



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Number 2

May, 2015

*From our President Stephanie Fischer (<mailto:ilovtrav@aol.com>)*

Welcome to spring everyone! It is really nice to be sitting near a window with the sun beaming in and the birds chirping. Spring is always the time we start to think about club gatherings, the dog shows at Planting Fields and the Fun Day. I would like to be able to have some informal gatherings at Coindre Hall in Huntington, as the dogs are able to run free on over 35 acres down to the water. We can start doing this on the weekends. It was obvious at our annual dinner that most members prefer events where they can bring their dogs, so stay tuned, emails will be sent out.

Our Fun Day will be held again in September. Last year, the weather was perfect, and it wasn't too hot for the dogs. Watch for a "save the date" email.

Our club has a very large membership list and I, along with the board members would love some of you to reach out with new suggestions and ideas. A club only can grow when the members move it in a forward direction. Please don't be shy.

We are always looking for volunteers for our events committee. Feel free to email or call if you are interested.

Hope to see you soon,  
*Stephanie.*

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## PHOTOS FROM OUR ANNUAL DINNER



**Our speaker Andrew Campbell**



**The rest of the gang.**

**Eddie and Jackie McAuliffe**



**Our president, Stephanie**

## Rescue Committee Report

When spring finally arrives, rescue always picks up. I receive many more applications to adopt as well as phone calls from people needing to have their dogs adopted. I was again contacted to help with the placement of 2 retired breeding bitches from a kennel upstate. Isabella was 10 and Helen was 7 as per the paperwork. The problem here was that they were so bonded, and Isabella was so nervous, they had to be placed together. Bonnie, their foster mom did a phenomenal job of teaching the girls how to be Vizslas. They had never played with toys, and were thrilled to throw the toys up in the air to play catch. She gave them their first bath and their first glimpse at a television. Isabella needed to be spayed and have some very large mammary tumors removed. Bonnie was there to nurse her through the entire 10 days. We were truly blessed to find a person who would take them both on. The placement is relatively new, but both girls are settling in to what will be a wonderful rest of their lives. They are finally learning how to be real Vizslas.

People often ask how I can be so involved with rescue. My answer is and always has been that I find rescue a gratifying way to donate my time and heart. Last week Rusty<sup>2</sup> and his mom Debbie Field and sister Tawny came for dinner. Rusty is now our oldest living rescue, as he will be 16 in June. I smiled from ear to ear the whole time they were here. He still remembers me as he leaned his head into my legs. (see photo below) This is why I do what I do!

By the time you read this I will have returned from my visit with Azula who now lives her life on a 65-acre cattle farm in Pennsylvania. Azula was also fostered by Bonnie and went directly to her new home. I cannot wait to meet her entire family and pet the baby cows that were just born. Her story was in our last newsletter. I will post new pictures in our next newsletter.

We are always looking for families to help with fostering the dogs. Please don't be shy. I will be there every step of the way to help. Reach out and send me an email.

*Stephanie*



**Rusty 2**



## Isabella and Adalyn's Story

All my life I have had dogs, all different types of rescues. My love for Vizslas came later in life when I adopted a Vizsla mix-- Zack loving, affectionate, accepting and full spirited. After reading up on the breed I realized that this was known to be true with Vizslas.

I decided to go through a Vizsla rescue site and first rescued 6-year-old Karchi, then 6-year-old Tanner. I couldn't have been happier. They were three wonderful dogs together. Tanner, now 10, is still with me and now we have added Adalyn to the mix. I am not sure how happy he is about that; he looks at me with that face, "Thanks a lot, now what have you gone and done, more dogs? " First, I rescued Frankie; he's a spitfire beagle mix, full of life, and love. But somehow, I was missing my Vizsla family.

One day over this long winter I contacted Stephanie and it so



**Doris with Adalyn in the foreground, Frankie the beagle mix, Tanner on the floor & Isabella on the back of the couch.**

happened she had just gotten in two girls that needed a home. When I saw the photo of Adalyn, age 7 (aka old name Helen) and Isabella, age 10, lying on top of each other I knew I had to take them both. I waited patiently while Bonnie, their foster mom, took care of them. Isabella needed some major surgery and



healing time. Waiting seemed like forever. But the day came when I could pick them up. They have been living with me for a week and loving every minute. The first day they stayed outside till 10 pm just running around wagging their tails and playing!! The whole gang seems to be doing just fine together. The girls are so happy, eating and adjusting well to their new surroundings and I am thrilled for them.

