



NEWSLETTER

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

Welcome to spring everyone! It's nice to be outside watching everything bloom without wearing a winter jacket. The dogs have been running wild in the fields and I have been on the hunt for ticks. Please carefully examine your dogs, as it is going to be a bad year!

We had a very successful Specialty Show in February, thanks to Kathie Amore and Ed McAuliffe. It is always nice to see the array of quality dogs from across the country and to catch up with old friends.

The club tried something new this year with the addition of monthly lectures at Long Island Veterinary Specialties. The lectures were very informative and I think the people that participated came away with increased knowledge of first aid and behavior. We are trying to continue this on a somewhat monthly basis.

It is membership renewal time again, albeit a bit tardy. We will attach a hard copy to the newsletter, and for those that want to go online and renew, please go to our website <http://vcli.net/merchandise/>

We are looking for at least 3 new people to step up and volunteer to be directors on our board. This entails a few meetings a year and participation in our club events. For those that participate in our events already, this is a way to further help the club. If you can help out, please email me at ILOVTRAV@aol.com.

On a more personal note, on Friday, April 14 we lost our beloved Cliffy. He lived to be 15 years and almost 2 months. He was the last of a spectacular litter of 10, bred by Anne Denehy. Cliffy was purchased by our family when Matthew was just shy of 6 and he was named after Clifford, the big red dog. He took us on the ride of a lifetime! He went from being our beloved family member all the way to Ch. Haranns Big Red Clifford at The Westminster Kennel Club, handled by Matthew at 11 years old. He became a certified therapy dog and even visited his breeder at St. Francis Hospital when she had surgery. He dabbled in the field, but really preferred the show ring. What a proud dog he was! He got me started in rescue and shaped my life to this day. Without him, we would not be who we are as a family and I would not have the life I am so blessed to have, nor would we have met all the wonderful friends we made over the years. Cliffy, for all of these things, we will be eternally grateful to you. Run free, my sweet boy.

Warm regards,
Stephanie



IN MEMORIAM

**RIP our sweet Cliffy. We love you.
Ch. Harann's Big Red Clifford CGC, TDI
2/23/02--4/14/17**

***So this is where we part, My Friend, and you'll run on, around the bend,
gone from sight, but not from mind, new pleasures there you'll surely find.
I will go on, I'll find the strength, life measures quality, not its length.
One long embrace before you leave, share one last look, before I grieve.
There are others, that much is true, but they be they, and they aren't you.
And I, fair, impartial, or so I thought, will remember well all you've taught.
Your place I'll hold, you will be missed, the fur I stroked, the nose I kissed.
And as you journey to your final rest, take with you this...We loved you best***



Stephanie, Ray and Matthew Fischer



Rescue Report

To say rescue this quarter has been busy is an understatement! We placed 6 dogs in wonderful homes. The first 4 were retired seniors from Southside, 3 Vizslas and a

Rhodesian Ridgeback. We could not have done this without the help of Bonnie Kelleher who takes the dogs for us from Southside and fosters them until I can find proper homes, the Throssell family who helped by fostering Sheeba for us, and the National Ridgeback Rescue group who worked with us to find a proper home.

These dogs are all thriving in their new homes and learning how to be beloved family members for the first time. I cannot thank the families enough for their love, patience and willingness to give a senior a home for the final years of their lives.

I am sure all of you have heard the phrase "let sleeping dogs lie". There is a reason we should not bother a dog when they are sleeping. There is a reason why we should all keep our toddlers away from dogs while they sleep. Some dogs get very startled and end up biting. Not the norm, but it happens more than you know. In all cases, the dogs should not be blamed. Remy and Hank came from those situations. Hank was brought into the vet to be euthanized after being tormented while he slept not once, but twice. Fortunately the Vet and her staff were convinced that Hank was not to blame and reached out to rescue. What follows is a most wonderful connection that has happened only a few times in my rescue career.

One morning I received a phone call from a man who told me his puppy just had bitten his child for the second time. His pup was sleeping and the child who was old enough to know better startled him. If I did not get him out of the house he was being dropped out the pound. I will not print what I really thought of the situation, but those of you who know me can only imagine what I was thinking. I had a wonderful family who waited a long time for a young dog. They

were Vizsla savvy. They were smart. I knew they would take the time to work through any issues, and that night they came from Manhattan to Long Island so Remy can start a new life. And what a life it is!

The following stories will make you smile. I also hope they open up your thinking to adopting senior dogs or just helping out our rescue program with foster, transport, phone calls etc.

