



**NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 12, Number 3**

**August, 2015**

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

Welcome to the dog days of summer, no pun intended. I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Our Fun Day is right around the corner on September 12. Please don't forget to RSVP, as food needs to be ordered. I also want to remind everyone to email me pictures for the annual calendar. It has always been a great fundraiser. The pictures so far have really been wonderful!

I am asking again for people to reach out and volunteer to help the board with our various committees. It would be great to have some new ideas and volunteers on our event committee. Our show committee and hunt committee also need help. Our rescue committee needs foster families. As in any club, the core group of people does the bulk of the work, but eventually they tire. If each local family volunteered to help at one event, it would really make a difference. Any of us can be reached by email. Our emails are located in the newsletter, and on our website at [www.vcli.net](http://www.vcli.net).

For those of you that haven't been on our website recently, please take a look. It is loaded with valuable information about our breed. We also have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vizslaclub/> where I post information from journals on food, training, medicine, etc. We also all share pictures and interesting articles we have found.

Please don't be shy. A club is only as strong as its members.

Warm regards,  
Stephanie

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## Summer Fun Day

Date: Saturday, September 12

Place: Cathedral Pines Park

Time: 11:00AM-???

Cost: there is no entry fee to the park after Labor Day

Lunch as well as a beverage will be provided by the club.

**Please bring a dessert to share**

### Agenda:

- \*We will vote for our favorite pictures for our 2016 Vizsla Calendar
- \* Rescue Parade for all of our wonderful rescue dogs who are coming
- \* Intro to hunting, from our hunt test committee. We will be giving a short lecture/demonstration on hunting. For those who are new to the club or hunting in general, you will see how your dog can bring out their natural abilities with birds.
- \*Canine Good Citizens Test-Responsible Owners, Well-Mannered Dogs. The AKC's Canine Good Citizen program is recognized as the gold standard for dog behavior. In CGC, dogs who pass the 10 step CGC test can earn a certificate and/or the official AKC CGC title. Dogs with the CGC title have the suffix, "CGC" after their names. Please visit the website to learn more <http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/about/> **We need to know at least 2 weeks prior who will be testing their dogs. Cost per dog is \$10.00 Please email [mchelton@optonline.net](mailto:mchelton@optonline.net)**

\*There will be a short business meeting after lunch

Be sure to bring the whole family, chairs, poop bags and cold water for the dogs.

***\*\*Although this a good place for the dogs to run and play, it would be good to exercise caution to make sure the dogs all get along before letting them all loose. There will probably be some very young pups, as well as some older dogs that can't be bumped, so it would be better for everyone to be on leash, until we can determine safe play groups. \*\****

### Directions to Cathedral Pines Park

Yaphank-Middle Island Rd. South of Rt. 25

Middle Island  
(631) 852-5500

Directions:

From east: LIE (495) to exit 68 north (Wm. Floyd Pkwy). Turn left onto Longwood Rd. At end of Longwood Rd. turn left; entrance is immediately to your right.

From west: LIE (495) to exit 66 north (Sills Rd); turn left onto E Patchogue Yaphank Rd/Sills Rd. Slight left to stay on E Patchogue Yaphank Rd/Sills Rd. Continue onto Coram – Yaphank/Yaphank Middle Island Road. Park is on your left.

**RSVP to Stephanie by Monday, September 7 so food can be ordered.**

[ILOVTRAV@aol.com](mailto:ILOVTRAV@aol.com) 516-932-0530

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From Lynn Larrison, LIPDFTC:

