



NEWSLETTER
Volume 4, Number 4

May, 2008

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

Happy Springtime, all... A few weeks ago we began our sixth year as a serious club, having named ourselves as the Vizsla Club of Long Island, and beginning the pursuit of becoming recognized by the AKC. Our Annual Meeting at the Bonwit Inn was declared a success with 22 members and several guests in attendance. In addition, we added three new members to the Board of Directors.

As a club, we extend our thanks to Jay Rezler, Laura Hille, and Lauren Goldsmith who were on the original Board since we started out and are now retiring. Jay had taken the responsibility of Recording Secretary and Laura and Lauren as valuable contributing members. We welcome replacing members, Marisa Pollina, as the new Recording Secretary and Pam Schider and Tim Bresko filling out the Board positions. We as a club are very grateful for club members who pitch in whether on the Board or doing jobs from time to time. And so, we are off and running for the 2008-2009 club year.

The plans for the near future that are shaping up include gathering for a meeting after the Vizsla classes at the Ladies Kennel Club Show on May 17th, in Oyster Bay and the summer Fun Day on August 9th. You will be getting notices regarding these events soon, but in the meantime, put the dates on your calendar.

We are getting quite close to the goal of AKC recognition, hopefully that will happen by the end of the year. This is very exciting most especially for those who have been focusing so much effort for such a long while now. Of course the major goal is to benefit our beloved Vizslas as a breed, and to offer support and friendship to you, their owners.

As your president, I encourage each of you members to be involved with what we do, but especially to offer your suggestions for activities that you think will be of value and interest to yourselves and others.

CALENDAR—HOLD THESE DATES!!

Upcoming VCLI Activities

August 9—Summer Fun Day. Fun for all the family and dogs plus a membership meeting, at Cathedral Park, Middle Island, NY

September 28—Membership meeting at Planting Fields, after Vizsla classes at Westbury Kennel Club show, Oyster Bay. We will have a covered dish lunch, enjoy conversation and dogs, and maybe learn things, too.

December 6—Holiday Party With short membership meeting, followed by "Holiday Auction" at the home of Jackie and Eddie McAuliffe, Bellport, NY.

Long Island Dog Events

July 11-12—Riverhead Kennel Club show, Riverhead

September 27—Brookhaven Kennel Club Show and Suffolk Obedience Training Club Rally Trial, Oyster Bay

September 28—Westbury Kennel Club Show and Nassau Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally Trials, Oyster Bay

October 4—Ladies Kennel Club Agility Trial, Old Westbury Gardens



The Vizsla Club of Long Island is proud to announce that we have created a web site to further enhance our club and its membership. Just go to the web address <http://www.vcli.net> and our logo will come up. Click on the logo and up comes our homepage. The web site has been created to keep members and other people interested in the Vizsla breed a chance to keep up to date on all the VCLI news and information. We have included contact information, newsletters, rescue information, a photo gallery and many other interesting facts and stories about our breed. Our web site was initiated by Tim Bresko and designed by graphic artist Ron Jones (son of VCLI members Ron & Cathy Jones). Tim will be our Webmaster and keep the web site up to date. We want to thank Tim and Ron for creating a great web site. Please contact Tim through the web site regarding any special achievements or news about your Vizsla that we can include in the web site. We are sure you will enjoy checking the web site often for current news and pictures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

From Stephanie Fischer ilovtrav@aol.com

Treasurers Report

To date, with all the renewals still not in, we have \$1019.35 in our treasury. The rescue fund has a total of \$7610.79 in our money market account.

Membership Report

We are still 22 families shy of full membership renewal. You will find a separate membership renewal application emailed along with this newsletter. Please continue to support our club

Rescue Report

I would first like to thank all the families that donated to our rescue fund along with their renewal. We have been quite fortunate to have healthy dogs entering our program, but there may come a day when a rescue needs extensive Veterinary care. This is what the fund is earmarked for.

“I am Hungarian, therefore I wanted a Hungarian dog.”

“I like their coloring and the fact that they don’t smell; they are beautiful to look at.”

We have had two rescues take place since the last newsletter, one male, and one female both under two. Both adopting families, who are already seasoned Vizsla owners, wanted to wait until they really knew their new family members before writing an article for us. I think the common denominator as to why these dogs were given up in both scenarios was that these were second dogs to enter the households. Sometimes, there is a conflict of personalities between the dogs, and no matter how hard we try, the dogs just do not get along. I think though, more than that, the first families did not realize how much more work, time and effort goes into a multiple dog household. Most families today have many activities outside the home with their children, leaving little time for the dogs. In my case, both my dogs have become the team mascots for my son’s ball team. They are with us at every game.

