



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 1

February, 2014

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I need to start the New Year off with a plea! We need to add at least 4-5 new board members to the executive board, as there are now 4-5 vacancies. Some of these people have been on the board almost from the beginning and feel it is time to stay involved, but from a different vantage point.

The requirements are simple: we have meetings 5 times a year, either by teleconference or in person. The meetings are usually on a Wednesday night and last for about 1.5 hours. The meetings will help form the activities of the club and decide what direction

the club will go in moving forward. These club members are actively involved in the planning of the events and usually attend all events. I am also looking for an event planner.

Those of us "old timers" will be here to help, but **WE** need your participation. I will be staying on as President for 1 more year. Rescue has always been my passion, and with our rescue gaining 501c3 status, and becoming better known, it is taking up more of my time. As most of you know, I do not like to do anything only halfway. I am finding it difficult to juggle both positions well, so I must in 2015 pass this position on to the next

leader. I have seen this club grow from a group of Vizsla lovers to an AKC recognized club under the direction of Anne Denehy. We have a wonderful group of people. I would love to see our club thrive for many years to come.

Please send me an email, or call me to offer your help. My number is 516-932-0530.

On Saturday, February 8, our club will be holding its annual Specialty Show. This year it will be at the Hilton, in Rye Brook, NY. (directions: <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/new-york/hilton-westchester-RYEHIHH/maps-directions/index.html>) Please come and support our Vizslas. There is no admission for spectators and the Hilton is a beautiful venue. You will get to see Vizslas from across the country, as this is the weekend just prior to Westminster. We will also be raffling off a beautiful handmade quilt, made by our own Cathy Jones.

Information on the quilt will be in this newsletter, as well as on our FB page and our website <http://www.vcli.net>.

Enclosed at the end of the newsletter, you will also find our annual renewal form. It needs to be completed and returned by March 31. This year, we have made it easy. The whole process can be done online on our website under "store". Once again, we will be having our annual dinner in April. Details will be forthcoming. I am hoping to see many more new faces this year come out and support the club. Please don't be shy!

*Warm regards,
Stephanie*



Rescue Committee Report

We have had 2 rescues placed since the last newsletter. The first rescue, Cassie, was placed in rescue about 5 years ago and adopted by an older couple. Cassie was their 4th Vizsla. Last year they called me and said she may need to be placed in rescue again, as the husband was not well. I assured them, we would be here to help if they needed to go that route. The husband could not part with her, as she was his reason to go out and walk. He recovered over time. Fast forward to a few months ago. I received another phone call from the same family, but this time the owner had a stroke. He was not going to recover, and Cassie was not getting enough exercise. They had to put their own feelings aside and do what was right for their dog. I was simultaneously contacted by a

family in Connecticut that had lost their first Vizsla. Their second Vizsla was 14 and could not handle a young dog, yet they thought he could use a playmate. Patty was a rescue person for an all-breed shelter. She and I spent a lot of time on the phone. When Cassie came into our program, I thought this would be a good match. The rest is history. Enjoy her story, and pictures. I have Cassie's holiday picture framed in our office.

Our second rescue is living a charmed life now up on Cape Cod. I would like to touch briefly on his history. Unfortunately, many of us have heard it before. Bodi is a very active 9-year-old whose original owners treated him like their child, until the 2-legged child came into their lives last year. He went from being exercised and the center of attention to being barely exercised and put on the back burner. Months passed, a situation happened with their child, and Bodi was going into rescue. A very tight time frame was given to me. If he was not placed, the owners thought about putting him down. This was haunting me, as Bodi was evaluated and not a bad dog at all. He was feeling very left out and bewildered. Through the wonders of social media, and my belief in dog karma, Bodi is now running on the beaches of Cape Cod with a new Weimaraner sister named Lola. His owners have promised me a story and photos for our next newsletter.

As you all know, our rescue is now a 501c-3. This enables your donation to be tax-deductible. This also enables corporations to make donations. Our rescue program is thriving, and well recognized. We should all be proud!

On a more serious note, the Southside Kennel case is still ongoing. Frank Popolizio was put on probation for numerous charges. He is not allowed to own or sell dogs for 5 years. He violated his parole. He was arraigned in court on January 13 and formally charged with lying to his probation officer. The court date is set for Monday, March 3. I have stressed to the DA, as well as the probation officers that when these dogs are hopefully taken away from him, our rescue would again like to help with the placement. I would also like to thank Evelyn D'Achille for being on top of the puppy for sale sites. She has successfully been able to get Frank Popolizio, and Southside Kennels removed from these sites, as this too is a violation of his parole. I can report that there are more than 50 dogs, a combination of Vizslas and German Shorthairs still at the kennel. Luckily, as per the parole officer they are in decent condition and not outside.