August 2015

To: All Licensed Pointing Breed Field Trial and Hunting Test Clubs

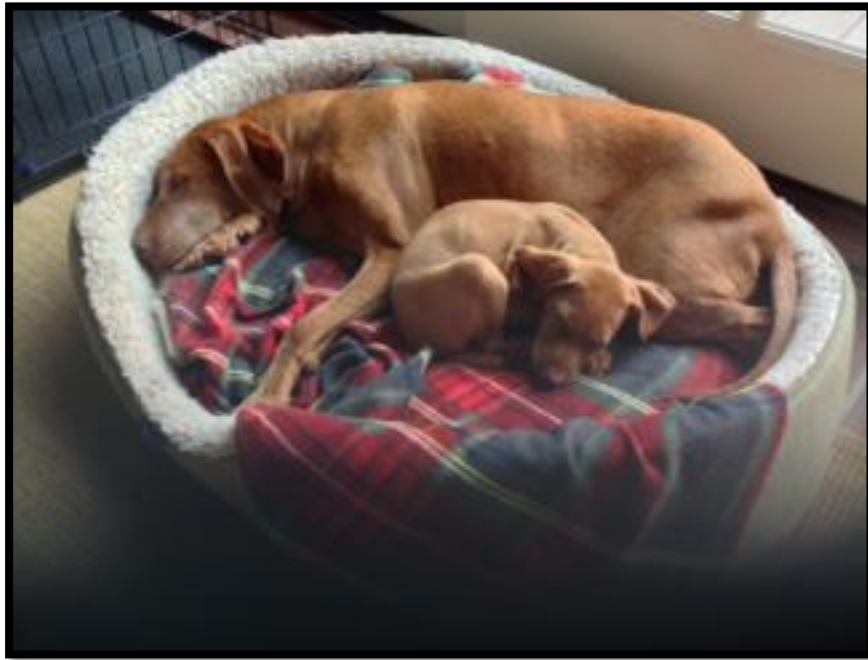
Subject: **Two New GPS Tracking Collars Allowed**

Recently two new GPS tracking collars have been released. This is to inform you that the AKC Performance Events Department has approved the SportDOG TEK-V2L and the Garmin T5 Mini for use in field trials and hunting tests. All AKC approved tracking devices and the Regulations governing their use may be viewed at –[www.akc.org/trackingdevices/](http://www.akc.org/trackingdevices/).



## **Rescue Committee Report**

The beginning of summer has been plenty busy with placing dogs. In May, I went to visit Azula, a Southside rescue now on the farm and finally met her parents Geoff and Marsha. We had the most fabulous weekend. Azula has the fastest wagging tail I have ever seen. She is a happy little girl. This was the perfect placement. We are going back out to the farm to visit again, as a new addition has been added to the family. Azula now has a baby sister named Scout.



**Azula and Scout**

Last month I sent out a plea for a family to adopt Roux, a rescue we placed 2 years ago. Her family does missionary work and will be going overseas and could not take her because of quarantine issues. One of our rescue families opened their home and Roux is now living with an older brother named Riggs in Pennsylvania. The dogs are getting along beautifully and Cindy and Roger are thrilled with their new addition.

I got a phone call one day from my rescue counterpart in Massachusetts asking me to vet a woman who applied for a rescue dog. She told me Barbara was a senior citizen, who recently lost her male to cancer. Our concern was the fact that she is a senior citizen. After speaking with Barbara, I realized she had more energy than I have and she really missed a walking partner. A six-year-old male came into our program because he was having trouble adjusting to the toddler in his house. Trigger was a well-loved, well-behaved dog. He just needed a family that could give him more time and exercise. He and Barbara are now living together and walking the streets of Boston every day.

Back in April I received a phone call from a family with a three-year-old female that was having some resource guarding issues. They wanted to place Lexie in rescue. As per our protocol, I needed to meet with the family and the dog. It seemed that that was too much to ask, as they instead dropped the dog at their local shelter. The shelter manager found our club and Lexie came into our program. She had a bunch of issues and was not easy. With the help of 3 different families, she is finally in her forever home. Included in this newsletter is a letter from her foster dad. Hopefully it will help those of you who are considering being a foster home get over the hump.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to <http://www.sportdogfood.com/> located in Bohemia. Philip is the owner of this mail order high-end dog food company. He has been kind enough to donate hundreds of pounds of food to Weim Rescue of the North. Weim rescue has far more dogs than we will ever have in our rescue program and it is nice to see small companies giving back. Philip will be there for us if our rescue is ever in need.

Enjoy the following articles and picture. Again, we are always looking for people to help with foster, transport, etc.

