



NEWSLETTER

Volume 13

Number 1

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

Welcome to winter! I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. Our winter specialty show will once again be held on Saturday, February 13 at the Rye Hilton. Even if you are not entering a dog, it is fun to see no less than 60 Vizslas represented from all across the country! There is no cost to come and watch. The clustered shows draw a large selection of dogs because it is the weekend right before the Westminster Kennel Club show. Kathie Amore, our show chair, is always looking for people to help her, so please reach out to her. Her email is kamore3235@aol.com.

Our after Thanksgiving hike was a big success. Please keep an eye out for future casual get-togethers at West Hills. If anyone else has other places we can run our dogs, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make our calendar fund-raiser a success. We sold 68 calendars and made approximately \$650.

As always, I end my message asking for people to reach out and help. We can always use people to help the show committee, the events committee etc. Fresh faces and ideas are the backbone of a successful club.

*Warm regards,
Stephanie*

BRAGS, BRAGS, BRAGS



Seabank's Archangel Run ('Mike') owned by Andrew Campbell won the Open Puppy stake at the Connecticut Valley Vizsla Club's field trial at Flaherty in East Windsor, CT to earn his first two points towards his Field Championship. Mike also finished his Junior Hunter at 9 months old back in September in four straight attempts down at Crane WMA in East Falmouth, MA and Sharpe's Farm in North Hopkinton, NH. Mike is out of Lundy's Red Bull x Widdershins Skypoint Capo.



Kevin Modica congratulates Copper, whose favorite football team won the Wildcard Playoff game vs. the Cincinnati Bengals!



Ariel is an AKC Junior Hunter, who, at 6-months-old ran in 4 hunt tests during a 2-day double-header and is officially an AKC Junior Hunter/JH. She had an absolute blast trying to catch the flushed quail, began to stay on point for longer than a few “puppy” seconds, hunted like an absolute rock star, and even pointed and flushed a covey of 6-8 quail on Sunday morning, which was such an intense bird encounter for Ariel at such a young age ! However, I would have expected nothing less from Ariel. Tawny, Ariel’s Mommy, also finished her JH Title in 4 strait runs, but at the more mature age of 1 1/2 yrs. old.

It is NEVER too late to introduce your Vizsla to birds & hunting !!!!!!!

Debbie Field

Upcoming Events

For information on upcoming events, go to:

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>

Rescue Committee Report

Many times a dog comes into our rescue program, and if I do not have a perfect family in my database, social media helps. There are a bunch of Vizsla owners in western New York who have started a Facebook page. I joined the page to be able to reach out in case I needed a home visit, foster help or transportation in that area. They have been extremely helpful. One of their members also adopted a Vizsla that was in a shelter up that way. I got a message asking what more can they do, how can they help? We just received a very nice donation from the group for our rescue program, and now have a list of volunteers in the Buffalo/Niagara area. Thank you so much Western New York Vizslas!

So far this winter, rescue has been pretty busy. We worked with the Vizsla Club of Central New England's Nancy Tarbox on two cases, and two of our club members are the lucky recipients. Both of these cases involved families with kids. I really wish people would make sure they have the time and wherewithal to handle both before purchasing a dog!

Ryleigh came from a family that had a toddler and another one on the way. She spent way too many hours in a crate without the proper exercise. Fortunately, the family thought enough to contact Nancy. Mike and Judy were still grieving from the loss of Lexie, but told me their house seemed so empty without a dog. They were the first people I called. It is smiles all around at the Tanur residence these days. Ryleigh gets to run on the beach and the Tanurs once again have a counter surfer in residence.

Once again it was raining dogs in New England. This time it was a four-month-old pup that needed to be rehomed. Four months old? What could possibly be wrong? The family went to a less than reputable breeder who, even though they had three small children, still sold them a dog. The dad was a stay at home dad and did everything he could to train and exercise Bennington. He just ran out of hours in the day. I knew Bert and Pam were still looking for a playmate for Maggie, as she had lost her best friend Gunner recently (see memorial in last newsletter). Without hesitation, they took the drive to meet him. Ben is loving life with his new family, and Pam has big plans to run him in agility and obedience.

The next two stories I spoke about in the last newsletter, but the families had just gotten their new family members and needed time to get to know them. I will refresh your memory.

Apple came to us as a senior whose owner was very much a senior herself and could no longer care for her properly. She was used to being with a single woman and running free on the beach in the Hamptons. I wanted to replicate, as closely as possible her former lifestyle. Apple is now living in Massachusetts with Barbara, another Vizsla

named Juno and a Maltese. She gets to run again in open fields, and from all the pictures I have been sent, is doing extremely well.

Odin, formerly known as Ziggy, came to us from a family in NYC with three kids. Same story again--too many kids, too little time. He was stressed around the kids and starting nipping. He needed to run, play and have people who spent time with him. Odin was placed with a former rescue family that had just lost their male dog. Their female, Freya, missed her brother very much. She kept walking around the house looking for him. Odin and Freya have become good friends. Odin gets to run on more land than he ever saw in New York City.

Please enjoy the following stories.

*Warm regards,
Stephanie
ilovtrav@aol.com*



RYLEIGH'S STORY

The last 15 months have not been good for Tanur dogs. In September, 2014 our then elder dog, Sonali, died of a heart attack running on the beach at age 13. We were left with a five year old Vizsla, Bartok, perhaps the most loving Vizsla we've ever owned (over the last 40 some-odd years of owning the breed). In early spring he began acting strangely, perhaps small seizures. He was under the care of a neurologist, but the strange behaviors increased in frequency and severity, and in May we left him in the animal hospital for more definitive diagnosis and care – and he had a heart attack and died on his first full day there.

