain hereditary problems can either *be passed on or eliminated*. More information and research is necessary. There is no better way to enable breeders to plan their breeding programs, as they strive for excellence in the puppies they produce to carry the breed into future generations.

**I urge you, whether your Vizsla is simply a very important treasured member of your family or a specially trained performance dog, to be part of this effort *right now!***

**From the January Hunt Clinic (photos by Cathy Jones)**



**Ron with Baylee.**

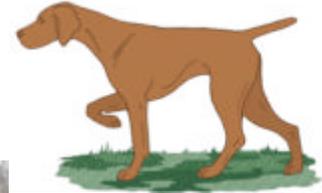


**Ron and Baylee again.**



**Stephanie and Jake.**

**Karen and Glen with Bristow.**



**Tim and Chile.**



**Nancy and Romeo.**



## **RESOURCES**

Doggie U, the dog training facility in Bay Shore, will send an email newsletter to interested dog people. It will include class, event, policy and cancellation information, etc. Send info or request the newsletter from Louise Wetzel at <mailto:dragondogs4@nyc.rr.com>.

*Front and Finish: The Dog Trainer's News* is “an organization devoted to the sport of obedience dog training and associated performance events. Primarily, we publish a monthly magazine covering regional and national canine activities. Each issue contains a wealth of information on Obedience, Agility, Field, Flyball, Freestyle, Herding, Rally, Tracking, and much more.” There are various subscription options, lots of archival material and a great website. Visit it at <http://frontandfinish.com/> Best of all; there are two videos of Skidboot on the magazine's bulletin board.

The Dog Writers Association grants annual writing awards in conjunction with the Westminster Kennel Club show in New York City. If you are interested in good dog writing, visit their website at <http://www.dwaa.org/index.htm>



*How to Raise a Jewish Dog* by Ellis Weiner & Barbara Davilman (The Rabbis of Boca Raton) is now available from Dogwise (<http://www.dogwise.com/>) It is a work of humor described as “Look out, monks. Step aside, whisperer. Rabbi Monica and Rabbi Alan show you how, step by step, to use guilt, shame, passive aggression, sarcasm, and Conditional Unconditional Love to create an unbreakable bond with your dog. "The Rabbis" have been training dogs - and their owners - for twenty years. Now they bring the fruits of their vast experience to dog owners everywhere.”

Just about anyone who has written or taped anything about dog training has something available from Tawzer Dog Videos, Dr. Ian Dunbar in particular. Take a look at <http://www.tawzerdogvideos.com/>

Thanks to the poison in pet food from Chinese manufacturing plants, *Whole Dog Journal* has added a question about the location of where food is manufactured to their annual dog food reviews, the first of which appears in their February, 2008 issue. You would be surprised at who would not answer the question. *WDJ* is a monthly guide to natural dog care and training. More information at <http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/>

The US Food and Drug Administration has produced a downloadable brochure on the dangers of purchasing pet drugs without a prescription online. Get it at <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/update/petdrugsonline121407.html>

## **VCLI Officers**

**President:** Anne Denehy (631) 424-7863, <mailto:Vizlsa73@aol.com>;  
**Vice-President:** Eddie McAuliffe <mailto:Emackop@optonline.net>;  
**Secretary:** Jay Rezler <mailto:loverboyboris@optonline.net>;  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Cathy Jones (631) 654-4368, <mailto:Skyblu7@optonline.net>;  
**Treasurer:** Stephanie Fischer (516) 932-0530, <mailto:ilovtrav@aol.com>

## **Directors:**

Ron Jones (631) 654-4368, <mailto:Skyblu7@optonline.net>;  
Kathie Amore (631) 360-0262, <mailto:KAMORE3235@aol.com>;  
Laura Hille (631) 874-7167, <mailto:Laurajhale@yahoo.com>;  
Lauren Goldsmith (631) 643-8512, <mailto:LBRAVO1@yahoo.com>;  
Richard Mayer (631) 368-3184, <mailto:bytheseaVizslas@optonline.net>.

## **Commit tee Chairs:**

**Membership:** Stephanie Fischer (516) 932-0530, <mailto:ilovtrav@aol.com>;  
**Rescue:** Stephanie Fischer, Mary K. Chelton, Ron Jones, Jay Rezler  
**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