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



### ***Reflections of a First-Time Fosterer***

Fostering a rescue Vizsla represents a mix of experiences and emotions, but in the end it is such a rewarding experience that it is something that everyone should do if they are able.

In 2013 I lost my first Vizsla after sixteen too short years. Heartbroken, I contacted Stephanie Fischer and Nancy Tarbox of the Long Island Vizsla Rescue and the New England VR about a rescue dog. Shortly thereafter my current Vizsla, Cobi, entered my life, a then three-year old Vizsla with epilepsy. To repay Stephanie and Nancy, I promised that after I retired I would help out with Rescue by fostering a dog whenever they needed help.

When I retired in April 2015, I again told Stephanie and Nancy that I would foster when needed. A few weeks later, I was contacted by Stephanie to foster a three to four-year-old female that was in transition from several homes and would go to a final home that was already identified. At the time I had no idea what to expect in fostering a rescue Vizsla, especially as she cowered in the well of my back seat on the two-hour ride home, shook in fear more often than not, and charged after Cobi twice in two days. I wondered just what I agreed to take on and if I was the right person to act as a foster. Fostering can be hard work, much more than I expected!

Why did I agree to foster? For me, the greatest pleasure of fostering is helping

out and knowing that I am having a positive impact on a dog that is in a difficult situation. I find it incredibly fulfilling. I think that my psychologist friends would tell me that helping a dog in need in some small way fulfills some need deep within me. I guess that they could be right! Fostering is a way for me to “pay back” Rescue for bringing me Cobi, a debt that I owe Stephanie and Nancy. Besides, I promised Stephanie I would help her out.

As a first time foster and single dog owner, one of my biggest concerns about opening my house and life to a foster was the impact it would have on Cobi. Cobi is a laid back, sometimes submissive, often independent, and yes, dare I say it--very spoiled dog! My foster needed significant attention--how do I ensure both dogs received the attention they deserve, have the proper exercise and attention all while rebuilding confidence in the foster without neglecting Cobi? Balancing the needs of the foster and your own dog can be a real challenge depending upon the needs of the foster. In the end, doing the best that you can is often good enough if you provide structure to the foster for whom the world has changed dramatically through no fault of their own.

Perhaps the toughest part of being a foster is letting go once the foster has moved on to the final owners. Did I consider keeping my foster and being a “foster failure”? Most definitely I did. Ultimately knowing that I could help more Vizslas in rescue if I did not keep my foster is how I justified letting go. Still, the desire to keep the foster was

strong, especially when she jumped out of the car to come back to me at the hand over to her final owners. Would I foster again? Yes, most definitely. In fact Stephanie called me a week later to foster another dog in need. I look forward to continuing to foster additional dogs. Stephanie and Nancy know that I am available to help out as long as there is a dog in need.

And yes. I fully expect to end up as a “foster failure” at some point!

*Bill Becker*



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**Bill and Cobi**

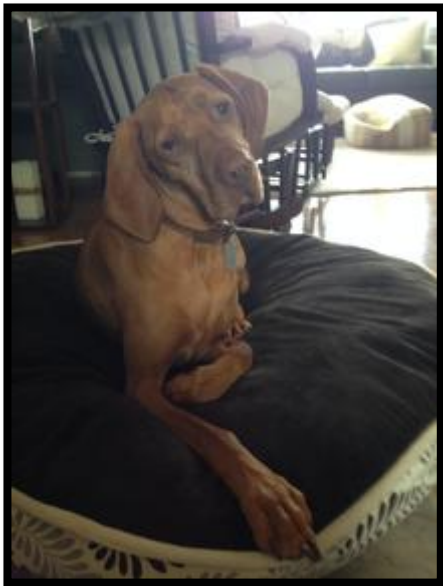
### ***Trigger's Story***

I have had a Vizsla since 1991. The first time I saw one I fell in love with the breed. My 10 year old Kabah was diagnosed with cancer February 2015, and died May 26, 2015. Being very lonely, I filled out an application for Vizsla rescue in New England. I was contacted by Stephanie Fischer from the VCLI who had a six-year-old male who needed to be re-homed. I was thrilled, as I had always had boys.