As usual, we are always looking for foster families. Please email if you can help out.
Stephanie

Stephanie Fischer ilovtrav@aol.com

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Cassi's Story

On June 3rd, 2013 I posted this note on my Facebook page. It was the eulogy that I had dreaded for so long...

"And so at noon today we let go of our little man... Rudolph "Rudi" Pork Chop Ambivalence of Norwalk. To be alive, to be mortal, is to succumb to the whim of time and fate. Conversely it allows us the joys of a life well lived. He certainly lived, and Doug and I experienced life so fully and differently because of him. While our hearts are smothered, we cherish the 14 years, 6 months and 17 days he graced us with his unconditional love, his perseverance, his exuberance for life, and his never ending love affair with a tennis ball. As my first dog, he opened up an entire chapter in my personal life, as you are all well aware. The sadness will pass, the memories will not. And the gratefulness that is permanently etched in our hearts for the endless life-lessons that this one, medium-sized red dog bestowed upon us is immeasurable. Good-bye for now my sweet Baa-Baa. Run like the wind, swim, and give big soft kisses to Grandma and Poppi for us. We will meet you over the Rainbow Bridge."

Rudi was our first Vizsla. He was also my first dog. Ever. My husband was the "dog guy". I was the reason that Rudi's moniker included the descriptor "ambivalence". It's not that I didn't like dogs. It's just that I had no knowledge of them. Or any other pets for that matter. My mom was allergic to everything that moved that wasn't human. And there was some doubt about my brother. But I digress. I never had any pets growing up. My cousins had a HUGE Shepherd that they kept closed in the basement. Naturally he was a beast when they let him out. That unfortunately was my

"experience" with dogs. I enjoyed the idea of a dog, my husband was such a dog lover, but I was ignorant to the entire process and therefore somewhat opposed. We finally compromised. My husband said we would get a dog and I could pick the breed. Again, HELLO, no canine knowledge whatsoever! I had a friend at the office that had Vizslas and he would, on occasion, bring them in. Low and behold, an epiphany. They were crazy fun, so cool, and red...one of my favorite colors. Done and done. My husband's reply, "What the hell is a Vizsla?" My retort, "Well, you said I could pick". Ignorance is bliss. The rest is history.

Rudi was an amazingly smart, fun, challenging puppy. We lived in a condominium complex at the time and every other unit had a dog as a family member. Rudi was in his glory. Play dates every day at the big field at the school next door, treats galore and boatloads of belly rubs. Life was good. Then, as was planned in pursuit of our American dream, we "moved on up" as it were and bought our first home a year or so later. Over an acre of property. Great neighbors. NO DOGS! So while he now had his own field of dreams to run in, and all of our love and attention, Rudi became depressed for lack of a better term. He missed his friends. I found myself driving him back to the condo complex before work to morning play dates. Really? Well, yes, really. Enter my husband, once again. "You know what this means don't you?" Yes honey, time for another dog. Why bother resisting?

But let's go back a little ways first. Once we did get "the dog", I was committed. I immersed myself in the dog world. I tend to do that with things that are attached to life

changing decisions. And while I didn't know much about dogs, I was smart enough to realize that getting a dog would be a game changer. I wish more folks would think that way. And so I had not only availed myself to absorb every bit of knowledge there was out in the universe about dogs, and Vizslas in particular, but I also became acutely aware of the dark side of it all. Over-population, abuse, puppy mills and mismanagement. I had always sworn that if we were to get another dog I would like to rescue. I was thrilled to discover that there were breed specific rescue groups at the ready. And so once the decision was made, we began the hunt for another V, preferably one that could benefit from the love and compassion that Doug and I had for those dogs that are less fortunate, no matter what the circumstances.

My research brought me around to Stephen Shlyen. What good fortune for us! We told him our situation and kept in contact for a couple of months. There were a few dogs that he had in mind for us but that he thought were not quite "ready". Then we got the call. I'll never forget the conversation. "I have a dog you might be interested in. He's got more things wrong with him than you can shake a stick at, but he's really a sweet boy." Say what? A challenge? A dog who needs me? Bring it on! We immediately made plans to go to PA with Rudi and visit. Enter Rusti. He was emaciated, had eye infections, ear infections, for all intents and purposes a disaster, but about as sweet as honey and nearly as sticky. He was a lover! He and Rudi played for several hours, running in the fields with the countless other Vizslas that resided there, and at the end of the afternoon, home he came with us. Albeit not before a few tears were shed by all. Stephen and his partner had nursed him for weeks and while clearly happy to see him go, there was the momentary sadness that I

would learn all too well years later, comes with every adoption.