Stephanie



Remy's Story

Thirty plus years ago I met a Vizsla puppy in Central Park and fell absolutely head over heels in love. Within days I was on the phone with an extraordinary breeder in New Jersey and arranged to pick up a female by the name of Liesl, who later had 2 litters of puppies. One of her puppies (Rusty) became my shadow and decided to keep me! My beautiful daughter Lizzy was born five years later. Both Liesl and Rusty blessed us with a long lifetime of joy. Losing them was excruciating and we were devastated. We knew we couldn't bear it longer than three months without a dog. As Lizzy said, (at the age of 5) whilst sobbing uncontrollably, "I miss my best friend"!

After many teary eyed discussions about how much we missed our beloved Rusty, Lizzy decided that she would like our next puppy to

be a female and had already chosen the name Tara. About three months after we put Rusty down, I explained to my daughter, who was in kindergarten at the time, that I was going on an overnight business trip. In actuality, I flew to North Carolina and when I returned I completely surprised my daughter with a scrumptious puppy by the name of Tara, whom I lovingly carried home on my lap during the flight.

We have had an extraordinary relationship with each and every one of our magnificent Vizslas. So much so, that I lovingly refer to this period as "chapter four"! I often say that to know a Vizsla, is to LOVE a Vizsla. WE don't own them...They choose and own us! All of our dogs have been characters, and our lives truly revolved around their needs and quirks.

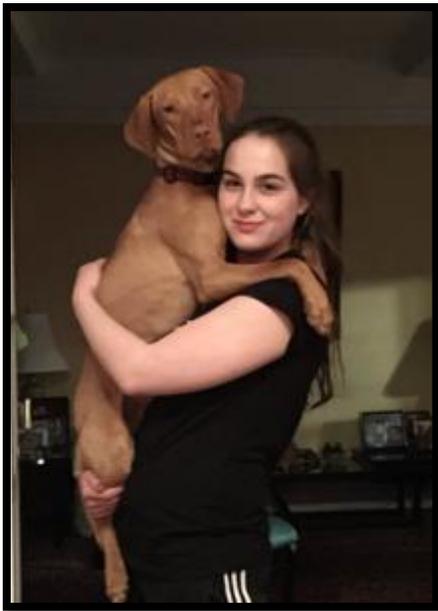
Liesl would lie on the dining room table and sunbathe, as well as lie on the piano bench whilst plunking her head down on the keys ...as she lay in the sun! When Rusty was a puppy, he figured out that if I took his water away (at night) while he was being housebroken, he could stand on his hind legs and turn on the water tap of the bathroom sink! Our sweet pea Tara gave my daughter the yummiest kisses every morning to wake her up ...and it never failed to result in belly aching laughter. Lizzy loved her so much that every time we took a flight, she wanted to turn the plane round and be with Tara! Despite the fact that we had a dog sitter staying in our home, neither of us could bear to leave her!

Last May, we received devastating news when our sweet pea Tara was diagnosed with an aggressive oral tumor. She was 10 years old and in outstanding condition, other than the tumor. Needless to say, no stone was left unturned to save her life; multiple surgeries, cryosurgery and consultations with top veterinarians both near and far. She had a spectacular summer and swam alongside my kayak nearly 2 miles a day. Five months later, we knew in our hearts that it was time to put our beloved Tara down. We took her to a local pond near the Vet on a magnificent October day, lay down her favorite blanket and gave her a bag of gourmet treats. As Tara covered me with kisses, and vice versa, she was given a preliminary injection to tranquilize her, followed by another injection to put her to sleep. As the tears streamed down our faces, I thanked her for all the years of unconditional love and support. Every single day was a gift!

Losing Tara was so painful and ginormous in every way. Both my daughter and I were devastated beyond words. We kept feeling like we had to take Tara for a walk, or it was time to feed her...and her treasured toys were everywhere. Our home felt like it had a huge hole in it. We knew we wouldn't last very long, but it was important to grieve before reaching out to breeders. As the months passed by, Lizzy and I had many conversations. She felt deeply passionate about rescuing our next dog.

When the time was right, we started researching Vizsla rescue sites and found an

angel by the name of Stephanie Fischer with Long Island Vizsla Rescue! Stephanie and I had many long and thorough phone chats. She carefully listened to what life was like on our end and asked a million questions to determine whether we would be able to offer a rescue the best possible home. I explained to Stephanie that after 30+ years of being surrounded and loved by Vizslas, I truly "speak Vizsla"!



We almost rescued a Vizsla that was up for adoption at the ACC in NYC, but much to our sorrow, the dog had been adopted a half hour before we arrived. We knew, there was a reason, and sure enough the next afternoon Stephanie called to say that there was a 7-month old male Vizsla that was in need of a new home. I was overjoyed and that evening my daughter, brother and I went to pick up the most adorable, sweet as can be puppy who we have re-named Remy. He has a real sense of

humor, and cocks his head when you speak with him...as if he truly understands every word!



Remy is obsessed with birds and squirrels, and runs faster than any Vizsla I have ever seen! His temperament is superb, and he is the biggest mush...so long as you don't trim his nails! The funniest thing is to see him drag his blanket and pillow from room to room! He is immensely affectionate and has really funny conversations with us that even our best attempts at resisting roars of laughter are in vain!