Trigger came to live with me in Boston on July 11, 2015. There was a little concern about the cats, but I wasn't concerned. The cats are rescue cats who were living on the streets of Boston. Nothing is going to surprise them; besides they had already been living with Kabah.

Trigger is such a good dog: polite, well behaved, obedient, playful, and very smart. One of the cats is now sniffing noses with Trigger when they see each other. The other one is giving him dirty looks. Trigger is catching on to city living; he has his choice of three dog parks to go to, the esplanade and the Boston common to walk on, beaches to swim in and many dogs to greet. This area of Boston is very dog friendly with many dogs on each block, all trained and very socialized. He's learning to ignore the sounds of dump trucks, street sweepers, buses, and motorcycles as we walk around the city. He is a great pleasure to be with.



**Trigger**

Thank you Vizsla rescue!

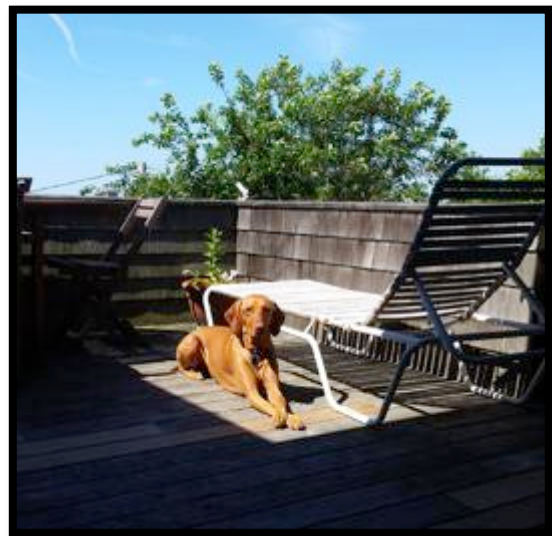
*Barbara Gaffney*

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## **Lexie's Story**

Lexie came to live with us on June 22, after being lovingly fostered by Bill Becker for almost 2 weeks while we were away in Italy. We are enormously grateful to Stephanie Fischer for all her help and support during the adoption process.

Lexie is enormously charming, friendly, and lovely to look at. She is also enormously willful, hypersensitive to noises, and a skilled counter surfer—indeed she ate our dinner the first night she was home! We started immediately to introduce her to our lovely beach



**Lexie Sunning Herself**

here in Montauk, where dogs can run free every morning before 10 am and she immediately showed us how much she loves the beach. She met and charmed all our friends, and acquired

her own circle of friends, chiefly Anne Maegli's two Vs, Enzo and especially her girl, Prada.

Then on July 24, barely a month after she arrived, Lexie was diagnosed with lymphoma. We were all stunned and heartbroken—she's not yet 4 years old!

We have started her on a chemo regimen, to which she seems to be responding well, and we're hoping for a year or more of happy times with her. She's a lovely girl, and everyone she meets, including the staff at the clinic

where's she's being treated, falls in love with her.

Judy and Mike Tanur



### ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

By Tina Wismer, DVM, DABVT, DABT, ASPCA

From *Healthy Pet*, Summer, 2015 published by VCA Hospitals, pp. 16-17

Assembling a pet first-aid kit will help ensure you have the essential supplies to care for your pet in an emergency at home and on the road. It doesn't matter if your pet is a couch potato or the adventurous, outdoorsy type: Every home should have a pet first-aid kit to help save valuable time-and possibly your pet's life-in case of an emergency.

Store your first-aid kit in a secure area, and make sure your family members know it's there. Using a plastic container is a convenient way to store the supplies, and you can easily pack the kit into the car when traveling with your furry friend. Choose a container with a tight-fitting lid so pets and children can't access the supplies.

Once your kit is assembled, follow these do's and don'ts to help you take appropriate action and provide the best level of emergency care for your pets.

**Do:** Call your veterinarian before starting any first aid if you suspect your pet has been injured or is acting ill. In most cases, beginning home treatment can delay life-saving procedures at the veterinarian's office.