When the conversation starts off with one of these statements, I ask about research, and then quickly start lecturing. You see, I only have so many hours in a day for silliness. Once I have finished educating the person on the other end of the phone, they quickly realize that our beloved dogs are people in fur and take a great deal of our time. I usually get a comment like, “I don’t think this is the breed for me.” Most of my calls though are from legitimate families who have either just lost a V from cancer or are looking to add another to their family. All of them know the quirks of our breed so we then match a rescue dog with a family by personality. Rescue is never done on a first come, first serve basis.

Spring is also a time for people to come out of hibernation and start calling rescue for new pets. I have gotten many different types of requests from people for Vizslas. Some of my favorites are:

If I can ask you all to help me, when someone asks you about your dog, please be very honest as to what their demands are and how much work goes into raising a well-behaved dog. This way, they know the good and bad upfront and the dogs don’t end up in our rescue program.

Focus On The field

Rich Mayer bytheseavizslas@optonline.net

As we continue to make great progress in gaining our full club status from the AKC, we're now ready to demonstrate that we can hold field events the same way we've been demonstrating that we can hold conformation events. Much like a conformation event, the planning activities begin months ahead of time with the formation of a hunt test committee. The chairperson heads the committee and is assisted by a secretary and several other committee members. The committee must first select a date and secure a suitable property to use. The date cannot conflict with any neighboring club hunt test event for which a 75-mile radius defines where conflicts may arise. The property can be private or public and will require written permission from the landowner as well as insurance coverage because of the nature of the event.

After a location and property has been secured the committee must find at least 4 suitable judges that are experienced in the 3 test performance levels that are generally offered. Judges can be members of the club, however, it's preferred to use non-club members. These activities must all be done at least 90 days prior to the test and become the basis for making written application to hold the event. In parallel with the AKC reviewing the application, the committee continues making plans. Those plans include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Securing gunners for the senior and master tests and making sure they've seen the AKC safe gunning video.</i> • <i>Securing club volunteers to marshal the guests around the course, plant birds, run the kitchen, keep participants ready to run their dogs etc. Club volunteers are vital!</i> • <i>Getting birds, ribbons, judge's gifts and a porta potty ordered.</i> • <i>Assisting judges with overnight accommodations if they're coming a long distance or are judging on two successive days.</i> • <i>Organizing a kitchen that will serve breakfast and lunch. This effort needs a good leader to formulate menus,</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>coordinate food donations, utensils, beverages, tables, coolers, coffee pots, hot plates, grills etc. This is no small task and can be the difference between participants leaving with a great memory of the event or something less than that.</i> • <i>Some clubs run a raffle which is usually great fun and profitable for the club.</i> • <i>Generating, printing and mailing the premium after AKC approval has been given.</i> • <i>Several days before the event the drawing is held to set bracing orders.</i> • <i>The night before the event all club members are requested to pray for good weather.</i> |
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Please be aware that all of the volunteer roles are unisex, coed and fully EEO compliant. Guys can run a mean kitchen and ladies can be great bird planters. We're grateful for anything you can do make the event a success. No experience required (Except gunners)

On the day of the event committee members and volunteers need to be on the grounds approximately 1 hour before the scheduled start of the event. Events usually start between 7:00 and 7:30. The courses have already been marked but someone needs to walk the judges through the courses so they're familiar with the area. Some judges may know the property but some may not. Final details are gone over with the chairman, bird planters and judges and with any luck the first brace is at the line on time! Good weather and good dogs get you 90% to a successful event. A good committee, judges and volunteers push it over the top!

The goal for the day is for everyone to enjoy themselves. We hope for enough volunteers that jobs can be broken into shifts and everyone has a chance to mingle with other club members and make the non-VCLI

participants feel welcome. An event that's done on nice grounds with good judges, birds that fly well and great food is almost guaranteed to be a success. If done well you have out-of-state participants leaving feeling that the long ride to eastern Long Island was well worth it and they're asking when the club's next event will be and be sure they get a premium.

We're beginning the planning process now for an A test this spring. Since the AKC will be sending a representative from the Field Performance Events group to observe our first test, we need to do a great job in planning and executing. We'll use our upcoming training days to train and hone skills like bird planting. Anyone interested in being on the committee or volunteering can give me a call or drop me a mail.

Point it Out: There are many great training books and videos out there. A few to consider are *Best Way To Train Your Gun Dog—The Delmar Smith Method* by Bill Tarrant) and *The Hunter's Guide to Training Pointing Dogs* (Video) by George Hickox. These are available from <http://www.gundogsupply.com/>

What is a "Wichmannism?"

*These are terms that are part of "dog people" language collected by Melina Wichmann for **Front and Finish Magazine** http://frontandfinish.com/feature_wichmannisms.cfm. Readers are encouraged to send their own. Examples include*

BODILY FUNCTIONS

Hurf: Vomit as in "Your dog hurfed in my shoe."