I could go on ad nauseam with stories of these fast friends. Rudi was our super jock and Rusti our "stoner". They played off of each other's differences and truly were constant companions. Each one bringing to our family his own amazing and unique personality. And as it turned out they were about the same age. It was perfection.

Don't get me wrong, there were hurdles. We faced canine diabetes, splenectomies, cataract surgeries, and survived it all intact--too much to cover; maybe another newsletter. For now, fast forward to June 3rd, 2013. Rusti, our usually goofy, playful boy, sensed that something wasn't right. As he lay on the couch in our living room, and mused about the processes that our vet was demonstrating, we knew he knew. He was losing his friend.



Rusti and Rudi

Now we experienced a different kind of depression. A 13-year-long friendship had ended. Rusti had all our attention during this most difficult time, and yet he clearly felt abandoned. He had lost his alpha. I expected the loss to be difficult for us. I did not however expect it to be as difficult as it was for him. He wouldn't eat. He would go out in the yard and just stand there, head

hanging. I couldn't bear to watch. And even though the thought of getting another dog was the furthest from my mind, I quickly realized it might be what we needed to do...for Rusti. I was afraid the sadness would take him too. And that I knew I could not bear.

In the interim we did everything we could to help Rusti in his grief. We began walking him on leash again. A process we hadn't really followed for some time on a regular basis. We typically let them run, and in later years, stroll, around in the yard, and on the weekend we would go to a park or the lake for some family time. But now we had to step it up. We needed to keep his mind occupied and his spirit elevated. Doug and I began walking him together religiously, every morning before work. It did help, but wasn't quite the ticket. And so after a few months of careful soul searching, we considered rescue once again.

Again back to the rescue community. Interestingly we did find that even though he was no longer actively involved in setting up adoptions, Stephen was still connected to so many, and had mentored quite a few. I had some long, detailed and heartfelt conversations with the likes of Debra Evalds and Stephanie Fischer. They truly helped me get through a tough time. When I cried about the fact that as much as I wanted another companion for Rusti, I didn't believe I was really ready, they understood and offered solace. In a weird way you feel like you're replacing the lost one. In my head I knew I wasn't doing that but it made my heart ache. I have to admit that Doug was more open to it than I. And again, you get the call. Stephanie Fischer..." We have a situation..." Oh boy. And so for Rusti's 15th birthday, enter Cassie. Really mom? I would have been happy with a slice of cheese.

Well, let me just say, Cassie, who is now Cassi Rae 'cause we need the "R" to be

present, IS the ticket. As much as he protested at first, no aggression mind you, but a clear and present concern, Rusti has warmed up to our girl. And she has without a doubt, turned his head. He looks forward to his walk even more now that he has a sniffing partner. He eats competitively, and



Cassi Rae

yes, we did catch them snoozing together more than once. Cassi tries to engage him in play but once she realizes that he can't participate at the level that she would prefer, she basically leaves him be. She's very respectful of his age and limitations. He will occasionally hop around with her for a few seconds, and that makes her happy.

She has brought a joy and vibrancy back into the house that we missed, perhaps a little more than we realized. Our hesitation about rescuing a seven-year-old quickly dissipated. She apparently doesn't realize that she's seven. More like two we think. She sashays through a photo shoot like nobody's business and in the next breath guts a chew toy in 60 seconds flat. She's a brilliant dichotomy of a bitch. And Cassi has lent new meaning to the term "daddy's little girl". Don't make me go there. Doug can write his own letter.



Cassi and Rusty

time so freely, and work so tirelessly to make the matches that are otherwise only available in heaven. Thanks to the family that was responsible enough to contact them when they realized their situation was such that Cassi could no longer be cared for in the manner that she deserved. Thanks to the Magyar tribes for breeding a dog that is as unique and fulfilling as the stories we tell about them. And most of all thanks to Rusti who has displayed such resilience in his 105 dog years, and through it all has maintained his great sense of humor.