**Do:** Take your pet's vital signs. Your pet's gums, or mucous membranes, can tell us a lot about her health. So take a peek at her normal, healthy gums, and note the color and condition of the tissue. Doing so will help you identify any future changes, such as pale gums, deep red tissue, or discoloration.



You can also learn to take your pet's temperature in the case of potential heat stroke or hypothermia. Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 100°F to 103°F. See your veterinarian immediately if the temperature falls below 98.5" or is higher than 104.5". For step-by-step instructions on taking your pet's temperature, visit [vetstreet.com](http://vetstreet.com).

Finally, look for changes in respiration, including excessive panting or rapid breathing. If you notice these signs, call your vet immediately.

**Don't:** Handle sick or injured pets more than you absolutely need to. Distressed pets are more likely to bite, so in many cases, gently transporting a sick or injured pet to a veterinary facility is the best way to get timely care without agitating your pet or sustaining and injury yourself.

**Don't:** Induce vomiting before talking to your vet first. Vomiting certain toxic or corrosive materials can make your pet's condition worse.

**Don't:** Administer any medications without consulting your veterinarian. Many medications, including common pain relievers, can cause poisoning in pets or are dangerous when administered to pets inappropriately.

**Do:** Follow up with your vet to help insure no further care is needed.

**FIRST AID KIT:** This kit is designed to aid in some common pet emergencies, including heatstroke, insect bites and stings, and potential poisonings. You can purchase most items at

pharmacies and pet-supply stores. Be sure to ask your veterinarian if there are any additional items your pet needs based on his medical history and your area of the country.

>>**Information card**, including telephone numbers for your primary care veterinarian, emergency veterinarian, and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435.

>>**Self-cling bandages**. This bandaging, which is sold at pet-supply stores, sticks to itself but not to fur. They are self-tightening and should only be used for a short time. Apply the bandaging loosely, and remove it if you observe any swelling of the toes.

>>**Absorbent gauze pads, disposable diapers, tampons, or feminine hygiene pads**. Feminine hygiene products come wrapped in individual packages and are highly absorbent-excellent for open wounds or puncture wounds to help slow bleeding and minimize further contamination before getting to the hospital.

>>**Nonstick gauze pads and gauze rolls**.

>>**Adhesive tape and scissors**.

>>**Muzzle**. Pets experiencing pain or distress may try to bite. Use a soft nylon muzzle or even a strip of gauze to gently secure your pet's mouth. Don't use a muzzle if your pet is vomiting or having trouble breathing.

>>**Nonprescription antibiotic ointment and antiseptic wipes**.

Avoid antibiotic ointments that contain added pain control.

>>Cotton balls or swabs.

>>Disposable gloves.

>>Bottle of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide and a turkey baster, bulb syringe, or large medicine syringe to administer the peroxide. You can use hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting, but only when directed by a veterinarian. This product has an expiration date, so be sure to replace it frequently.

>>Old credit card for scraping away a stinger. Squeezing the stinger with tweezers or fingernails can pump more venom into your pet.

>>Rectal thermometer, petroleum jelly to lubricate the thermometer, and rubbing alcohol to clean the thermometer afterward. The normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 100°F to 103°F.

>>Blanket for scooping up a fearful pet, or a pillowcase for cats.

>>Extra nylon leash.

>>Diphenhydramine for allergic reactions. Call your veterinarian before administering any medication.

>>Nail clippers.

>>Styptic powder or pencil to stop a bleeding toenail.

>>Two bath or beach towels.

>>Plastic bags to tape over a bleeding limb or tail to keep the wound clean and protect your vehicle.

>>Needle-nose pliers for removing fish hooks.

>>Flashlight.

>>Old magazine and duct tape for making a temporary splint.

>>Current photo of your pet in case he gets lost or runs away. Keeping the photo safely stowed with the medical supplies will help ensure you can find it if you need it.

>>Health and vaccination records, including your pet's microchip number. This is especially important when you are traveling with your pet or when you are leaving your pet with a sitter.

Check the supplies twice a year, and be sure to replace any items that have expired.