The love and mutual admiration we share is what makes adopting this beautiful breed into your life all worth it

Best,  
*Doris Zinke*

**At Bonnie's house watching TV for the first time.**

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### **Membership Report**

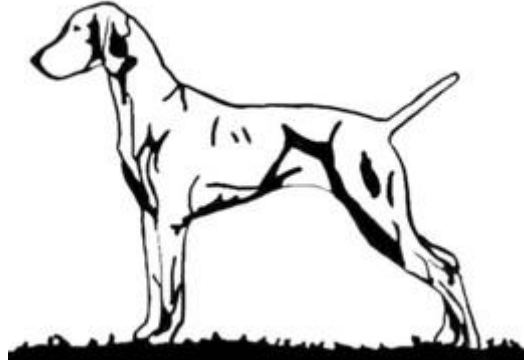
2014 Numbers (more memberships anticipated this month).

63 members - \$1800 collected for dues, a combo of individuals & families

\$940 Rescue

\$110 Trophy

*Debbie Field, Membership Chair*



## Selected Regional Upcoming Events

### CONFORMATION

5-17 Long Island KC, Oyster Bay, NY

6-5 Vizsla Club of Greater NY Specialty, Yorktown Heights, NY

6-6 Connecticut Valley Vizsla Club, Norwalk, CT

7-11 Brookhaven KC, Yaphank, NY

### **HUNT TESTS**

6-13 Nutmeg GSPC, Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT

***For more information on upcoming events, go to:***

[https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/event\\_calendar/index\\_mobi.cfm](https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/event_calendar/index_mobi.cfm)

<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>



***Focus on the Field—Andrew Campbell***

**The Kindest Gift: Teaching a Dog to Handle**

It really doesn't matter whether you hunt your Vizsla, participate in hunt tests, or compete in field trials. In my opinion, the kindest gift you can give your Vizsla is the ability to run free,

to run safely, and to run where you want it to go.

For most practical, testing, and competition purposes, we want the dog to work ahead of us, ideally in



that arc between 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock. Even if I am hunting and there is not an obvious course, I can keep looking at the scenery rather than my GPS tracker if I am comfortable the dog knows where the front is and how to stay there. Once a dog starts looping behind us, we can no longer concentrate on where we're putting our own feet--and in competition, it is generally regarded as a fault in the dog's application or pattern. I mention all this because if you are willing to let your dog run off-leash, potentially in some big wide-open spaces, it will help contextualize the commands that I have.

My commands are what works for me. They are not magic, but I mention them to identify skills which are useful for me--whereas you may only want or need a recall command -and to alert you that, as with most things, knowing what commands you will need ahead of time so that you can be consistent in their application will help you and your dog. And so, figure out your commands ahead of time and whether there will be a voice and/or a whistle version of the command. These are the commands I use:

- 1) Here (to me)

- 2) Singing around a turn
- 3) Change direction
- 4) Turn around before going behind

For one of my dogs, my pointer, I use "here" to ask him to come generally towards me and "here to me" as my absolute recall command. But for all general purposes this is my recall command, for which I have both a verbal and a whistle version. If a dog is running at some distance and I want him to arc around in the direction I am going without necessarily making a sharp turn, I have a particular "song" I sing as I am making the turn. To illustrate, if a dog is running along a nice field edge which is about to end and another begin at a right angle, I will start to sing before the turn and all the way through the turn to alert the dog I am turning and that he should just simply follow me around. That also leaves me the option of a formal "change of direction" command if the dog punches through the upcoming edge instead of following it around. I know that the folks who specialize in retrievers or sheep dogs have separate commands for left or right, but for me this command is to ask the dog to turn in towards me. And I have a verbal and whistle version of this command. As for the final one, and

as I mentioned before, it is important to understand that in competition, especially, a dog going backwards and behind you is a major fault. I have a verbal command for this that the dog recognizes as the need to do a 180-degree turn, although only in the context of the dog literally about to pass behind the line of my hip.