Patti, Doug, Rusti & Cassie Chervin

And so we say thanks again. Thank you thank you thank you to Stephanie, and Debra, and all the others who lend their



Selected Regional Upcoming Events

CONFORMATION

- 2/8 VCLI Specialty, Rye, NY
- 2/9 CVVC Specialty, Rye, NY
- 2/10 Westminster KC, NYC
- 2/15-16 First Co. Governors Footguard Athletic Assn., Hartford, CT
- 2/22-3 Rockland Co. KC, Suffern, NY
- 3/9 Saw Mill River KC, Milton, NY
- 3/22 New Brunswick KC, Edison, NJ
- 4/113 Rhode Island KC, Warwick, RI
- 4/12 Harrisburg KC, Harrisburg, PA
- 4/18 Springfield KC, West Springfield, MA

4/26 LIGSP, Riverhead, NY

For more information on upcoming events, go to:

- <http://www.akc.org/events/search/>
- <http://vcaweb.org>
- <http://www.vcli.net>
- <http://www.vcnj.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>

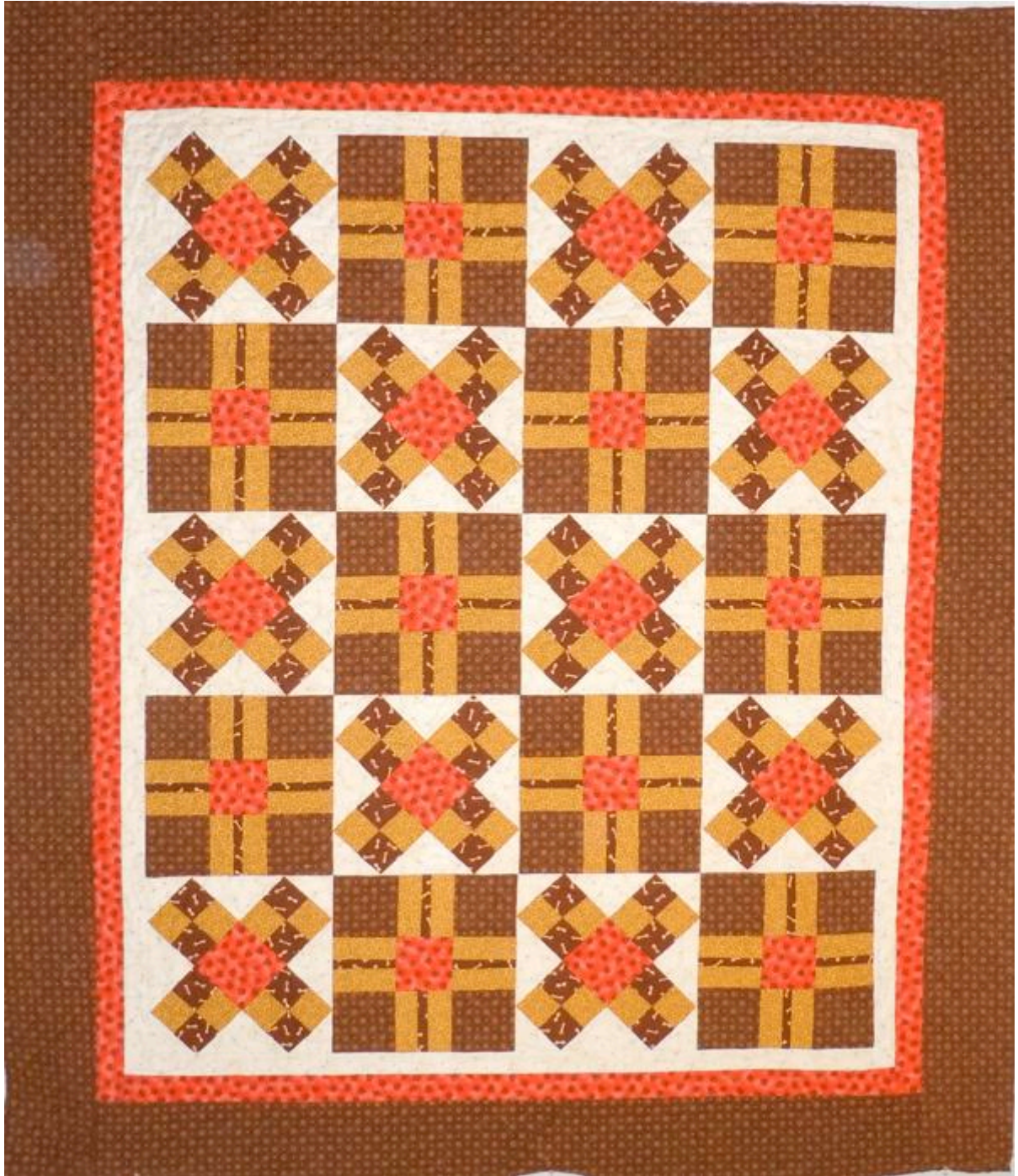
HUNT TESTS

- 3/15-16 LIPDFTC, Riverhead, NY
- 3/29-30 Nutmeg Weimaraner Club, Simsbury, CT
- 4/12-13 VCGNY, Weatherly, PA