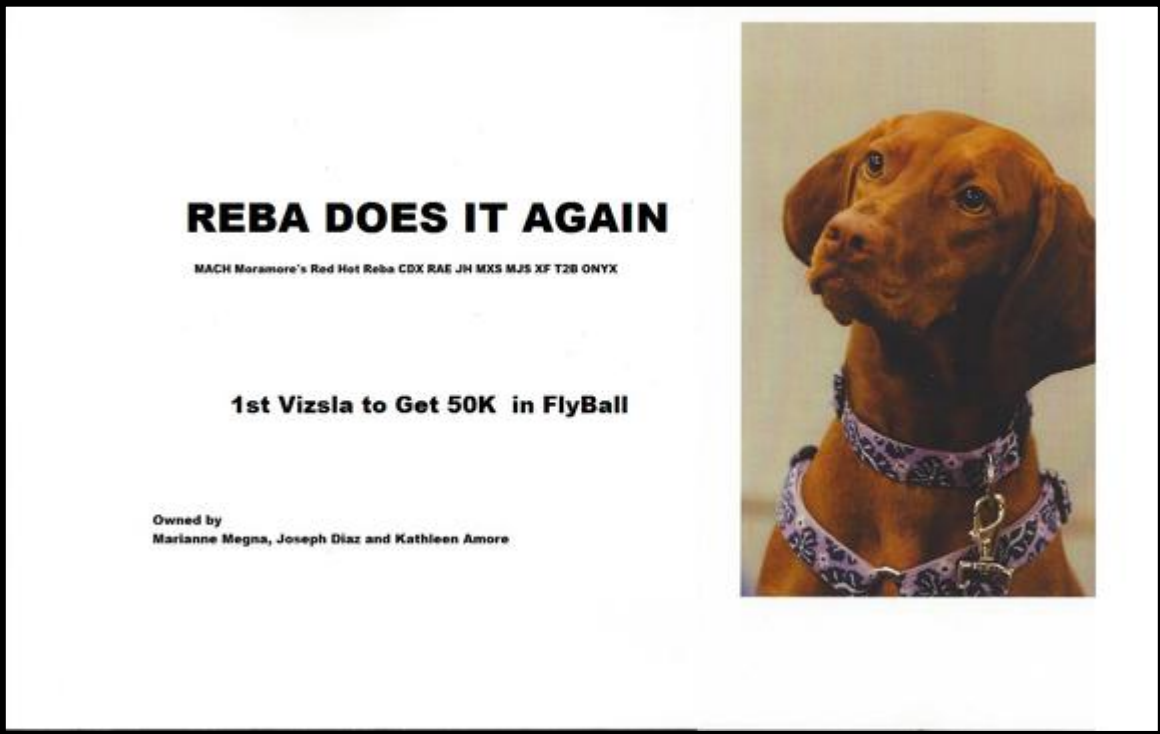


# **IBrags IBrags IBrags IBrags**

From Mary K. Chelton:

Everedi's Golden Nugget JH RA CGC, CA received his CA (coursing ability) title on April 25 at a Performance Canine Association (<http://www.pawpalspca.org>) test in Colt's Neck, NJ, and finished his RA (Rally Advanced) title at the Dog Agility Club of Long Island trial at Doggie U on August 22.

From Kathie Amore:



**REBA DOES IT AGAIN**

MACH Maramore's Red Hot Reba CDX RAE JH MXS MJS XF T2B ONYX

**1st Vizsla to Get 50K in FlyBall**

Owned by  
Marianne Megna, Joseph Diaz and Kathleen Amore

*Member Profile: Tina and Joe Romano*

In 2002 after our Weimaraner passed away we became interested in Vizslas and started researching breeders. We had the good fortune to meet Anne Denehy and that's

where it all began. One of her dogs had just had a litter and although Anne didn't have an available puppy for us, she invited us to

her home to meet the dogs and from that moment we were hooked.