Teaching all these things isn't particularly complicated and really only requires a check cord, a whistle, and ultimately an e-collar. I know some folks have objections to e-collars and I would simply say this that an e-collar has an incredible capacity for sensitivity and that they are merely another tool. Plenty of dogs have been ruined with poorly applied pinch collars, rolled up newspapers, or too-early trips to the skeet range. But properly and sensitively used, an e-collar can give a way to communicate with your dog up to a mile away. And it can be used to protect your dog when it comes to chasing deer, going after porcupines, or going too near a road.

As with any skill, it is important to show the dog what you would like it to do rather than merely utter a command and expect the dog to intuit what it is you need. The exception to this might be if you have

an older dog who already handles for you--in which case you can initiate the younger dog to your commands, and his desire to be part of his new pack will very often cause him to imitate the rest of his canine companions. I find this especially useful for teaching the recall, in particular when combined with treats for a young dog. With our newest pup, when running off-leash with the older dogs, I give him praise when he goes to the front. If he comes back to me with me asking him to, I say nothing and keep walking till he goes ahead of me--at which point I praise him. When you start to introduce the dog to birds, the dog will also associate being with you and being ahead of you as the place where all the fun happens.

To add structure to it, especially once the young dog has gone through some of its fear periods and is showing some degree of independence, start showing the dog the front by taking him for a walk on a regular leash and progressing to a longer check cord. For going ahead of you, the dog is praised. Especially when switching to a longer check cord, keep in mind that what you will ultimately be trying to discourage is a dog turning around and going behind you--and that in order to achieve that

with the check cord, you will need to anticipate the need for something not dissimilar to trying to twirl a lasso so you can jump inside it. And so when the dog turns around and tries to go behind, extend your arm and try to spin the check cord so the dog's head is turned forward--and when he goes forward, he gets praise again. If you can, try to twirl the dog so he turns to the outside to go forward, rather than inwards towards you. (This is an advanced technique and one that, frankly, I have only partial success achieving, but it remains a goal nonetheless!)

When the dog is getting to the end of a longer check cord, you can start teaching him or her how to maintain the front if circumstances dictate that you are no longer walking in a straight line. To get them used to staying a certain distance from you but making a turn with you, then simply begin to make a gentle turn and weight the check cord--the keyword being "gentle." I like to think of this as "bending" a dog to you, rather than giving a distinct command that is either followed correctly or not. This is a situation in which I will "sing" a dog around. The key with most things associated with dog training is timing, and so imagine yourself driving a fire truck from the

bucket in the back. Anticipate your turn, begin to make your turn, and then get your dog's attention either by singing or with a command so that when it looks for you, you are already providing it with a visual cue about where you want to be going.

Once the dog is comfortable with the gentle turn, introduce it to the sharp turn command. While the dog is on the check cord ahead of you, deliberately make a sharp turn away from him and give your new change of direction command--and use the check cord to give a little tug to get the dog's attention and show him the way. And when he is moving forward of you again, give him praise. The key with the check cord, as it will be when you introduce the e-collar, is to use the rope initially to get his attention and "bend" him to you in the novelty of a new learning situation--rather than to force a response (which may still be wrong) or make a punitive correction (because the dog may not know for sure what "wrong" is). For a variety of reasons, the goal either when walking the dog or when turning the dog back to the front is not to allow the dog to go behind you to switch sides and go forward.

Transitioning to the e-collar should also be done after you have achieved some consistency with all of these things--but ideally the dog should have worn the collar unit for a couple of weeks while you are doing these drills so that it doesn't immediately associate the collar with the stimulation. Run through your usual check cord drills with your dog, but if you have to give the dog a cue with the check cord, also give it a very low stimulation with the e-collar. The goal here is that initially the stimulation should be noticeable but less so than the cue from the check cord--and it will be important to watch your dog closely. And slowly decrease or eliminate the cue from the check cord and rely on the e-collar to do the work of bending the dog to you--and depending on the drive of the dog, you may need a little higher level of stimulation to achieve this.

Once you are certain, based on successful repetition and observation of your dog's attitude and demeanor that your dog recognizes the commands and understands your performance expectations, then you can eliminate the check cord and rely on the e-collar alone. This is the point that, for competition purposes, I teach the "don't go behind me"

command. It is hard to do with a check cord because you have little leverage to turn a dog around if they are already past your hip--and frankly, an e-collar makes it pretty easy for the dog to understand. Timing is important, but for this skill, giving the cue with the collar first and then giving a command has worked well; If it helps to visualize, as the dog begins to pass the line of your hip, it should feel like it hit a fence (not in a cruel way, but in the sense of a barrier) and your "command" should feel like a relief--and when the dog makes that 180-degree turn, and goes forward, you can praise it all over again.