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The lovely quilt on the next page, approximately 60" x 72" was handmade by our club member, Cathy Jones. We are raffling it off as the grand prize during our specialty show in Rye Brook, New York on Saturday, February 8. You need not be present to win. To enter the raffle, please send a check, made out to the **VCLI**. Each raffle chance is \$5.00. Please include your contact info. The check should be sent to: Stephanie Fischer 28 Devonshire Ct. Plainview NY 11803. Stephanie's email is ilovtrav@aol.com Checks must be received no later than Friday, February 7, 2014.



Member Profile: Nick and Donna Owczarek

Nick and I adopted our first Vizsla, Meadow, in June of 2010 – but she won't be our last. Or at least, I don't think so. You see, our problem is that we are both suckers for a sad looking face with a sob story, no matter the coat color or length, drop ears or pointed, straight tailed or curled. When we found Meadow on Petfinder, she happened to be one of those fur faces with a sob story, and she easily ~~suckered us in~~ won our hearts.

Do we love the Vizsla breed? *Absolutely.* What's **not** to love about a short coated, friendly, super intelligent, energetic breed that's on the smaller size, yet BIG on personality?

And sweet too.

At least, with **us**.



Donna, Nick, Toby and Meadow at Lake George

Meadow is still a bit standoffish with strangers. Nowadays, she'll approach

them, and maybe even give them a friendly wag. But she wants affection on *her* terms, with people that she knows. Who can blame her? Would **you** want some stranger groping at you, wanting to stroke your head, hug you, or maybe even try to kiss you?

I think not.



Meadow making a new friend at Martha Clara Vineyards

Meadow can also be a bit "bratty" with other dogs, including our other two, Toby and Leah. She's pushy with my Lab, and confrontational with my shepherd mix, even though Leah is twice Meadow's size! She has also been "less than hospitable" with strange dogs that have visited our household, and regularly exchanges a look with one of my Mom's shepherds that is so frigid we keep them both separate – just in case.

But with me and Nick, she's your typical V – regularly climbing up into our laps with her front feet for a hug and a snuggle. In fact, I've never seen a dog enjoy hugs quite as much as Meadow does, and it is very endearing. She's also scary smart, which is what I think kept her alive during her time on the run before she was rescued. When we teach her something new, she picks it up after only a few tries,

and she seems to really enjoy learning, as long as she's in a familiar environment where she feels at home. Now that she's finally taken to toys, she wants to play all the time. I mean, *all* the time. God help you if you want to read a book when she thinks you should be playing **with her**. First she'll pick up her favorite toy, or should I say "Taw-yeee," and then she'll stand a foot or so away, staring at you with a pathetic look – for as long as it takes.

Once you make eye contact, all bets are off. She wiggles her little Vizsla butt in delight, takes a step closer, and then holds the Taw-yeee right over the pages of your book, until finally, you decide to play with her. You reach for the Taw-yeee, and Psych! She pulls it away. Did I mention her favorite game is keep-away? Yeah, she's a smart aleck all right, and a cute one at that. And she has totally stolen both of our hearts.



Meadow on vacation in the Poconos

Which is why I say I don't *think* she'll be our last Vizsla. Although the Owczarek Inn is full right now, we'd certainly be open to adopting another one down the line. After falling in love with a dog, it's hard **not** to want another one (or three). But the problem is, when the time comes (in the very far off future) that we're ready to adopt another dog, it will depend on which dog needs us. If it is another Vizsla, *awesome*. All the less dog hair to vacuum. ☺