Our first Vizsla Lucy came to us in the summer of that year via a wonderful breeder and now good friend Ellie Winslow. When we got the call that there would be a puppy for us, our lives were changed forever. Lucy made herself at home the minute she arrived and for the next 11 years we marveled at how lucky we were to have such a sweet, gentle, loving companion. My husband Steve and I always say she wasn't a dog; she was a little girl in a dog suit. She excelled at agility and could effortlessly jump up into your arms from a sit without any hesitation and she would play ball for hours; she was such an amazing athlete. When my aunt was in a nursing home, Lucy would visit and cheer up all the residents with her calm, gentle presence.

When Lucy turned five we thought she might like to have a little sister and our girl Prego joined the family in 2007. From day one, Prego attached herself to her big sister and followed her everywhere. Lucy on the other hand, was not nearly as captivated by her rowdy new sister and more than once she looked at us with "how could you" in

her eyes. Prego was a little ruffian then--quite a contrast to our dainty Lucy and those first few weeks with two dogs were chaotic and really tough; I thought we had made a huge mistake.

It turns out they became great friends--wrestling, playing ball (Prego in the outfield) and swimming together. They definitely had a big sister/bratty little sister relationship. When Prego would take Lucy's favorite place on the couch, Lucy would run to the window and start to bark; Prego would jump off the couch to see what the commotion was and Lucy would reclaim her seat. Prego fell for it every time!

When Lucy died in 2013 after a two-year battle with mast cell cancer, our hearts were broken. The house was so quiet without their constant romping and wrestling. It took a while, but Prego adapted to being an only child. She is my little shadow now (a true Velcro dog) and I love every minute of it. There isn't a more affectionate, loving breed. I can't imagine our life without a Vizsla in it. We've even started thinking it might be time to give Prego a little sister. Here we go again...



**Tina, Steve and Prego**



**TICK REPELLENT RECIPE**

20 Drops Lemongrass Essential Oil  
20 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil  
4 oz. of Water

Add all ingredients in a spray bottle...  
Shake Well!

Spray on shoes, socks, and pant cuffs

SAFE FOR HUMANS  
AND DOGS

rawforbeauty.com

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### To Laugh (Ruefully)

*If I Didn't Have Dogs...*

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety. My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated. All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of hair. When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

*If I Didn't Have Dogs...*

When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there. I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several furry bodies would need to get comfortable. I would have money.... and no guilt to go on a real vacation. I would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grandkids through college.



# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE!"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



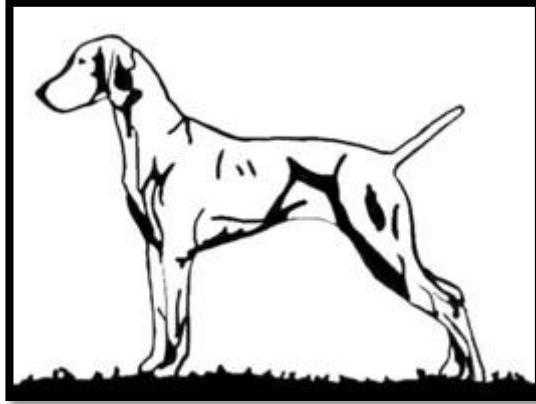
*Baby Luca with Rescue Hank and Maggi  
Proud parents Tamara and Rob Novak*



*Everedi's Night Stalker (aka Gibson). Proud  
dog parent Mary K. Chelton:*



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- Gavin Michael Swindle with Odin, born July 16, 2015. Proud parents are Jon & Jen Swindle, our member profile from the last issue.



## **Selected Regional Upcoming Events**

### **CONFORMATION**

- 9-25, 26 Suffolk Co. KC, Flower Field, Route 25A, St. James
- 9-27 Westbury K Assn., Oyster Bay
- 10-22, 25 Riverhead KC, West Springfield, MA
- 10-23, 24 Queensboro KC, West Springfield, MA

### **HUNT TESTS**

- 9-12 Sleepy Hollow GSP, Dover Plains, NY
- 10-3,4 CVVC, East Windsor, CT
- 10-3,4 VCGNY, Weatherly, PA
- 11-21,22 Pointer Associates of New England, East Windsor, CT