Remy is absolutely obsessed with birds and squirrels and endlessly chases after a ball. He has settled into the dog run crowd beautifully over the last 3+ months and we are overjoyed with his easy going nature. We are working towards letting him run off leash in Central Park every morning!

Stephanie, thank you for all your help and support! We love Remy sooooo much and cannot imagine life without our sweet pea! He is an absolute joy!

With much love and gratitude,

Jeanie, Lizzy and Remy♥



Koa's Story

Hello!! I just wanted to give an update regarding Sheba (renamed Koa) the 9-year old Ridgeback rescued from South Side Farm. She was being fostered by a wonderful couple in NY who did tremendous work with her!! They truly did all the hard work, and to whom we cannot thank enough!!!!

My husband and I picked Koa up from her foster family, knowing the trip would be too stressful if a transport was arranged. She is now in her forever home with us and our other ridgeback mix Kona in Virginia. She is doing well considering her history and we have been showering her with love & kisses everyday.

Of course there is work to be done but we see her potential!! We can't undo her history but we can give her all that we have to ensure her future is a bright one! A home that is safe & where she can live out her days in peace and be surrounded by hearts filled with unconditional love for her.



Thank you to the Vizsla Club and RRRI for making this possible! Stephanie has done a yeoman's work in making sure Koa's transition has been a smooth one & setup for success from the beginning. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, experience, encouragement and support with us!!!!

Love,
The Avila Pack



Ruby's Story

We are a Vizsla family. In 1995 we found our first Vizsla, Walker. He was a calm and majestically expressive male who became a champion due to unusual circumstances, namely, other owners committed to making him and his littermate champions. Not our desire, but we acquiesced and were the

beneficiaries of two subsequent picks of his litters. First Emma and then Hunter joined our family. Emma was with us for 15 years.

Two years ago, with Hunter our only Vizsla, I received a text from my Vizsla enthusiast vet that she had been notified of a Vizsla surrendered at the Putnam Humane Society--a never before occurrence! She immediately thought of us. We adopted Ginger. Wow! She was a ball of energy and loved every second of digging in the dirt with my husband, chasing balls, catching Frisbees, jumping to amazing heights, and swimming in the ocean. She possessed a zest for living that our other calm dogs had never shown. Eight months later we had to let her go as a mass had encircled her urethra. We were devastated! Three months later we had to put our beloved Hunter down for the same reason. What a void descended on us!



We were Vizsla-less. No walks on the beach. No walks in the forest. No more cave dog beds littering the house. For the first time in 22 years, there was no Vizsla stealing our chair or diving under our bed covers.

I contacted Stephanie. A few months later, Ruby entered our lives - beautiful, red coated, big eared, gorgeous Ruby!!!! She has been with us 6 weeks. She is shy and cautious but is adapting magnificently to our lives. Ruby has learned a lot in her short time with us. She comes when called, races to the front door to get a treat after doing her business outside. We have so much joy watching her run in the field or on the beach. We revel in her new accomplishments like mastering the stairs, jumping into the car, and walking on a leash. Ruby is becoming a real Vizsla. She steals our chairs and jumps into our bed. She is a member of our family.



This article would not be complete without acknowledging both Bonnie the rescuer and Stephanie, the organizer and advisor par excellence, who mentored me every step of the way. Every question I had, and I had a lot, Stephanie advised me from her wealth of



Hank is awesome. No dog could ever replace the girls we loved so much but Hank is a perfect fit in our family. He is smart, silly, crazy, and everything a Vizsla should be. We love him so much.



The support we have received from Stephanie has been outstanding. We not only found Hank

but we also found a friend and someone who understands our love for Vizslas. Thanks to the Vizsla Club of Long Island Rescue and Stephanie for helping Hank become part of our family. Bless you all. We couldn't be happier.

Allean and Walt Jacobson



Rooney's Story

I saw the first picture of Rooney on March 20th, 2017. It was in the evening when I was scrolling through my Facebook messages. I received this posting from the New Hope Vizsla Rescue sharing Stephanie's post about a spry 12-year-old male looking for a home. On the picture the sweet sugar faced dog looked sad, lost and confused. My husband and I were immediately thinking of our recently passed 13-year-old rescue boy named Ernie. We were thinking how privileged we felt to accompany him for the last part of his journey. Some of our best memories were created by watching him enjoying life to the fullest in his last months. We felt sad and angry looking at the post. "Rooney was going to be euthanized by his owners because he was "too old" and they didn't have time for him." Our heart sank just by looking at Rooney's face. We applied for him the same day...