Donna Owczarek



Ten Tips for Winter Pet Care

By Nancy Kay, author of *Speaking for Spot* and *Your Dog's Best Health*

<http://speakingforspot.com>

1. Just as arthritis can be more problematic for us when the temperature drops, so too does this apply to our animals. If your best buddy appears stiff first thing in the morning or is more tentative when navigating stairs or jumping up and down off the furniture, I encourage you to contact your veterinarian. These days, there are so many beneficial treatment options for soothing arthritis discomfort. For your pet's sake, make the effort to learn more about them.
2. When the temperature drops, outdoor kitties like to snuggle up against car engines for extra warmth. Be sure to provide plenty of notice before you start up your engine lest a "kitty squatter" sustain serious injury as a result of moving auto parts. Vocalize and tap the hood a few times. Better yet, lift the hood to alert any slumbering guests of your intentions.
3. Antifreeze is terribly toxic for dogs and cats. Even a few licks of the stuff can cause kidney failure and severe neurological symptoms, usually resulting in death. Unfortunately, most

antifreeze products have a sweet flavor making them appealing to dogs. Cats are too discriminating to voluntarily taste the stuff, but should they step in antifreeze, they will ingest enough to be toxic during their grooming process. Please prevent your pets from having any access to antifreeze by checking under your vehicles for leaks and storing antifreeze containers in a safe place.

4. Wintertime is definitely dress-up time for dogs, when the clothing is functional rather than just adorable. Just like us, many dogs are more comfortable outside when wearing an extra layer. Smaller dogs in particular have difficulty maintaining a normal body temperature when exposed to freezing conditions. If the love of your canine life happens to be an arctic breed (Malamute, Husky, Samoyed), no need for canine clothing!

5. Regardless of season, all animals need access to water round-the-clock. If your pet is reliant on an outdoor water bowl, strategize a way to prevent the water from freezing. Water bowl heaters work well. Additionally moving water is more resistant to freezing- consider creating a little "drinking fountain" for your pets.

6. Sure the weather is cold, but your dogs still need plenty of exercise for their physical as well as their psychological well being. Besides, there's nothing quite like the feeling of relaxing by the fire with a content and tired dog at your side! If the weather is truly too inclement for both of you to be outdoors, look for an indoor dog park or consider doggie day care, assuming your dog enjoys such venues.

7. I'm all for hiking with dogs off leash, but in winter, be extra cautious around ponds and lakes for fear of thin ice. Not only is falling through the ice life threatening for dogs, it creates a situation that often becomes life threatening for the humans involved in the rescue operation.

8. Salt on sidewalks and roads and even ice that adheres to all of that fuzzy hair between your dog's toes can create irritation and sores. Inspect and rinse your dog's tootsies as needed.

9. I strongly encourage having dogs and cats live indoors. If your living situation absolutely prevents this, and there are no other viable alternatives, please provide your pet with an enclosed shelter that is warmed by a heating device and contains plenty of clean, dry bedding. Also, remember that your pet needs just as much attention from you in frigid temperatures as during the warmer seasons.

10. 'Tis the time of year when we humans tend to overindulge, eating all kinds of things we shouldn't. Don't allow your pets to become a victim of this holiday spirit. In addition to adding unwanted and unhealthy pounds, eating rich and fatty foods predisposes them to gastrointestinal upset and pancreatitis either of which could land your four-legged family member in the hospital for several days (not to mention create some significant rug-cleaning expenses for you).



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

This picture of Bruce Massie's Rezi appeared in the November 22, 2013 issue of Newsday. It's Rezi looking at ducks in the Massapequa Preserve during an early morning walk.





Focus on the Field

Andrew Campbell

Training Alone

I was asked if I could make a few suggestions for how to train on your own. The short answer is that it's hard, or put the other way around, it is easier to get more done when you have someone else to train with, even if you are working a single dog between you. That second person can plant birds and keep an eye on them, flush birds for your dog, and also either fire the blank gun or shoot a bird for you.

The first answers to that question have to encompass what stage you are at in your field training. Are you trying to get your dog broke? Are you trying to work on a specific skill, e.g. honoring? What are you training for? For example, is it field trialing? A hunt test title? Or to be a mannerly hunting partner? If we assume that you are trying to cross that first major developmental and training hurdle of getting your dog 'broke,' what method are you using to get your dog steady-to-wing-and-shot and to honor?

In previous columns I have tried to stress that it is important to train with a long-term goal in mind, identify how you will train to that goal, and then train to your plan. For

example, while not every dog can be a Field Champion, there is tremendous pleasure to be had from training a dog to that standard. If you don't know how far you might want to take your dog, then go to a field trial or a hunt test – or, if your only intention is to hunt with your dog, then try to shoot over a number of dogs and figure out whose performance you like the most. As I'll point out, in the absence of an extra set of hands, you will need to invest in some training equipment. But in the absence of a clear sense of your goals and methodology, you stand to invest in a bunch of stuff that may well end up gathering dust.