### **RALLY TRIALS**

- 9-27 Nassau Dog Training Club, Oyster Bay
- 12-5 Suffolk Obedience Training Club, Deer Park

### **COURSING ABILITY TESTS**

- 10-24, 25 K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex Co., NJ, Colts Neck, NJ

***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: Staying True to the Breed**

*Andrew J. Campbell*

Quoted in Craig Koshyk's encyclopedia, *Pointing Dogs, Volume One: The Continentals* (Dog Willing, 2011), Phil Wright wrote in a column titled 'Where Now Brown Dog?' for the Vizsla Club of Canada's newsletter sometime around 1970: "It is one of life's facts that anything which is beautiful as well as useful will soon be coveted for its beauty and that those who so covet will soon outnumber those who treasure its utility."

For all the warm, fuzzy stuff about 'Velcro dogs' and the special bond they have with their owners, and the beautiful 'golden rust' color (hardly 'brown!'), I believe we need to keep in mind that this is a sporting dog, a sporting dog twice-reconstructed after the World Wars. I don't write this to alienate folks whose Vizslas are merely companions, or those who enjoy conformation shows, or agility work--but we enjoy this breed today because of two generations of sportsmen who valued the breed's specific abilities afield. This is to suggest that there is a genetic, ethical imperative for us to also keep working our dogs on birds.

As someone who recently moved from the Bronx to western Massachusetts and has the luxury of being able to work his dogs in his own, much larger backyard, I nevertheless understand the difficulty in finding ways to do this. And for many, the benefits of doing so feel intangible and are therefore outweighed by the inconvenience of finding a fun day or a training day at which they might first glimpse the magic contained in our dogs' genetic heritage.

There is nothing like watching an inexperienced dog discover that the tantalizing smell wafting through its nose is connected to a bird, and that the smell and sight of that bird's flight is the most exciting thing in the world. Some will figure out faster than others that

standing fixed in that spot will get them drunk, in some cases literally drooling. Our newest puppy, Mike, is remarkable to watch--as even if he encounters the initial thread of scent closer to the ground, he will slowly lift his head and squint down at where he believes the bird to be. He is almost stoic like his mother, but statuesque like his father. Even having been bred for that, there is still considerable wonder in watching it take physical form and come to life.

As sometime judge for the National Championship still held at the Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, TN, author, and amateur trainer, Howard Lytle wrote in 1934 about the exhilarating contrast between movement and stopping, between energy and stasis, that becomes manifest in the most dynamic of dogs when they locate game. "This thing of pinning game, especially certain kinds of game such as the grouse or the prairie chicken or the pheasant, is most successfully accomplished by quick, decisive action--speed arrested so suddenly that the game's only inclination is to squat before the onslaught... A dog that rushes to his game and then suddenly applies the brakes doesn't give his game a chance to think and plan out a method of evading pursuit." (*How to Train Your Bird Dog*, pp. 190-1) I realize that for most unknowing readers the prospect of buying a copy of Brad Harter's *2010 National Bird Dog Championship DVD* just to watch the final dog, Barshoe Busy, slam into a point at 1hr 32 minutes 22 seconds is unlikely--but the camera happened to be there to capture in the narrator's words, "all of a sudden, as if hitting a brick wall, she wheeled and pointed."

If we never see our Vizslas point a bird, we miss a large piece of the magic that made this breed special enough to save in times of war and run the risk of reducing them to couch ornaments. Ignorance may well be bliss, but we do our breed a disservice by deliberately ignoring our dogs' genetic legacy. Contact your Board Members about scheduling an "introduction to birds" day, join other clubs to take advantage of their training days, go see a hunt test or a field trial. Years down the line, with every weekend in your fall and spring scheduled for an event, you may curse the day you get to see your dog point, but you'll never forget it.

*Andrew Campbell is an AKC hunt test and field trial judge who owns three Vizslas and a pointer. He trains and competes up and down the East Coast and is on the organizing committee for this year's VCA National Field Trial to be held outside Cheyenne, WY in October.*

*The dog in the picture is Seabank's Archangel Run ("Mike").*





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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: November 15, 2015**