Fast forward 8 days...On March 28th 2017 I and our Vizsla girls were anxiously waiting for Rooney's arrival. We had several Vizslas before, all girls. So we were thrilled to finally have a

Vizsla gentleman in our house. An hour after he arrived, it felt like he has been here for years. His foster said immediately "He knew, he is with his own kind..." Rooney was walking around excitedly and happily. Just look at his picture taken an hour after he arrived to our house....



He became a part of a Vizsla pack and takes long walks with his buddies in the beautiful spring weather. He also likes to take long naps and cuddles with us on the couch endlessly. We are very happy to have him as the part of our family, and we hope to enlighten his golden years!



It has been almost a month since Rooney has entered into our life. Our friends and neighbors frequently commenting, how amazingly fast he adjusted to his new life. Our girls love him! He is a sweet, happy goofball who gets along well with everyone. He is a social butterfly, who likes to say hi and just hang out.



Adele Kertesz

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Teddy's Story

Diane and I got our first Vizsla in 1993 and three years later our second. Another year later a



third and then we stepped in to "rescue" a Vizsla that was no longer wanted with the intent to re-home him. Well, Cognac let us know that he liked it with us just fine, thank you very much.

We had shown our first dog Gibson to his show championship and also got to training for obedience. Then came agility (we HIGHLY recommend it for Vizsla owners!) as well as Rally-O (obedience). When Cindy, our second one came along, we got introduced to what Vizslas are all about: hunting. So, we trained for that, as well (and got our hunting licenses and firearms permits that are required in Canada).

We also produced 3 litters over the course of time and along with keeping some of the offspring and taking back dogs that owners could not keep, at one point we had 13 Vizslas in the house. Yearly vacations consisted of taking the gang grouse hunting in the wilderness of Quebec.

10 years ago, our circumstances changed and Diane got sick. Since then, most of our activities have been much curtailed, but not our love for the breed and the companionship, fun and love that they offer.

We put the word out that we needed a rescue, as we were down to only 2 from our formerly very large family. Our friend and mentor Diane Shearer (Legacy Vizslas and rescue coordinator for the VCA (Vizsla Club of America) put us in touch with Stephanie Shein Fischer.

Stephanie told us about a "kennel dog" that had just become available and after talking with us, Stephanie just knew where "Teddy" (formerly known as "General") had to go.



Stephanie had her work cut out for her, however. The transport I thought I might be able to arrange fell through. Stephanie did not give up: to make a long story short, Teddy was delivered (from the US to Canada) to within about 40 miles of our door!

I've posted many updates about Teddy's progress since Valentine's Day (which is when we got him), but to put it mildly, he has done amazingly well; within an hour of coming in the house, he was on a perfectly behaved "down stay" while Diane and I had dinner! It took only 6 days to "house break" a nine-and-a-half year old dog that had only known life in a kennel.

At first, he was afraid to go outside to even pee (near as we can guess, he was afraid he would never be let back inside the warm house). I literally had to drag him off the back deck and SHOW him what to do. (Our property is well

shielded from the sight of neighbors --lol).
Within a couple of weeks, I was comfortable enough to walk Teddy off leash for short distances.

There is no limit to how much Teddy will try to please. WE are the REALLY lucky ones that Stephanie did not give up on getting Teddy to us.

BTW: we use only positive reinforcement and "soft" training methods. I don't think he has heard the word "no" more than once (by mistake!). It's either "uh-uh", or - in the few cases that doesn't work - a slightly more forceful "hey".

He now looks forward to his daily hour-long "walks", which are mainly romps in the neighboring farmer's field. It's even MUCH more fun when there are "friends" along, sometimes our 13+ year old, sometimes friends' dogs.

We have never really had any trouble with any of the rescues / "re-homes" that have come to us (and we have had 4 others that basically grew up in a barn!) But we really could not have even imagined an "easier" dog than our Teddy.

PS: we never liked his former name, General, and had already decided to change it before we even laid eyes on Teddy. He got (earned) his name because his lower lip is pointy like a bear's lower lip. So, he is our Teddy Bear!



Thanks again to Stephanie, Diane Shearer, as well as Bonnie Kelleher and Ana Toro (who generously offered to transport Teddy).

Warm regards,

Peter & Diane Szokoll

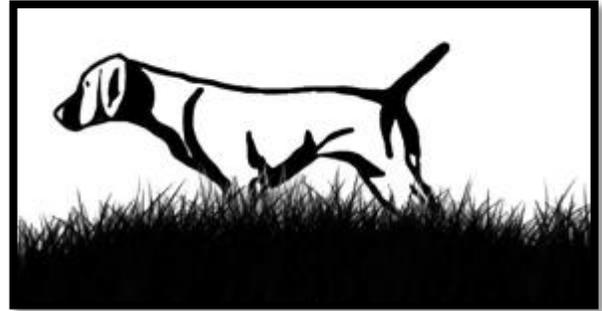


Focus on the Field

by Andrew Campbell

Training for the Challenge not for the Ribbon.