We were heartbroken, of course, but soon decided that the house was too empty without a Vizsla to make trouble and to hug, so in June we adopted (from Vizsla Rescue) a 3½-year-old named

Lexie, a charming dog whose earlier home(s) had left her nervous. She thrived in Montauk, loving the beach and her new Vizsla friends. And we began to adapt to her counter-surfing ways – the first night we brought her home she ate our dinner off the kitchen counter when I turned my back for a minute. But, just a month after we adopted her, she was diagnosed with lymphoma. The prognosis was not good, but we decided to treat her with chemo – luckily dogs do not suffer the side effects of chemo that humans do, and so she was happy and seemingly healthy. But her remission was very short and in late October we had to put her to sleep – just 4 months after we adopted her.

Again, our home was entirely too empty without a Vizsla, so when Stephanie called us on Thanksgiving day to say that there was a tiny 5-year old V-girl available, we didn't have to think very long before we decided we would adopt

her. Together with Nancy Tarbox of Central New England Vizsla Rescue, Stephanie arranged for Ryleigh to take a ferry from New London and Mike met her at the dock at Orient Point and brought her home to Montauk on December 2.

She is enormously loving, very active (people who don't know Vizslas assume she's a puppy), and a very happy girl. She is indeed tiny—when we got her she weighed only 38 pounds, though I think she's put on some weight since then, but is anything but frail. Indeed, when she insists on playing tug-of-war with one of her many toys she shows that she's enormously strong. She loves playing ball on the beach and snuggling in bed. Clearly, we've fallen fully in love with her.

And our friends have too. The accompanying photo was taken off a skype call with friends/colleagues in Vietnam who had been nervous about dogs until they visited us and got to know our Vizslas. They wanted to meet Ryleigh, so I let her up onto my lap, and they captured the image and sent it back to me – and I promptly sent the image to friends in Germany, Havana, Mexico, and Paris. Ryleigh is truly an international celebrity.

Judy and Mike Tanur



BENNINGTON'S STORY

While writing this in our home office, the squeaks of a squeaky toy coming from our den tell me that Bennington ("Ben"), a six-month old Vizsla rescue, has awakened from his morning nap on a couch beside Maggie, our seven-year-old V. When Pam and I gave Stephanie Fischer our rescue application, the possibility of a puppy becoming available for adoption never crossed our minds. What a delightful surprise!



Ben joined our family at five-months old this past December 6th. Ben hails from Massachusetts, and a husband-wife team in the New England Rescue Association met us with him outside of Hartford, Connecticut. Our immediate first impression: he's a handsome boy. And judging by his paws and structure, he's going to be a big fellow as an adult. Since adopting him, his weight has increased by a third to 43 pounds, and he has a lot more growing ahead.

On the drive home from Connecticut with Ben, Pam and I wondered anxiously how Maggie would react to meeting her new foster brother.

Happily, they've gotten along swell since first meeting. They engage daily in games of tug-of-war or catch-me-if-you-can. They also like to roughhouse – but only up to point for Maggie because Ben is already so big and strong. Essentially, they are good company for each other and as our new family member, Ben fills in a void left by our dear departed Gunner.



What's it like to have a puppy in the house again? Wonderful. Ben's antics

awaken so many memories of Maggie and Gunner as tykes. Ben will eat your lunch. He disappeared half a sandwich off a plate so fast you'd have to think you'd eaten it yourself. He'll snatch paper napkins off the table or even off your lap lickety-split. (Why do Vizslas have such a fixation on paper products?) He'll grab something we don't want him to have like a leather glove or magazine and delight in foiling our efforts to catch him just as Gunner used to do. Then there was the night Ben cleared the dinner table by yanking off the tablecloth. Never a dull moment.

Ben quickly adapted to his new home and family. He's with us for daily morning walks with Maggie followed by supervised romps in our backyard. He's had obedience trainings and sits and lies down on command, a good start for rally/obedience competition. He is enrolled in a beginner agility class for dogs too young to handle the stress of jumps on joints. He'll be going with us to Camp Gone To The Dogs at Marlboro College, Vermont, this summer for participation in a wide variety of activities, i.e. k9 nose work, Frisbee, tracking, agility, lure coursing and more. And, we're also going to take Ben and Maggie to Canine Camp Getaway, Lake George, New York for more of the same.

Finally, Ben is a real love and has staked out his claim to Pam and me as family. Whenever either one of us sits on the couch alone, Ben insists on getting one side. And, of course, Maggie gets the other side. Come the end of the day, it's always real cozy here on the couch with our two vs. Thanks so much Stephanie

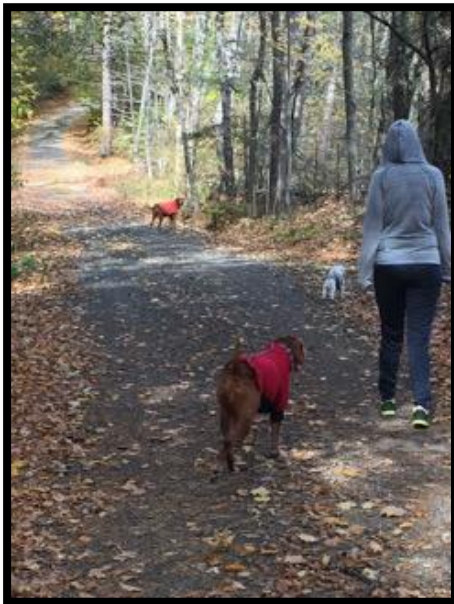
for your role in bringing Ben into our family.

Pam and Bert Rowley

APPLE'S STORY

I first saw Miss Apple shared by Stephanie on the VCCNE's Facebook page in Mid-September and then again at the end of September when she was still looking for her forever home.

Looking at her pictures, something started tugging at my heart. Poor old girl, I thought, I bet she'd be happy here. On October 25, I traveled to Long Island with my other Vizsla, Juno, who came to me via VCCNE in 2009. We met Apple, and Juno and Apple hit it off right away. Apple came home with me that very day. She met Max, my Maltese and they get along well too.



Miss Apple has settled in quite nicely. I have a big fenced back yard for the dogs and she likes to be out exploring. We sometimes walk on trails in the woods

and she's been on a hike up a small mountain nearby. She loves rides in the car! I have a lot less room in my bed at night now but I don't mind a bit (actually quite cozy during these cold winter nights).