Yak: Similar to hurf in sound but without production of stomach contents as in "My dog just yakked, you might want to move your shoes."

Eye Boogies: Generally refers to some kind of boogery stuff in or near the dog's eye. Also called "eye goober." Removal embarrasses dog before going into the ring. They don't want their friends to see.

Butt stickies: Something unpleasant stuck near the dog's butt. A.K.A. "butt crusties" or "cling-ons." Dogs are adverse to removal.

BEHAVIORS

Mammogram: When a large dog leaps enthusiastically up to see you and lands with one paw on each... well... you get the picture.

Drive-by: Your dog runs at you enthusiastically, launches into the air, makes contact with the hand holding the cookie or toy and takes off again.

Free sniffs: What Dog A gets when Dog B backs up to his face.

Snitz: What Dog B does when she realizes her butt is in Dog A's face and she did not authorize any sniffing.

The Look: Very similar to the hairy eyeball but precedes an act of canine mischief.

Deer in the headlights look: Usually seen in the Utility ring during the signal exercise. After Jamie failed Utility signals four trials in a row at a summer UKC weekend at Ft. Dodge, Iowa, I began calling this the "Fort Dodge Look."

Besides this somewhat scatological humor, Front and Finish is one of the best dog training e magazines available for learning how to compete with your dog in performance events. In addition to subscriptions, they offer a "public" library of articles and past issues on their website at <http://frontandfinish.com> in addition to a "subscriber access only" library.

Other Resources

Whole Dog Journal, the monthly guide to natural dog care and training that many members love and subscribe to (<http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/>) allows free email newsletter subscriptions on dog care and training advice to anyone via their website. Recent topics sent have included "Tips for the First-Time Dog Owner," "Training Techniques that Work," "Great Tips for Your Dog's Good Health," and "Children and Dogs." The *Journal* has produced five books from its pages, also available for sale on the website, and a general book called *The Whole Dog Journal Handbook of Dog and Puppy Care and Training* by Nancy Kerns. This very nice compilation is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble or <http://dogwise.com/>.

FROM THE PUSZTA TO LONG ISLAND: VIZSLA HISTORY

Judging from comments of several of our members, the remarkable background of the Vizsla breed is a little known saga, which is fascinating. Although not a history scholar, I have gathered some parts of the story together from a variety of sources to try to trace for you the ancient story of the loving companions which grace our lives, our Vizslas.

Anne Denehy

It would be no surprise to any owner to read in old historic documents referring to the Vizsla that they are noble in appearance and distinguished in bearing. Their story and this description dates far back even before the early Middle Ages, when nomadic warring tribes wandered throughout parts of what is now Asia and northern Europe. The Magyar people were some of these, and they and the dogs they used for hunting for their sustenance moved about at will. In time they gradually moved southward, leaving the puszta (translation: "barren wasteland") for a more grassy area that is roughly now Hungary and some surrounding countries.

History documents that one of the six main chieftains of the Magyars, Arpad, who died around 900, and his descendants began to form a unified Hungarian state, not without a few wars and assassinations. A century later Vajk was baptized a Christian and was given the name Stephen. He was crowned Hungary's first King in 1000. His crown became sacred symbol Hungary's sovereignty. (More about that and its Vizsla connection later).

As we know, before literacy was widespread, historical facts were documented through art forms such as drawings, bas-relief sculpture and tapestries as well as manuscripts. Primitive carvings in stone, over 1000 years old testify to the existence of the Vizsla before

the 10th century. They have been found depicted in many places that can still be seen today. It is through these media that we know that Magyar chieftains—the "nobility" of the time rode out to the hunt with their falcons and hunting dogs, which strongly resemble the modern day Vizsla. It is thought that they originated with the "yellow" dogs that were regarded and highly coveted as superior hunting companions. Only those of the privileged classes were allowed to own them, and in time they became known as "Gift of Kings." To receive one of these "Royal Golden Vizslas" was an honor bestowed only from one ruler to another. Bearing out a practice that has even come down into more recent times, that of the daughter of a noble being given in marriage to a son of another kingdom, these princesses were sent east and west, and Vizslas sometimes were sent with them. In a Cathedral in Krakow, Poland, the traveler can see the crypt of a Hungarian born Queen Jadwige (1374), where her statue is lying with her Vizsla at her feet. There is absolutely no question in the viewer's mind about the breed of her faithful dog. Today, a fabulous fountain sculpture adorns the exterior of the Royal Buda castle in Budapest, depicting a fifteenth century King Matyas Corvinus and huntsman with his Vizslas running with them.

Because of space constraints this will be continued in the next issue, bringing the story of the Vizsla breed up to modern times. AD

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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