As with most things, repetition, patience, and consistency will serve you well--and enable you and your dog to enjoy your life together even more.

*Andrew Campbell is an AKC approved hunt test and field trial judge and is owned and operated by three Vizslas and a pointer. Since the last newsletter, he and his wife acquired a third Vizsla--and Andrew was able to scout and to gun for Mike's father, Bull, when he won this year's VCA National Gun Dog Championship out in Ohio.*



Andrew's new puppy, Seabank's Archangel Run, "Mike," pointing woodcock. Mike is NFC NGDC FC AFC Lundy's Red Bull x Widdershins Skypoint Capo JH.

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## **BRAGS, BRAGS, BRAGS**

Prada placed 4th in her class of 28 9-12 month olds at the VCA National Specialty, and Enzo was the "cover boy" briefly on the AKC's website ([AKC.org](http://AKC.org)). They were doing a story about the Vizsla with Enzo representing us in this month's feature story, but the photos change every few days.

*Anne Maegli*

Tawny whelped on May 5, seven beautiful and healthy puppies; 3 girls & 4 boys. Tawny is actually thrilled that she doesn't have to nurse her make-believe puppies any longer. This was a breeding of two NAVHDA (North American Versatile



Hunting Dog Association) Prize winners: Mondai's Soar'N Precious Tawny Heart CGC MHA UT Prize I 204 (Tawny) and Can CH Comynara Red Ryder Dog Café NA Prize II 102, UT Prize I 199 (Ryder).

*Debbie Fields*



**Tawny and her pups.**

Everedi's Golden Nugget JH, CGC, RN (Nugget) got his CA title at a coursing ability test in New Jersey on April 25, and the second leg of his Rally Advanced title on May 2.

*Mary K Chelton*

*And possibly the best brag of all on the next page:*

VCA NATIONALS 2015

*Winners Dog/Best Of Winners*

*“QUINN”*

*Wetherbee's One Time Only JH*



*Owned by: Ed & Jackie McAuliffe, Brit Jung  
Bred by Heather & Don Wetherbee, Britt Jung  
Sire: BIS BISS GCh Renaissance Lord Of Th' Dance SH VC  
ROM  
Dam: GCh Britannia's Casey Wetherbee*

## Member Profile: Donna DeFilippis

I started my love affair with the Vizsla in the mid 70's. I met my future husband and he had a red dog I never heard of. Christian stole my heart. I met his breeder Doris Ratzlaff (Dorratz kennel name), and she convinced me I needed a female. DJ changed my life. She was my foundation bitch, and was a great teacher.

She introduced me to Conformation, Obedience, Hunt Tests, Therapy AND the world of breeding dogs. With Doris's help I began my journey, and working under the registered name "Dorratz," we have bred some amazing dogs!

Doris has relocated to Sarasota Florida, and I am still in New York. We continue to breed together and still co-own dogs. With all the new venues, we are adding to our titles, Agility, Rally, Grand Champion, Tracking, and Field Trials.

One of our proudest moments was having Toby inducted into the VCA Hall of Fame, and to have his son Parker nominated by the Vizsla Club of Greater New York. Parker also made history as the sire of the only VCA AKC Vizsla Champion Tracker!

I could go on about so many wonderful dogs & people I have met just being involved with these amazing dogs, but I think that speaks for itself. I continue to breed with the Versatile Vizsla in mind. That's what attracted me to this breed! They are all my family members first, then everything else is icing on the cake.

Parker did therapy work for a young girl, through the Make a Wish Foundation, that had contracted AIDs during a blood transfusion. This is part of what they wrote me in a letter:

"Of all the prizes & titles that Parker won, he deserves special commendation for the gift he gave that child".

So with spring around the corner, we are looking forward to our next litter. Looking to a bright future, and always honoring the past.

Photos of Donna's dogs, showing their versatility, are below:



**To the left: Ch Dorratz Au Privave CD  
(Charlee) 2000 Nationals Winners Bitch**

**Below: BISS Ch Elgin Cariad Dorratz  
Kind of Blue JH**



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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.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS August 15, 2015**

**VCLI WEBSITE: <http://www.vcli.net>**