My primary training values are as follows:

- Any lesson a bird can teach a dog is ten-times more valuable than a lesson taught by a verbal command or a correction;
- Anything we can do to make our training more like interacting with wild, healthy birds will make a smarter bird dog;
- By contrast, the more stilted and artificial the training set-up, the more likely we are to bore our dogs and make them lose interest;

- The more excited our dogs are, and the least amount of leverage or correction we need to use, the more stylish and exciting our dogs will look.

Whatever method you use, you need to be able to flush birds without leaving your dog's side. There is nothing cheap about buying a set of two or three electronic launchers, but keep in mind that a foot-activated tip-up releaser or a pull-string-activated launcher require you to be very close to the bird – which might prove counter-productive for your dog for a couple of reasons. For example, while using an electronic launcher system requires some familiarization and coordination, because you can launch a bird with one hand without leaving your dog's side, such a system makes it very easy to teach a dog to stop-to-flush and also discourage them from either creeping or crowding their birds. If you are by yourself and looking to teach your dog to honor another dog, then you will need to find a Remote Auto-Backer. This, too, is a not insubstantial piece of training equipment, but potentially easier than trying to drive to find another dog to work with. And, when paired with an electronic launcher, can really make your expectations clear to your dog without merely relying on forcible correction.

Nevertheless, if you are using some variation of what is traditionally called 'whoa-breaking' – where the dog points, you give a verbal command, and correct or restrain the dog when it moves (whether with a check cord or an e-collar) – then you can use something like a Third Hand to loop your check cord through while you move in front of your dog to release a bird from a tip-up releaser. In my opinion, though, I find carrying a Third Hand as awkward as trying to stamp one in the ground once the dog is on-point to loop my check cord through. (A [Third Hand](#) is a spike with a loop in it that you jab into the ground once your dog is on point, and loop your check cord through it

so you can keep tension on it while you walk in front.) Again, in my opinion, the more artificial the training set-up, the longer the transition from training field to test field.

I would encourage folks to read Martha Greenlee's *Training with Mo: How Maurice Lindley Trains Pointing Dogs* (Glade Run Press, 2010) – if for no other reason than, while a professional trainer, Mo does a significant amount of his training by himself. The insights he has into how to make things work for him are useful for all of us, even if you decide to whoa-break your dog rather than use 'the West method' like he and I do. I asked Maurice if he had any additional tips for aspiring solo trainers and this is what he suggested:

- Buy the best flying birds that you can, even if it means paying a little more for an older, truly flight-conditioned bird;
- Ditch the 50-foot check cord that seemed like a good idea when you bought it and buy or make a shorter, stiffer cord that will give you more direct, immediate control and communication with your dog;
- Learn when to quit a day's training session; don't try to cram everything into a single training session;
- Look for improvement, but not necessarily perfection – even champions make mistakes;
- When you do make a mistake as a trainer, learn from it and move on. Don't beat yourself up.

This last point is very important. As a solo, amateur trainer you will make mistakes – but having a long-term goal will help you to understand that you don't need to get everything done in a single day and will help you develop patience towards yourself and your dog.

Andrew Campbell is an AKC approved hunt test and field trial judge and is owned and operated by two Vizslas and a pointer.

Since the last newsletter, he was honored to judge his first National Championship qualifying trial down in southern Georgia – and in doing so, was reminded how much work he still has to do.

The dog in the picture is Clearidge's Independent Ben learning to be broke out at summer camp in South Dakota this past summer.



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Health Information About Vaccinations

2013 AND 2014 CANINE VACCINATION PROTOCOL - W. JEAN DODDS, DVM

Dr. Dodds has made only slight, minor changes to the basic, core Canine Vaccination Protocol she established in previous years. Dr. Dodds bases her decisions on numerous factors such as presence of maternal immunity, prevalence of viruses or other infectious agents in the region, number of reported occurrences of the viruses and other infectious agents, how these agents are spread, and the typical environmental conditions and exposure risk activities of companion animals.

Dr. Dodds considers infectious canine hepatitis (adenovirus-1), canine adenovirus-2, bordetella, canine influenza, canine coronavirus, leptospirosis, and Lyme regional and situational. Please research the prevalence in your area, and discuss it with your veterinarian.

2013 and 2014 Vaccination Protocol Note: The following vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one Dr. Dodds recommends and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice.