As a result of owning field trial dogs, I came to love riding horses. In thirty-five days between mid-February and mid-March this spring, I spent at least six hours on a horse watching bird dogs for thirteen of them, but the gaited, walking horses most folks use for field trial horses are their own particular niche, and so a lot of the mainstream horse magazines don't quite fit. I don't remember how I originally found *Eclectic Horseman* magazine -- and while it is significantly geared towards working horses (i.e. working stock, especially cows), it isn't merely a wanna-be cowboy magazine either. In the most recent issue (Jan - Feb, 2017), there is a great article by Deb Bennett Ph.D. called "Not 'Just Getting By': Mastery, And Why Few People Achieve It." Dr. Bennett's article draws on George Leonard's book, *Mastery: The Keys to Success and Long-Term Fulfillment* (Plume Books, 1992), and while it alludes to Leonard's 'five master keys-- instruction, practice, surrender, intentionality, and playing the edge -- she focuses on the



reality that much of the practice of mastery involves spending significant time on any one of a number of plateaux of performance and learning. Deb Bennett's point is that -- in an age of constant movement, of progress, and self-curated Facebook success posts -- many of us aren't comfortable being on a given plateau of performance, in this instance, with our dogs.

The American Kennel Club fuels this kind of discomfort with its sequences of titles -- Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter, Master Hunter etc. -- as well as 'Champion' titles for fieldwork or conformation or obedience. In effect, my dog is better than your dog, or at least many other dogs. While he was writing about human performance, the following George Leonard quotation also speaks to any working relationship with an animal: "Perhaps we'll never know how far the path can go, how much a human being can truly achieve, until we realize that the

ultimate reward is not a gold medal but the path itself.” (p.138) Don’t get me wrong: I prefer winning and these titles do provide a permanent testimony to your dog’s abilities in a given area, but I like dogs doing their jobs happily and enthusiastically more than I like ribbons. I won’t lie that ribbons and titles fuel a certain part of my ego, but they also give me a concrete goal to strive for and exceed. And what Deb Bennett’s article strives to illuminate is multi-fold. During graduate school, there was a common saying that the only good PhD. dissertation was a done-dissertation, that completing the task was in some ways more important than the quality of the work within it. But when it comes to training animals, Deb Bennett quotes Ray Hunt, the master horse trainer, as saying at one of his clinics: “I hope you people are here today to succeed with your horses. I hope you’re not just trying to get by. Because if you do that, you cheat yourself, you cheat me, and you cheat your horse.” To bring this back to dog training, if you train your dog to be simply good enough to earn a given title, you are already limiting yourself and your dog. Not every dog can be a Master Hunter or a Field Champion, but if you train to be just good enough to earn those titles, chances are you’ll never get there.

In case the inspiration for this article is unclear, I found myself worrying about whether my dogs would be ready for a given hunt test or field trial this spring. I have a very nice bitch that I co-own who, because of her either coming into season or being bred and whelping puppies, I have not had the same opportunities to campaign that I have with my other, far more flawed (!) males. She turned seven years old in February and while that is far from old, conventional wisdom would suggest that she is coming off her physical prime. Especially for those of us who own bitches, especially those you do fieldwork with (and being in season makes them ineligible to compete), the challenge of meshing a dog’s reproductive cycles with the hunt test and/or field trial season creates an artificial sense of stress. This doesn’t help a bitch trying to finish up her Amateur Field Champion title -- or start her Master Hunter title. There are also only so many field trials and hunt tests in a given season. And our stumbles to this point in the spring had left me feeling uncomfortable and under pressure -- and, until I read Deb Bennett’s article, I had not realized that we had simply plateaued and that perhaps relaxing rather than trying to train harder was the secret. While the dog could care less about the human calendar, it

does know when you are feeling stressed -- and for some of our dogs, that's enough to throw them off their game. And when we start creating artificial pressures above and beyond those of the normal training process, i.e. training to an event timeline and not to the dog's developmental progress, we create kinks. (Since I began this article, I realized I was not having fun, that it was entirely my fault, and have since won a 3-point retrieving field trial major with this bitch. She is a good dog, but I don't think this is entirely coincidence.)

One of the things that struck me when I sat in my mentor, Bill Gibbons's living room at his kennel in Phoenix in the summer of 2011 was that he had a number of books on horse training on his bookshelf. When I visited with my good friend and mentor, Maurice Lindley, back in 2016, I noticed he had several of the same ones on his shelf, too -- Ray Hunt's *Think Harmony with Horses* and Tom Dorrance's *True Unity: Willing Communication between Horse and Human*, in particular. And while horses are a prey species and dogs are a predator species, there are any number of ways that training books for animals other than pointing dogs can help us move forward

with our dogs in a productive, enjoyable way for both parties.