She's a little quirky, and it's taken a bit of time to figure out what she wants sometimes, but we are working through it all. An example is when she stands in front of me whining because there's not enough room on the couch for her to get up. Once I rearrange the other dogs, she hops up and gets comfy. She's very polite and always waits for me to go through a door first. She's gentle now accepting her treats.



As I was told from her prior owners, she is a "dedicated eater". I call her "Miss

Apple,” “Lumpy Applesauce,” “Apple Pie,” and “Goober.”

She’s met quite a few people in my life now, including through two big gatherings I had here over Christmas. It didn’t faze her in the least. She joined in and made herself comfortable on the couch between whomever was sitting there. She is initially hesitant but once someone gives her a treat, she

welcomes them with open paws and seeks out attention. I’ve also had a canine houseguest on several occasions, and have taken her to visit a family who has a Vizsla puppy, who of course wanted to play with her. I’m happy to have her--she is a real sweetheart, and I think she’ll have a happy rest of her life with me in Massachusetts.

Barbara Hunting

ODIN’S STORY

Moving from city to country – a rescue dog’s tail (sic).

Vizsla owners soon learn that their normally clean, orderly home transfigures itself into a once-clean, disorderly, dog playpen within seconds. Toys are scattered over every room in the house like confetti. An open bathroom door is a tasty toilet-paper snack bar and watering hole. Reddish brown dog hair on the bed, dismembered stuffed animals adorn the furniture and a long line of liquid on the floor shows the direction to the water bowl. These things, at least around our house, complete the picture that says “Vizslas live here.”

Rational people probably wonder why anyone who has experienced this particular breed’s characteristics would want a second one. When we lost our male, Oslo, to cancer however, it became the most important thing in our lives to get a companion for our female Vizsla, Freyja. After going out each day she would come back to the house and sadly check every room to see if Oslo had returned yet. Regrettably, he had not. We contacted the Vizsla Club of Long Island that we especially like for their competence and friendly members who volunteer much of their time and homes to rescuing Vizslas.

Diana and I lucked out since they were about to get a 1 ½ year old male from Greenwich Village in Manhattan, NY. Both Diana and I wondered why a Vizsla would be suitable for the “Village” since these dogs can run from one side of Manhattan to the other before even getting up to full speed. Nevertheless, this city boy was destined to move to the country with us in Marblehead, MA where sailing is more in vogue than caviar and watercress sandwiches. He is now subjected to Marblehead’s beaches and trees rather than New York asphalt and concrete. Not to mention the Patriot’s vs. Jets/Giants football games. Grrrrr! Here’s how the transition is going so far.



Here’s Odin after 3 weeks in Marblehead, a Vizsla who was born in Hungary and flown to New York as a puppy. As I understand it, his life among the city’s elite was suddenly altered by the arrival of a third child in a house where the average cost of a square

foot of living space is \$2000. As we all know, to adequately harbor a Vizsla would therefore require about \$300 Billion in Greenwich Village terms.

Here is his new home in the sticks helping to rake the Fall leaves in the backyard amongst all us hillbillies out in the country. No groundskeepers here. Fortunately, dogs are color blind so he probably won't recognize that the house is pink. Poor thing. I wanted gray but Diana won that argument. I won the Vizsla dog-breed picking argument however so I guess that's fair. Here you may notice that Freyja is levitating from a standing position sometimes as high as 4 feet! She does that a lot.



This picture shows Diana attempting to give the dogs some fresh water down by Deer Swamp. Apparently Diana never noticed that they always prefer the muddiest mud puddle or pond water over filtered water. Outside of this picture frame is a spruce tree in the middle of the woods that someone had decorated with Christmas ornaments. Odin pee'd on it so we are thinking he is probably of another religious persuasion.

Kidding! Well, not so much.

We discovered that Odin had never been to a beach when we took him for the first time. He ran out into some 3-inch waves to retrieve a ball and instantly fell over. Never seen a dog do that before. Now he goes to the beach several times each week, but up here in New England in January no one's too keen on jumping in the water until springtime, when things warm up.



Vizslas were bred as hunting dogs for Hungarian royalty. Next year Odin gets his hunter training so we'uns can go shoot us some food out near the bubblin' crude. Here's Freyja teaching Odin some hunting dogs tricks like ranging and what a bird smells like. Don't they have birds in

Manhattan? If you noticed a white bandage near the end of Odin's tail in several of these pictures, it's because they don't dock tails in Hungary. When these dogs are happy, which is most of the time, they whack them and bleed a lot! Ahem! One can imagine what the owner's castles must have looked like.

Odin after a busy day at the office. We have these dog beds all over the house but they seem to like the furniture more often than not. Go figure.



So, while Diana's doing her best to channel Ellie Mae Clampett with all her animals, and I'm more in tune with Jed, Odin's new life in the country probably ain't all that bad – considerin'. Maybe we should have named him Jethro.

A very special thanks to Mary K Chelton and Stephanie Fischer in the Vizsla Club of Long Island for their help in making this all

happen...

*Diana & Kris
Odin, Freyja and two cats Rudi and Sierra
from the backwoods and coastline of Marblehead, Massachusetts.*



Member Profile: Éva Stámusz

On March 22nd, 2014 my life changed forever. That was the day when I met and brought home my first dog ever, Bostie. 2014 started a little rough after I got out of a bad relationship and my family was falling apart. I felt it was time to get an animal companion.

After a lot of research I decided that the personality of a Vizsla would best match the kind of dog I needed in my life. I spent many hours searching for a rescue but could not find any nearby. Then I began to search for a breeder. I finally found a breeder in Massachusetts who had puppies available right away. I spoke to them on the phone and scheduled an appointment to view the puppies on that Saturday. I drove four and a half hours to get up there.





