

MAGYAR VIZSLA CLUB OF AMERICA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

AUGUST 14-15, 1954

HOTEL SAVERY, DES MOINES, IOWA

From the Minutes...

Meeting was resumed at 8:30 P.M. Mrs. Elizabeth Mihalyi of Omaha, Nebraska, noted portrait artist, who was responsible for Panni XV being saved from the Russian Armies, was formally introduced to the Board and guests by the Secretary.

Mrs. Mihalyi expressed thanks to the Americans fro the warm welcome she and fellow expatriates received in this country. How glad she was to be with friends of the Vizsla breed and to be so cordially received into the Club.

She described her native region as very similar to our midwest from Colorado to the Mississippi, only compressed within an area like Kansas or Nebraska: the hills, them mountains, lakes, rivers, valleys; the warm summers, the snow of winters. That there they hunted partridges, pheasants, hares (similar to jack rabbits) large and small deer, wild boar.

And she explained how the Vizsla became a dog of many accomplishments, being required to search for land birds, retrieves hares often weighing ten pounds, retrieve wild fowl from lakes and rivers. How this type of hunting required a quick, lively, yet graceful dog, strong in neck and forequarters; rugged enough to stand cold water.

Then she described the Vizsla as comrade and hunting pal. How the Vizsla lived with the family and gained in intelligence through constant

association with loving masters. Repeatedly she stressed the Vizsla as being very smart and should not be spoiled.

From there she went on to explain how the Vizsla was bred by estate owners, Army officers, members of the royal household. That breeding was carefully considered to produce only the best puppies and never was on a commercial scale. That only the best pups were saved from a litter and those with too much white destroyed.

She explained how breeders/owners were more interested in field work than show types but they did show and received many "firsts" but hunting abilities always were paramount.

Mrs. Mihalyi described the tension under which they lived in Hungary during the war years. How they were within ten miles and not more than twenty miles of the fighting lines. The constant roar of the heavy guns, day and night. For weeks they lived with food and clothes in bags ready to flee at a moments notice yet hoping all the while that they would not have to leave their home. Finally the word came and they piled what belongings they could in horse drawn carts and started westwards. She especially was charged with taking Panni XV with her no matter what happened to jewels, money or possessions.

Twenty-eight people, including house servants and older tenants. Travelling from early dawn until about 9:00 A.M. and from 4:00 P.M. until dark—spaced at intervals so that low flying bombers would not spot them. Fleeing over country roads; up and down hills; across almost impassable obstacles. Sleeping, eating out of doors in all weather.

Foals were born on the road and destroyed. Pannie had a litter of pups which had to be destroyed.

Finally they arrived in central Austria and were quartered in a large barn by the English Army. Frequently, without enough food for themselves, Panni lived very well for Mrs. Mihalyi painted nine portraits for mess sergeants to keep Pannie supplied with kitchen scraps.

Eventually, Mrs. Mihalyi found quarters in a small town and it was then she found time to inquire of the Austrian Kennel Club if there were Vizslas in Austria. Promptly telegrams and letters began to arrive which led to the meeting with the Hofbauers of Vienna.

While serving in the Austrian Army during the occupation of west Hungary, Hofbauer was given a Vizsla pup from a litter by one of the Esterhazy foresters. This pup was named Betyar and was recognized by the Austrian Kennel Club as a pure-blood Vizsla with Ung. I as registration number.

The Betyar-Panni Litter—Cailla, Caitri, Csatt, Csitt, etc.—became the foundation stock of the Austrian "line" and several of their pups now are in the United States.

Pannie XV, now 14 years old, lives happily with Dr. and Mrs. Caravenna in Austria, as a "beloved member" of the family.