

# VIZSLA: MEET THE BREED

Showsight Magazine November 2013.

## The Vizsla

A thousand years ago, the Vizsla hunted with Magyar nomads before settling into an area that is now Hungary. Primitive stone etchings show the tribal hunter with his falcon and Vizsla. Centuries later, the Vizsla became the premier sporting dog and lively affectionate family member of the Hungarian Aristocrats. Today, photos hang within homes across the world illustrating extraordinary connections between the Vizsla and their families.



## The Vizsla Form

The Vizsla was built to hunt vast upland fields with proficiency and grace. They are a medium-sized short-haired sporting dog of rust-gold color that conveys elegance and readiness. In structure, they appear balanced in both height and length. In motion, they glide effortlessly over the ground with smooth movement. In the field, they are swift and careful hunters with superb noses and exemplary pointing/retrieving skills. At home, they exhibit a demeanor that is gentle, sweet and sensitive.



## The Vizsla Lifestyle

The Vizsla is more than a dog -- he is a lifestyle. The modern Vizsla will thrive as an active member of your family. They are physically active and emotionally attentive dogs known for their "Velcro" quality. They want to be outside with you and inside with you. Many Vizsla owners will admit that they no longer go to the bathroom alone! Your canine friend will gladly fill the role of hiking buddy, hunting partner, agility qualifier or tracking expert. He is a superb athlete and supreme snuggler always looking for the next opportunity to curl up next to you on your couch at home.



### **The Vizsla Choice**

The Vizsla is a great choice for someone wanting an athletic dog that will become a significant part of their life. Similarly, they are a poor choice for someone wanting a dog that is expected to be content with a daily pat on the head and a walk around the block. Vizslas require significant engagement on a daily basis. So, be warned, an unhappy Vizsla will produce an unhappy Vizsla owner.

### **The Vizsla Family**

A Vizsla properly raised with children will be their best friend. However, a family with small children is often not a good fit because the Vizsla requires significant time and energy. Families with young children should strongly

consider their ability to commit to the requirements of this breed. Furthermore, parents should be careful to always manage the behavior of their children toward this sensitive breed that may not always tolerate improper behavior such as poking, prodding and hitting.

### **The Vizsla Puppy**

A Vizsla puppy comes ready to be sculpted by caring hands. He is exuberant and eager to learn. He is smart but sensitive. He will take to positive training but can be ruined by a heavy hand.

The Vizsla was designed to cover ground so it should come as no surprise that he will be energetic and ready to run. Be prepared to engage your puppy in frequent periods of on-leash and off-leash activity. Regular physical exercise will help settle your Vizsla for a successful day.

Regular mental exercise will also help boost your connection with your puppy. Tricks and obedience skills will not only dazzle your friends but teach your puppy to work for your attention and praise. A few minutes here and there within a day will make a difference. Just be sure to keep the sessions fun!

Socialization is important for all dogs and Vizslas are no exception. Daily positive experiences will help your puppy grow up to be a well-adjusted confident dog that loves humans and dogs large and small. Something new every day will make a difference. Just be sure to keep the experiences positive!





## **The Vizsla Health**

Vizslas are commonly very healthy with a life span of 12 or more years. The breed has some cases of hip dysplasia, cancer and epilepsy, but careful breeding has helped control these problems. All puppy buyers are encouraged to research the pedigrees of their prospective puppy to reduce the risk of these rare health issues. Puppy seekers are also encouraged to find a breeder who is breeding for the right reasons. Look for a breeder that loves this breed and strives for excellence in temperament, health, capability, and beauty. And, above all, avoid purchasing a puppy from a pet store, a puppy mill or a puppy farm.

## **The Vizsla Versatility**

While the Vizsla was built to be a great hunting dog and a grand companion, the modern Vizsla has developed into a truly versatile dog. They can compete successfully in multiple AKC venues including conformation, obedience, agility, tracking, hunt tests and field trials. This adaptability has extended their role into transportation security, search-and-rescue, seeing-eye and therapy programs.

## **The Vizsla Club of America**

The Vizsla Club of America (VCA) is dedicated to the maintenance of the Vizsla breed. Our members are owners/breeders who are committed to preserving/enhancing the characteristics of this noble/classy sporting dog. The VCA sponsors three annual events that include: a National Gun Dog Championship, a National Field Championship and a National Specialty including Conformation, Agility and Obedience. The VCA has also established a "Code of Ethics" for its members defining requirements for dog ownership, competitive sportsmanship, and breeding practices. To learn more about the VCA and regional Vizsla clubs, please visit [www.vcaweb.org](http://www.vcaweb.org).

## **The Author**

Dane Mrazek, President of the VCNC and Public Education Coordinator for the VCA, is the owner of 7.5 year old Vizsla Bond and 4.5 year old Vizsla Diamond in Redwood City, CA. Pictured you will see Dane and Diamond after they acquired her Senior Hunter title in the fall of 2012 at a hunt test in Reno, NV.