The plan was for me to pick a girl out of the three they had and come up to get her the following weekend. They brought out the puppies and they were super playful and adorable. I kept thinking, "How I am going to pick one out for myself?" After watching them play there was something special about one. The breeder put her on a leash and let me take her outside for some one on one time. She was incredibly cute and was just exploring the outside world. After about 15 minutes we came back inside and when I sat down to fill out some paperwork she came over and asked to come up in my lap. That was it for me...she became my dog then and I brought her home that very same day.

I will never forget the first night. I tried to get her to be in her crate but she just cried. After a while I just picked her up and put her on my bed next to me. She immediately fell asleep. That was the moment when I realized she did not have anyone else but me. I was looking at her side moving up and down showing every breath. I started to freak out...all these feelings of responsibility towards her scared me. I had all these scenarios in my head of what if something happens to her and how am I going to protect her from all the bad things out there? I cried like a baby because these feelings were

overwhelming. I knew my life changed forever and it wasn't just about me anymore.

I called my best friend and told her how I was feeling. She reassured me that we were going to be fine and that I would take great care of Bostie. After we hung up I told myself we are going to be fine. I hugged Bostie and gave her a big kiss. Bostie slept thru the night and pretty much every single night after that. As long as she is next to me she can always go to sleep.

Since I brought her home I have always tried to be the best mom ever. I read a couple of books about dogs and dog training. Bostie attended puppy classes and she attained her Puppy AKC Certification at 4 months. I also started to bring her to search and rescue where she showed potential to be an air scenting dog at 9 months old.

Unfortunately we went thru so much that year that we could not continue our search and rescue training. Many things happened from my landlord trying to kick us out to losing my grandfather and having to leave behind Bostie for 5 weeks to help my grandmother in Europe. Those 5 weeks were the hardest. Being without her I felt weak and needy. I pretty much cried every day. That's when I realized that she saved me. She is my rock and my partner in crime. We share a special bond that not everyone can understand. The unconditional love she gives me is incomparable to anything else. The wiggles, the kisses, the hugs and the snuggles are things I used to live without before her arrival but now cannot picture life without them.

Last month Bostie earned her first title which makes her Bostie CGC. In the future I would like her to participate in a hunting test so she can show off her incredibly strong hunting instinct. My Vizsla is not

just a pretty, intelligent and easily trainable dog...she is this amazing

creature that steals your heart and becomes part of your soul.



XX

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB:

The AKC Agility Department is excited to announce the launch of a new, beginning level agility program called ACT (Agility Course Test). The ACT program officially launches on March 1, 2016. This program is designed to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the sport of agility. There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country. In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such as to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences.

There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

- Eligibility to enter: This program is for dogs that do not have an AKC Agility title at the Novice level or higher. Dogs may enter ACT2 without having an ACT1 title. Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and submitted with the results.
- Judges/Evaluators: All AKC agility judges may judge the ACT classes. In addition we will be setting up a system for trainers and experienced participants to become ACT evaluators. Evaluators may judge ACT classes. There will be an application, online test and nominal fee to become an evaluator. More information about becoming an ACT evaluator will be available within the next couple of weeks.

- Holding ACT events: Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.
- Jump Heights: No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.
- Event Applications: Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results.
- Courses: Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review; however, courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.
- Titles: Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

There will be an ACT page on the AKC website where forms and information can be accessed. We have also set up a mailbox for the ACT program act@akc.org. ACT related questions can be sent to this mailbox. Please see the regulations and other information as it becomes available on the ACT web page that can be accessed through the [Agility Home Page](#).

We are looking forward to working with clubs, trainers and evaluators to introduce new exhibitors to the sport of agility.

The AKC Agility Department



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<http://offtheleashdogcartoons.com> and

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<http://www.cafepress.com/+off-the-leash+gifts> and

http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=off+the+leash&tag=googhydr-20&index=stripbooks&hvadid=89287406489&hvpos=1t1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=18443909106408745824&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd_sl_7c51fqd0qu_b

Focus on the Field

By Andrew Campbell



Field Notes: Reflections from the VCA 2015 National Field Trial

“The field trial conception of the ideal bird dog is well defined, rational, sound. To measure up to field trial standards a bird dog must possess speed, range and style. He must be endowed with stamina and a good nose. He must display initiative; he must manifest method in his negotiation of the terrain. He must exhibit character, animation, independence, and intelligence. His work must be incisive, merry. He must show intensity and steadiness on game. He must handle. *The ideal bird dog, in short, is the finished product, a high-class, thoroughly broken performer which excites constant admiration by the excellence of his work.*” -- William F. Brown, *The Field Trial Primer*, (American Field: Chicago, 1934), p. 9; my emphasis

“Fundamentally, the real purpose of field trials is breed improvement, and the elevation of pointing dog performance in the hunting field... it is for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the public a class of performers best suited to perpetuate the most desired qualities possessed by the high-class field dog.” -- William F. Brown,

Field Trials: History, Management, and Judging Standards, (A.S. Barnes: New York, 1947), pp. 173-4

This is much less of a how-to column than some musings after the recent National Field Trial held just outside of Cheyenne, WY in the third week of October -- an event I am proud to say that the Vizsla Club of Long Island financially supported. As the official reporter for the entire trial, I missed a single brace of the Derby due to a worn-out horse, but otherwise spent the entirety of the six-day event on horseback watching some of the finest representatives of our breed. This month's issue of the VCA's *Vizsla News* features the full event report as well as numerous photographs.

The course laid out at Horse Creek Ranch had a little bit for everyone, so to speak. As much as the wide open prairie sections really enabled some dogs to show their speed and range, there were numerous 'edges' to serve as objectives for dogs to engage in their quest for

birds: irrigation ditches, creek beds, the transition zones from hay fields to foothills, and the patchworks of buffalo brush that lay on many of the valley slopes. A dog could hunt intelligently along a draw and boldly climb a bluff face towards the intersection of prairie grass and rocky shrub land along the same course. The current two-series format for the National and the National Amateur Field Championships series not only tests the recovery rate of the dogs called back for the second series, but also their candor and constancy. In our two-series format, dogs should be judged on both performances combined -- which also enables flaws in one of the series to be outweighed by the brilliance of the other.