Towards the beginning of his most recent book, *Finding the Missed Path: The Art of Restarting Horses*, Mark Rashid writes: "But often the truth is that quite often when a horse is really troubled it's because there's already been too much pressure... [Like] water boiling in a pot, turning the heat up does nothing to cool the water inside. Sometimes the, the solution is simply to find a way to get the heat turned down. It's finding the starting point that allows the horse to tell us what he really needs, instead of what we think he needs." (p. 10) Near the beginning of our co-ownership relationship with our breeders, I offered to take one of their brood bitches for a month or so, a bitch that had been returned (twice) because she was apparently 'not enough bird dog'. The dog and the breeder had been slandered by both sets of owners, but as the daughter of a National Champion sire and a dam with three out of four grandparents as field champions, I figured there should have been plenty of genetic depth behind her, that I could do no wrong and had no pressure with regard to the outcome. It became fairly obvious that she couldn't help herself but go look for birds but

that she would blink them (i.e. point and then turn away as the handler approached). But what I also figured out was that she loved to retrieve. The other hiccup was that the first time she saw me with a shotgun she ran behind a friend who was visiting and helping me out. And so she had either been disciplined with the butt of the gun or associated the shotgun with a kind of pressure she had profoundly not enjoyed. (I had already figured out she was not gun shy.) I played retrieve with dead pigeons that had been shot for another of my dogs -- and then several sessions later, lead her upwind to a pigeon in a launcher, and as soon as she pointed and began to turn away from it, I launched the bird and shot it, telling her to go get it. She got the first two legs of her Junior Hunter three weeks later at age 5 and finished the next spring at the VCLI's spring hunt test, going 4 for 4. The point of the story, as I see it, was simply that she had been rushed too hard and too fast into hunting season as a young dog and then put in the hands of someone, no matter how well intentioned, who had no ability to think and work backwards with the dog first -- "turning down the water" -- before washing her out again. We co-own her daughter, too, now, that's how 'not enough bird dog' she was.

Too many dogs get kinks put into them because their owners rushed -- whether it was for artificial timeline reasons ('Hunting season is coming up and I want to take my young dog out as soon as possible') or for ego reasons ('I want to have a MH before the dog is two years old'). To put it in terms of AKC field trial titles: a dog can run as a Derby from 6-24mos old, then it has to compete as a gun dog -- requiring it to go from being the rough equivalent of a Junior Hunter to at least a Senior Hunter in terms of its skills and training. Just because a dog can enter at 6 months old doesn't mean it should be, and on the other end of the spectrum, just because a dog can be run as a Derby dog right up until it is 2 years old, doesn't mean it should either -- because both have the potential to damage the dog's *long-term* development and training. Mastery should not be about who has the most, highest titles on their dog, but who has the most fun striving to the next goal with their dog. As George Leonard wrote: "We fail to realize that mastery is not about perfection. It's about a process, a journey. The master is the one who stays on the path day after day, year after year. The master is the one who is willing to try, and fail, and try again, for as long as he or she

lives.” (p.140) Here’s to a lifetime of trying to get better



Andrew Campbell is an AKC Hunt Test and Field Trial judge, owned and operated by five Vizslas and a pointer (‘the crazy white dog’). He likes riding horses and watching dogs. He is pretty happy about the dog in the picture: Seabank’s Archangel Run (‘Mike’) pointing birds in South Carolina.



New Member Profile: The Hartman Family

Hi! We are Carissa & Danny. We got interested in the Vizsla breed while visiting a friend in Baltimore. We were walking the city and came across a gentleman who had 2 Vizslas. We had never seen a V before and were immediately attracted to how stunningly beautiful they were. We walked over and made friendly conversation with the gentleman about his pups.

While chatting, a family with young children came up to pet the Vs. The beauties continued to impress us as they sat patiently and calmly while the kids grabbed at their ears and played a little on the rough side, as children do. My husband and I were trying to conceive our first baby, so temperament and behavior around children was on the top of our checklist for a canine companion.

A bunch of birds were flying around the bushes near the park bench where we were sitting and the Vs boasted their pointing abilities and kept showing off for us. The friend we were visiting happened to know a little about the breed and encouraged us to do some research. When we watched some videos of them on YouTube, we fell even more in love and determined that we would DEFINITELY have a Vizsla.

A few weeks later we got a call from our friend in Baltimore that he had just come home from Ohio with his new puppy,

Tucker—a Vizsla! He shared his experience with the breeder and 6 months later, I flew to Ohio to hand-pick our baby, who we later named Sam.



He was everything we hoped for! He was a quick learner and SUCH a snuggle-bug! He came everywhere with me & for a short time was small enough to fit in my purse!! Sam can sit, lay down, spin, shake, give high-5, go through my legs, speak & will very patiently wait for a command with a treat on his nose. He is such a good boy! Our Vet

says Sam is in perfect health and has a beautiful coat.