9-10 Weeks Old: Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Merck Nobivac [Intervet Progard] Puppy DPV)

14-16 Weeks: Same as above

20 Weeks or Older (if allowable by law): Rabies

1 Year: Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (optional = titer)

1 Year: Rabies, killed 3-year product (give 3-4 weeks apart from distemper/parvovirus booster)

Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request

Dr. Jean Dodds is considered one of the foremost experts in pet health care. She focuses on vaccination protocols, thyroid issues and nutrition. For more information, visit hemopet.org or nutriscan.org

To Ponder

The following was found posted very low on a refrigerator door:

Dear Dogs:

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Racing me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort, however. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other, stretched out to the fullest

extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out on the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is no secret exit from the bathroom! If, by some miracle, I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, and try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge in an attempt to open the door. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years--canine attendance is not required.

The proper order for kissing is: Kiss me first, then go smell the other dog's or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough.

Finally, in fairness, dear pets, I have posted the following message on the front door:

TO ALL NON-PET OWNERS WHO VISIT AND LIKE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR PETS:

- (1) They live here. You don't.
- (2) If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. That's why they call it 'fur'-niture.
- (3) I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
- (4) To you, they are animals. To me, they are adopted sons/daughters who are short, hairy, walk on all fours and don't speak clearly.

REMEMBER, DOGS ARE BETTER THAN KIDS BECAUSE THEY

- (1) eat less,
- (2) don't ask for money all the time,
- (3) are easier to train,
- (4) normally come when called,
- (5) never ask to drive the car,
- (6) don't hang out with drug-using people,
- (7) don't smoke or drink,
- (8) don't want to wear your clothes,
- (9) don't have to buy the latest fashions,
- (10) don't need a gazillion dollars for college and
- (11) if they get pregnant, you can sell their children.

Member Photos



Kelly Franco, former adopter of rescue Boo Radley who recently passed away, introduces Primo, bred by Carol Phelps. For the original Boo story, one of the funniest rescue stories we ever published, go to the August, 2008 newsletter, p. 6.



Julie LaMothe's Ruby at the beach, and below, Ruby and Brady cuddling.



Mary K's Nugget and his monkey toy.



VCLI Officers

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

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

Treasurer: Chris Cheeseman
cpachristophergc@yahoo.com (516) 238-0783

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

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

Directors:

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

Debbie Field DField77@gmail.com (212) 444-8386

Barbara Parker bparker@optonline.net 631-842-1122

Committees:

Membership: Debbie Field

DField77@gmail.com (212) 444-8386

Rescue: Stephanie Fischer ilovtrav@aol.com,
Mary K. Chelton mchelton@optonline.net, Ron
Jones skyblu47@optonline.net, Debbie Field
deb2004@nyc.rr.com

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

Events: Evelyn D'Achille missev@verizon.net
516-825-2097

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

Newsletter/Education: Mary K. Chelton, (631)
286-4255, 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: APRIL 15, 2014



Vizsla Club of Long Island

Member Application Renewal

Please help us to keep our records up-to-date by filling out this application and mailing it back no later than April 1, 2014.

Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address:

- Please indicate if you would like to receive club communications using your **e-mail** address only **Yes** or **No**
- Do you want your name and contact information included on a published club list? This list will be sent to other members of our club: **Yes** or **No**

Member Profile:

- I/We now own ____ Vizslas ____ Males ____ Females
- I / We currently participate in the following activities with our dog(s) (Circle all that apply)
Agility breeding conformation field trials hunt tests obedience therapy tracking
- Are you a member of any other Vizsla or kennel club(s): **Yes** or **No**

If so please indicate which one(s):
VCA____ VCGNY____ VCNNJ____ CVVC____ Other_____

- Do you have, or know anyone who has, special skills, facilities or equipment to offer the club such as cooking at gatherings, tables, agility or obedience equipment, veterinary or training help, newsletter publication skills, etc? If so, please indicate below? The club promises not to overwhelm you.

Membership (select type): Single ____ \$25.00 Family ____ \$30.00

I would like to donate to our Vizsla Rescue Fund \$ _____

I would like to help rescue with ___fostering ___transportation ___shelter checks ___home visits
___paperwork

I would like to donate to our Trophy Fund \$_____

Suggestions for the upcoming year:

Please mail completed application, with a check made out to VCLI to:
Debbie Field PO Box 166 Lakeville, CT 06069
DField77@gmail.com
212-444-8386