Having been to 5 of the last 6 National Field Events (the National Field Trial and the National Gun Dog Championship), I have been very lucky to have seen many of the top field dogs in our breed perform in multiple locations -- Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Wyoming -- and in two different formats: the National Field Trial is conducted on horseback and follows a two-series format of 30 and then 45 minutes (with a bird shot on-course for retrieve); the National Gun Dog Championship is for walking handlers in a single-series one-hour format (also with a bird shot on-course for the retrieve). While the dogs that can win both -- Crimson's Twenty Gauge Ruger, JB's Asker Bout Birds, and Lundy's Red Bull are the three that come immediately to mind -- are truly remarkable dogs, it is far less remarkable to me how much deeper the pool of common contenders behind them is. This is one of the things, for me

that marks the breed -- the intelligence and ability to adapt to different forms of handling, to different locations. The other remarkable factor to me is how many of these top dogs are being handled by amateurs even as they compete against professionals. For example, only three dogs in the history of the breed have ever won both the National Amateur and the National Field Championship in the same year (in part because they run in the same week); in two of those three instances, the dogs -- Cherokee's New Hope and Kick 'Em Up Kimber -- were handled by their amateur owner/handlers. To me, this is also one of the other things that marks our breed, the profound relationship with their owner/handler.

There are all kinds of controversies within the Vizsla field community -- most are storms-in-teacups, as far as I am concerned -- but they do expose a concern about what the breed is, what it isn't, and what it might be. To give a single example: somewhere on-line, a breeder made the claim that no one who breeds national caliber field Vizslas is breeding for a 10 o'clock tail, but instead are aspiring for an even higher tail angle when the dog is on point. Leaving aside that the comment was at the very least self-justifying and self-aggrandizing, it also exposes an odd thread of other-breed envy that is far from unique to the Vizsla community. Let me be plain but also very specific: that other-breed is an American Field-bred pointer, i.e. not an AKC-bred, potential Dual Champion, English pointer. And it makes me wonder what other characteristics some field folks are also envying and trying to emulate -- and at what point are we trying to make the Vizsla into a golden

rust imitation of something else? There is no easy answer to this question to me.

As some folks know, I own five Vizslas and an American Field-bred pointer. I can tell how my two breeds are different, but largely in terms of what the pointer does more of. He runs faster, he runs bigger, he runs longer, in a lot of instances, he actually has a more sensitive nose -- which is exactly why I got him, to compete in the boldest category of field trial dogs: All-Age. As the AKC's *Field Trial Rules & Standards* booklet elaborates: "An All-Age Dog must give a finished performance and must be under reasonable control of its handler. It must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive style of running, and *must show independence in hunting. It must range well out in a forward moving pattern, seeking the most promising objectives, so as to locate any game on the course... The dog must demonstrate its independent judgment in hunting the course, but must show a willingness to handle when called upon.*" (pp. 39-40; my emphasis) To paraphrase: almost a run-off, but not quite. Don't misunderstand me either, I do like his virtually straight, vertical tail on point -- but that was a secondary choice after I decided to get a pointer. Contrary to what a lot of folks may believe, there is no consensus about what the ideal American Field-bred pointer should look like -- short-coupled, long-coupled, big, small, as close to all-white as possible, prominently marked. And however much we might mistakenly believe that the angle a tail comes off the back of a dog, or how straight it is, is a reflection of the dog's intensity or the accuracy of their bird-finding skills, it

isn't. The current National Champion, Miller's Dialing In, is by his owner and handler's description 'an ugly dog' -- where his previous National Champion, Lester's Snowwatch, was almost pure white, Dialing In is ticked with orange and has a slight curve to his tail. He won the 2015 National Championship with 8 finds in his three-hour brace, the weather turning to snow for the final 45 minutes of his performance. My point is simply that when you start selecting for purely physical characteristics, you lose sight of the qualities that should define a national champion contender: bird finding ability, intelligence, speed and endurance.

Frankly, the other hoary myth that plagues the breed is the generational belief that the Vizsla is and should only be a "walking gentleman's hunting dog". I don't know where the quotation marks come from as the source is not referenced in the 'Respect for the Vizsla' section of the VCA's current Code of Ethics. Nor can I deduce what language in that Code emerged at what time in its various revisions, but I can speculate why such language could have emerged when the Code was first approved in 1992. That is not the point of this column, however. What most folks tend to omit is the rest of the language precedes that quotation: "Respect for this heritage demands that *the breed should never be allowed to become less than* the dog that still represents the National Dog of Hungary - a true "walking gentleman's shooting dog." (my emphasis). What I take this to mean is two-fold: that breeders have the obligation to ensure that their dogs can still do the job for which they exist; and that we should not be afraid of Vizslas

that can run as hard, or find birds as intently, as any long-tailed white dog. I see no need to try and rush to produce an all-age Vizsla, but I would like to think that the progress of our breed means that such an individual might come along at some point.

What I can say from having attended this past National Field Trial is that I saw many great performances from a field that included 7 Dual Champions in a total field of 33 dogs in the National Amateur Field Championship -- that would ultimately be won by NGDC DC AFC JB's Asker Bout Birds ('Kinze'). We can have looks, true locomotive

conformation, and exceptional bird finding skills -- but let's not settle for less or try to make a poor imitation of something else.

Andrew Campbell is an AKC Hunt Test and Field Trial judge and owns or co-owns five Vizslas and a pointer. He will be heading to Georgia in mid-February to judge the National Vizsla Association's Eastern Shooting Dog Championship before serving as the event reporter for the Masters All-Age Quail Championship.



How to Calm Even the Most Hyperactive Pet

By Dr. Karen Becker

The term "hyperactive" or "ADHD" is used all the time these days, and many pet owners use one or both to describe a very active pet, which is typically a dog, though some people believe their cats are hyper as well.