Sam loves to run around our backyard, play fetch, or even dress-up with his sister, but his absolute FAVORITE thing to do is cuddle under our blankets with us at bedtime (or any time for that matter).



We are very happy to be a part of the Vizsla Club and look forward to introducing you all to Sam at an up-coming event.



--Carissa Rosante Hartman

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>

IN MEMORIAM

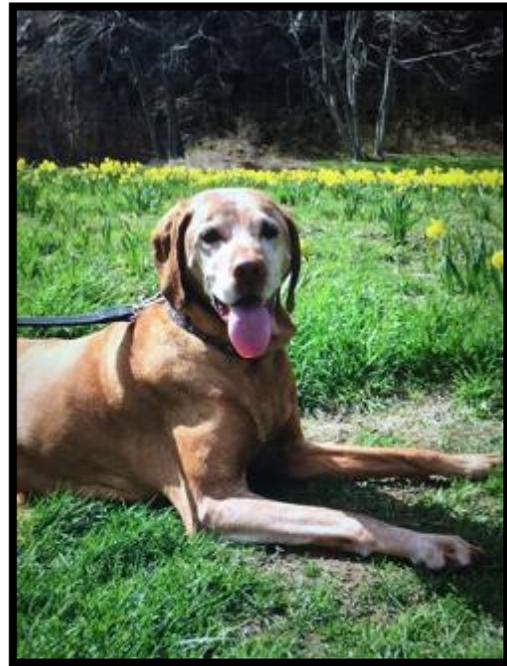
A TRIBUTE TO TANNER

Tanner was 6 years old when I rescued him in January 2010. When his family dropped him off that day, I remember the door shut and he walked over to me and put his head on my lap. He knew this was his new home.

Tanner was an extremely loyal and protective boy, more so than my other two Vizsla boys.

Tanner could swim for hours to the point that I was exhausted and we needed to stop. Of course he loved his walks every day. Our morning walk was the best; he would run up to my neighbor's front door and get them to walk with us. And they did, every day. Tanner was off leash, so he was able to greet people or point at rabbits and squirrels, chase deer and fox every morning. Everyone loved him and looked for him to be leading our pack down the road.

He was stoic up until the day he passed unexpectedly March 17. If you can believe, I had just put my niece's dog, Riley down, a cute little beagle, who lived a long life of 15 1/2. We came home drained from that experience to find Tanner lying down, not moving with a funny look on his face.



He finally got up to go outside; extremely slowly he walked up to the large pine tree in the front of the house, climbed the snow bank and crawled under the tree. I knew right away what he was telling me. Mom, let me be, something is not right. The vet said a tumor ruptured and he was bleeding internally.

I put my head on him as he did on me that first day and I gave him his wish. He will be forever loved

*Best,
Doris*

BRAGS BRAGS BRAGS

Proud to announce that our rescue Bennington, aka "Ben" Rowley, successfully competed for his very first ribbon in a Rally/'O' trial with a qualifying score of 87.

-- Bert & Pam Rowley



Support Vizsla Club Of Long Island Rescue Inc. by shopping at Amazon

Smile. When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Vizsla Club Of Long Island Rescue...smile.amazon.com

Pet First Aid & Emergency Preparedness

As we have all been experiencing an increasing number of extreme weather incidents from mega-tornadoes, massive flooding, droughts and wildfires, everyone should create Pet First Aid Kits, learn about administering pet CPR, and be prepared for emergencies.

The Emma Zen Foundation's website provides comprehensive lists for [Pet First Aid Kits](#) and [Emergency Kits](#). Making up these kits will require time and money, so please start an organizational plan now to stock up.

Emma Zen Foundation's president and founder, Debra Jo Chiapuzio, mentioned a very important point: many people do not know how to use the materials in the Pet First Aid Kits. She strongly suggested that everyone should take a Pet First Aid and CPR Course in their area. In Southern California, the [foundation](#) offers several courses.

The Emma Zen Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, which raises funds for pet oxygen masks and donates them to fire departments and other first responders. These masks are used to deliver oxygen to pets that suffer from smoke asphyxiation and other breathing issues due to emergencies such as home fires.