But despite the popularity of the term, the clinical syndrome of hyperactivity is actually quite rare in pets.

True hyperactivity involves over-activity, attention deficits, impulsivity, and high testing physiologic parameters, all of which are conventionally calmed by — of all things — stimulant drugs.

Most dogs who appear hyperactive are probably better described as *hyperkinetic*. They react to normal everyday sights, sounds, and smells as if they're experiencing them for the first time. They often seem unable to rest even in a completely comfortable, quiet environment.

Hyperkinesis Symptoms and Diagnosis

Hyperkinetic dogs are usually 3 years or older and typically have increased heart and respiratory rates, poor body condition scores, reactivity, and agitation. They are emotionally aroused by routine stimuli and often stay in a state of arousal long after the stimuli is removed.

In order to diagnose true clinical hyperkinesis in a dog, certain things must be ruled out first, including:

- Conditioning (meaning the dog has been rewarded for undesirable behavior)
- Lack of appropriate exercise and environmental stimuli
- [Phobias](#) and anxiety disorders

- Territorialism
- Hyperthyroidism
- Allergies or another medical condition
- [Cognitive decline](#) (in older dogs)

After all root causes for hyperactive behavior are ruled out, the traditional method for diagnosing hyperkinesis is to observe the dog in a hospital setting, where she is put in a quiet location and her physical activity is recorded for an hour. Her heart and respiration rate are measured every 15 to 30 minutes.

If both her activity level and physiologic measures remain elevated, she moves onto the next test in which she's given a stimulant and put in an alternate quiet area.

A minimum of one hour later, she's returned to the testing area, and if she behaves in a calm manner, with reduced heart and respiration rates, she is diagnosed with hyperkinesis.

This test can also be conducted at home over several days under the guidance of a veterinarian, but often the results are less conclusive and unreliable.

Is Your Dog's 'Hyperactivity' Actually Normal Behavior?

Veterinarians and animal behaviorists agree most symptoms of hyperactivity that dog owners complain about are actually either breed-specific behaviors, conditioned behaviors, behaviors resulting from a lack of appropriate physical or mental stimulation, or a combination of these things.

It's important to recognize the difference between canine behavior that is abnormal, and behavior that is actually normal given the dog's circumstances, but undesirable.

In order to sort it out, your veterinarian or an animal behavior specialist will need a detailed description of the unwanted behaviors, including:

- How often your dog performs them and to what degree
- How much exercise, social interaction, playtime and exploration your pet gets daily
- How you and other family members respond to your dog's undesirable behaviors

Factors That Can Influence a Dog's Behavior

There are many things that can affect your pet's behavior, including whether she's alone or ignored much of the time, isn't getting enough exercise, or hasn't received [obedience training](#). It's also possible she's been conditioned through your response to use physical activity to get attention, or is punished for unwanted behavior instead of rewarded for desired behavior.

If you notice your dog is much easier on your nerves after he's been to the dog park or has run around the backyard with your kids for an hour, you can draw the logical conclusion that burning off physical and mental energy has a positive effect on his behavior.

Dogs that don't get their daily needs met for activity, social interaction, mental stimulation and [environmental enrichment](#) may appear to be hyperactive as they attempt to fulfill those needs within the confines of their environment.

How to Help a 'Hyperactive' Dog

Since very few pets are clinically hyperactive or hyperkinetic, my recommendation is to evaluate your dog's lifestyle from every angle as a first step.

- Make sure your dog is getting plenty of exercise — rigorous exercise — until SHE tells you she's tired.
- Provide mental stimulation with puzzles,

treat-release toys, hikes, swims and other outdoor activities that appeal to your dog's natural instincts.

- Focus on desired behaviors your dog performs rather than on what you don't want him to do. Dogs respond to [positive reinforcement behavior modification](#), which does not include punishment.
- Enroll your dog in an obedience class or an activity that helps him focus, such as [nose work](#).
- Feed your dog a balanced, species-appropriate diet to avoid food intolerances, amino acid deficiencies and allergies common in dogs fed low-quality commercial pet food. I think vets underestimate how much food sensitivity can contribute to restless, hyperkinetic behavior.
- And last but not least, discuss supplements such as L-theanine, ashwagandha, GABA, melatonin, hops, chamomile, valerian root, flower essences and CBD oil with your integrative vet.

Why Exercise Is so Important, Especially for High Energy Dogs

Every dog needs regular physical activity to be healthy, and this is especially true if your dog is a [high-energy breed](#). In my experience, lack of sufficient exercise and playtime is the biggest cause for restless behavior, erroneously categorized as hyperactivity or obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

Dogs are workers by nature. Canines in the wild have very busy lives tending to the business of survival, raising their young and socializing with other members of the pack. Unfortunately, many companion dogs today have sedentary lives. They don't get enough physical or mental stimulation, and they often spend many hours alone at home every day, or watching their owners watch

TV, work on the computer, or text.

Dogs with very active temperaments can develop behavior problems if they aren't provided opportunities to work off all that energy. If your dog is under exercised or bored, he may show one or multiple behaviors that may appear as though he has a clinical case of hyperactivity:

- Barking or whining for attention
- Excessive mouthing and play biting
- Predatory and rough play
- Destructive chewing, digging or scratching
- Counter surfing, garbage raiding and other sneaky type behaviors
- Rowdiness, crashing into furniture, and jumping up on people

If you feel sure the lifestyle you're providing your pet gives him plenty of outlets for physical activity and mental stimulation, but your furry buddy is still hyperactive more often than not, I recommend making an appointment with your veterinarian.

(This article continues with a discussion of cats at http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2016/01/24/hyperactive-dogs.aspx?e_cid=20160124Z1_PetsNL_art_1&utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20160124Z1&et_cid=DM98286&et_rid=1330376258)

This article was brought to you by Dr. Mercola, a *New York Times* bestselling author. For more helpful articles, please visit Mercola.com today and receive your FREE *Take Control of Your Health* E-book!

The Dangers of Playing with Laser Lights

Posted on Paws Abilities, December 22, 2014 |

<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2014/12/22/the-dangers-of-playing-with-laser-lights/>

Howie* was an adorable little teddy bear of a dog. He wiggled as I sunk my hand into his plush, soft, curly fur. A delightful Cavachon, Howie adored people and loved to meet new friends. He sat beside me on the sofa, leaning into my touch. The room was dark other than a single lamp, the curtains not just drawn but clipped shut. Howie's foster caregivers told me about his obsessions as we sat in the dim room, being careful not to move and throw shadows on the floor. I took notes, pausing occasionally to pet the little dog.

Howie was surrendered to the rescue when his self-injurious behavior became too much for his owners to handle. He was housetrained, friendly to people, and a

delight with children. When he arrived at his foster caregiver's home, he sported an oozing, open wound on his muzzle and nose. Howie was obsessed with lights, and would do anything to try to catch one... including harming himself.

Howie's obsession started out, as most do, innocently enough. As a young dog with lots of energy, Howie's owners found that he enjoyed chasing a laser light. They used the light to exercise him at least twice a day and he chased after it delightedly, racing throughout their living room. They sent him up and down stairs after the elusive light, onto the sofa and under the table, around and around until he was tired out. It seemed like the perfect exercise solution on

cold Minnesota days when none of them wanted to go outside.

Howie soon began to play the light game even when his owners weren't using the laser. He stalked shadows and light patterns on the floor, staring intently as he crept forward until he was close enough to pounce. He loved the reflections off his owner's watch crystals and from the prism in the window. Outside, he was entranced by the movement of the shadows from sunlight shining through the leaves of a tree or birds flying overhead. He no longer sniffed on walks, but instead searched constantly for the next light.

During laser play sessions, Howie's intensity began to concern his owners. He bit at the carpet where the laser had been and slammed into walls. They threw away the laser and attempted to dissuade him from these dangerous behaviors by putting him in his crate whenever he did them. He persisted, chasing lights and shadows in their home. Soon, Howie was spending the majority of his time in his crate, with a blanket thrown over the top to block out any light.

When he was loose, Howie damaged his owner's home. He tore chunks out of the carpet and bit at the walls. He broke a front tooth attacking the wall and chipped several others. Soon, he had an open wound on his muzzle that wouldn't heal from slamming himself into the floor, walls, and furniture in his attempt to catch the lights and shadows that taunted him. Howie's owners had a new baby, and they were concerned that his behavior put their child at risk. They surrendered him to rescue.

While extreme, Howie's story isn't unusual. **Light and shadow chasing are some of the most common obsessions found in dogs.** All breeds can develop these issues, but

those who were bred for strong gazes, such as herding breeds and Pointers, seem to be especially at risk.

Light obsession most frequently develops after owners use a laser pointer to exercise their dog. Unlike toys or treats, lights cannot be caught. **This is incredibly frustrating for many dogs, who never "win" the game.** Even after you put the light away, many dogs continue to search for the elusive light. Shadow and light chasing behavior can develop soon afterwards.

For this reason, **I highly recommend against using a laser light to exercise any dog.** It's impossible to know which dogs will develop issues until they happen, and it's just not worth the risk. If you do decide to persist in using a laser for exercise, consider having the laser eventually lead your dog to a small pile of treats as you end the game so that he "wins" something. However, complete avoidance of the game is preferable.

If your dog begins to show light or shadow chasing behavior, know that the sooner you intervene, the better the prognosis becomes. Howie's case was extreme in large part because it had been going on for so long: nearly five years by the time he was surrendered to rescue. Early intervention greatly increases the likelihood that you can help your dog.

If your dog begins chasing lights and shadows, the first thing to do is to **increase his physical and mental exercise.**

Oftentimes this intervention alone can be enough in the early stages. My dog Trout showed this behavior as a young dog, and will occasionally still stare at the wall near lamps if she hasn't received enough exercise. Whenever your dog begins to obsess, redirect him to an appropriate activity. Trout is usually redirected by

physically getting in between her and the wall, then calmly moving her away from the area. Avoid making a big deal over the behavior – both reinforcement in the form of treats or excessive attention, or punishment in the form of any aversive can make this behavior worse. In fact, **stress can be a huge factor in many obsessive behaviors**, so any intervention that includes aversive consequences for obsessing (such as using an electronic collar or swatting your dog) can greatly increase the chances that your dog will obsess.

If your dog's obsession has been going on for a long period of time or is so severe that you're unable to easily interrupt it, it's worthwhile to discuss medication options with your veterinarian.

Howie's foster family did just that, starting him on fluoxetine (the generic for Prozac) at the advice of the rescue's veterinarian. They also began a steady behavioral modification regimen of appropriate exercise, training, and management. Howie wore a Calming Cap when he went on walks to block his ability to search for lights, and was rewarded handsomely for learning several new tricks. His foster family was gradually able to open the curtains, first on cloudy days, then at night, and finally on sunny days. They worked hard with him for months and months, helping him to cope with his former obsession.

Sadly, Howie's story does not end well. After months of hard and loving work by his foster family, the injury on his muzzle had healed over. He was taken into the vet clinic for dental surgery to repair his damaged front teeth, and stopped breathing during the operation. The veterinarian was unable to revive him.

While Howie's story was sad, there is a silver lining. He had several months of peace with his foster family, finally free of the light-chasing obsession that had so overpowered his life for so many years. He discovered the joys of using his nose and began to love the sport of nose work. He snuggled and got brushed, and got a chance to wriggle around in the grass and sleep in a bed. He was loved.

If you currently use a laser light to exercise your dog, I urge you to reconsider. While Howie's story was extreme, it's not uncommon. I work with obsessive dogs much like Howie regularly. Most of these cases could have been avoided with some minor changes to the dog's routine. There are better ways to exercise and stimulate your dog. Save your laser light for powerpoint presentations, and you could save your dog from a lifetime of obsession. It's a fair trade, and Howie would approve.