Source: Jean Dodds' Hemopet Website <http://mailchi.mp/hemopet/get-prepared?e=453d5ccf00>

Other Educational Articles of Possible Interest

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/lyme-disease-in-dogs/>

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/04/16/cancer-treatment-for-people->

pets.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20170416Z1&et_cid=DM140520&et rid=1969471867

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2016/10/15/autoimmune-disease-dogs.aspx>

http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/03/20/feed-dog-bones.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20170320Z1&et_cid=DM136919&et rid=1932978702

http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/04/03/heartworm-preventive-drugs.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20170403Z1&et_cid=DM138687&et rid=1952194063

http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/04/05/canine-lyme-disease-prevention-tips.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20170405Z1&et_cid=DM138711&et rid=1954118795

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/10-tips-to-help-prevent-and-treat-dental-disease-in-dogs/>

https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/19_4/features/Nail-Clipping_21430-1.html?s=FB_032717

https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/14_12/features/Alpha-Dogs_20416-1.html?s=FB_031717

<http://pinchofyum.com/homemade-dog-treats>

In Memory of Sophie

Sophie was a shelter rescue in Brookhaven whom I fostered before she was adopted by a lovely couple in New Hyde Park. It took her 6 months to get the nerve to bark and she was forever scared of walking on the streets, but she was beloved until her death this year. RIP lovely old girl.

(Mary K.)



Patricia O'Connell, noted dog trainer and author, has written a wonderful book called *The Education of Willie* about a border collie she got at 8 weeks who had a lot of problems, most notably an insane fear of other dogs. As she recounts how she helped Willie, she confronts her own fears and youthful traumas in a very personal memoir. It's a good read, and audio book, for anyone who enjoys reading about dogs. (Mary K.)

Don't Wait Too Long to Get a Second Opinion by Nancy Kay, DVM

Spot Speaks, May 7, 2017

By the time I met Lucy, her condition had deteriorated to the point that I was unable to provide her with significant help. Rather than talking about treatment options, her care providers and I were forced to discuss end-of-life decision making. If only I'd been able to get my hands on this darling little Sheltie sooner, the outcome could have been so different.

Lucy was suffering from a disease called hyperparathyroidism, an overproduction of parathyroid hormone resulting in excess calcium within her bloodstream. The treatment of choice for this disease is surgical removal of the overactive parathyroid gland. Such therapy is typically quite straight forward and results in a complete cure.

Poor Lucy. In spite of nine office visits with her family veterinarian over the course of six months because of symptoms caused by her parathyroid disease, appropriate treatment was never recommended and the extra calcium in her bloodstream over such a prolonged period caused irreversible kidney damage. By the time Lucy arrived at my doorstep, she was suffering from profound kidney failure with weakness, loss of appetite, vomiting, and debilitation. There was no going back for this little sweetie.

What gets in the way of a second opinion

There are a few reasons I can come up with as to why veterinarians will watch a patient deteriorate week by week and without a clearcut diagnosis, and yet still not discuss a second opinion. Perhaps they truly believe that there's nothing more to be offered by someone else. Perhaps they think they "know" that their client would not want to get a second opinion because of cost and/or inconvenience. Maybe the veterinarian has a strong desire to hold onto the case, either because of their own ego or for financial gain.

Why is it so darned difficult for some folks to request a second opinion for their beloved pets?

For some, veterinarians represent authority figures and their abilities are not to be questioned. One client told me that she viewed her relationship with her veterinarian to be like her relationship with her pastor- ask no questions! I've heard other clients state that requesting a second opinion would imply mistrust which would result in delivery of poorer quality veterinary care in the future. Some hold off on obtaining a second opinion (or they do so secretly) because they don't want to hurt their veterinarian's feelings.

My sense of Lucy's caregivers is that they believed their veterinarian was doing the best job possible. They never thought to question his diagnosis (or lack thereof) and didn't seem to know that they had the option of obtaining a second opinion. They ultimately chose to come see me based on the recommendation of a friend who was concerned about Lucy's decline.

The need to be an effective medical advocate

When I hear such rationalizations from folks who have postponed second opinions for their pets, I'm always tempted to respond with a line from the movie, Moonstruck, in which singer/actress Cher slaps Nicholas Cage across the cheek while commanding, "Snap out of it!" Fortunately, the grownup in me manages to intervene with more mature counsel and I encourage the individual to step up to the plate as their pet's medical advocate. The well being of their pet must be the number one consideration.

Putting total blind faith in any one veterinarian makes no sense, no more so than relying on any one medical doctor to safeguard our health. The veterinarian is only one member of an animal's health care team, and it is the team captain who needs to call the shots. The team captain is the one who feeds, cares for, loves, and truly knows that animal better than anyone else. When there is no diagnosis in spite of multiple tests, or the animal's health is declining in spite of therapy, it's time for the team captain to order up a second opinion.

A situation like Lucy's is heartbreaking. Don't let her story happen to one of your family members.

Have you ever obtained a second opinion for one of your pets?

If you would like to respond publicly, please visit:

<http://www.speakingforspot.com/blog/?p=5435>

Best wishes,

Nancy Kay, DVM

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Author of Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life

Author of Your Dog's Best Health: A Dozen Reasonable Things to Expect From Your Vet

Recipient, Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award

Recipient, American Animal Hospital Association Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award

Recipient, Dog Writers Association of America Award for Best Blog

Recipient, Eukanuba Canine Health Award

Recipient, AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

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