**Howie's name and identifying details were changed at the request of his foster family.*



Healing With Turmeric Golden Paste For Dogs

by Dana Scott in Nutrition And Diet

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/healing-with-turmeric-golden-paste-for-dogs/>

Here's a recipe you just have to try for your dog!

You may have heard of the benefits of turmeric for your dog. If you haven't, then here are all the amazing benefits of this colorful spice:

It's a powerful antioxidant

It's a natural and effective anti-inflammatory

It can help prevent and even treat cancer

It protects the liver from toxins

And much more!

For more great benefits and the scientific research behind turmeric and curcumin, [click here](#).

How To Make Golden Paste

Australian veterinarian Dr Doug English has seen great results with a turmeric recipe he developed called Golden Paste. Here is his recipe:

½ cup organic turmeric powder (Make sure it's organic turmeric powder to be sure it contains lots of curcumin)

1 to 1 ½ cups filtered water

1 ½ teaspoons freshly ground black pepper (Grind organic black peppercorns in a coffee grinder or magic bullet)

¼ cup organic cold pressed virgin olive or coconut oil (Coconut oil is a great choice because it also has great health benefits)

Mix the turmeric with the water in a pan, starting with 1 cup water and adding more only if needed. Stir the liquid on medium/low heat and in about 7 to 10 minutes, it should form a thick paste. If your paste looks watery, just add a bit more turmeric and heat it for another couple of minutes.

Once you've got a paste, add the pepper and oil, then stir it very well.

Allow the mixture to cool, then place it in a jar with a lid and store it in your fridge.

Ideally, you should store the paste for no more than two weeks ... after that, you'll want to make a fresh

Giving Turmeric Golden Paste To Your Dog

You can add the Golden Paste directly to your dog's meals by mixing it with some water or kefir. Most dogs don't mind the taste at all!

Start with about ¼ to ½ tsp, depending on the size of your dog. You can increase the amount from there, up to about a Tbsp for larger dogs.

TIP: Turmeric leaves the body quickly, so it's best to feed smaller amounts a few times a day.

So try making some Golden Paste today and drop us a note on the [Dogs Naturally Facebook Page](#) with your pictures and success story!

Other Educational Articles

A website run by Dr. Jean Dodds that focuses on vaccines, thyroid and nutrition topics.

<http://www.hemopet.org/education.html>

“Cold Weather Pet Safety” <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Cold-weather-pet-safety.aspx> (There are many sites that offer advice on this topic. Just Google “winter care for dogs” to pull up others.)

“Fun Games You Can Enjoy With Your Dog While Contributing to Science,”

http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2016/01/30/dog-cognition.aspx?e_cid=20160123Z1_PetsNL_artTestHP_A2&utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=artTestHP_A2&utm_campaign=20160123Z1&et_cid=DM95370&et_rid=1325115765



DOG OWNER'S FITNESS PROGRAM

You have seen the ads on TV that promise amazing results from all sorts of contraptions—the thigh master, the hip master, the belly buster. Well dog lovers take heart! There is no need to invest in fancy equipment. With this sure fire fitness program, a dog is all you need! The following exercises can (and will) be done anytime, anywhere.

INNER THIGHS: Place the dog's favorite toy between thighs. Press tighter than the dog can pull. Do not attempt bare legged—dogs who favor shortcuts to success will just dig the toy out. You could be hurt.

UPPER BODY: Lift dog off the couch, off favorite chair, off the bed. Repeat, repeat, repeat. As the dog ages, this process is reversed—lift dog onto couch, onto the bed and so on.

TONING: Remove your puppy from unsuitable tight places. If they are too small for him, they are certainly too small for you. Do it anyway. Repeat, repeat, repeat.

BALANCE AND COORDINATION:

Exercise 1: Practice not falling when your dog bounds across the full length of the room, sails through the air and slams both paws into the back of your knees.

Exercise 2: (for use with multiple dogs) Remove all dogs from lap, hurdle the ones between your feet and answer the phone before it stops ringing.

Exercise 3: (for those with older dogs) Attempt to cross any room without tripping over the dog. Get off couch without crushing any part of a sleeping older dog.

UPPER ARMS: Throw the ball. Throw the squeaky toy. Throw the Frisbee. Repeat until nauseous. (Alternate): Tug the rope. Tug the pull toy. Tug the sock. Repeat until your shoulder is dislocated or the dog gives up—we all know which comes first.

HAND COORDINATION AND SPEED: Remove foreign object from locked jaw before dog swallows. This exercise is especially popular with puppy owners. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. Remember, this is a timed exercise. Movements must be quick and precise (think concert pianist) to prevent trips to the vet which only offer the minimal exercise benefit of jaw firming clenches.

CALVES: After the dog has worn out the rest of your body. Hang a circular toy on your ankle and let the dog tug while you tug back. **WARNING:** this is feasible only for those with strong bones and small dogs. Have you taken your calcium supplement today? (Alternate): Run after dog—pick any reason. Dogs of any size can be used for this exercise. Greyhounds are inadvisable.

REFLEXES: When entering house from shopping trip empty arms of packages and attempt to catch dog as he hurls himself into your waiting arms. (Alternate—especially for sporting dog owners) After the dog has gone for a nice swim in some odd looking body of water, dodge the green spray as he violently shakes the slime out of his coat.

NECK MUSCLES: Attempt to outmaneuver the canine tongue headed for your ear, mouth, or eyeball. This is a lifelong fitness program. A dog is never too old or feeble to 'French kiss' when you least expect it.

BONUS OFFER—for owners of multiple dogs: Do NOT invest in that new mattress to help you stop tossing and turning. Throw away those special pillows that guarantee an undisturbed night of sleep. Share your bed with Fluffy and friends. With one stretched out on either side of you and another sleeping peacefully between your ankles, you are guaranteed not to move a muscle all night!



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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.

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