

From the Vizsla Club of America... *Congratulations* on your new family member!

The Vizsla History

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 his Vizsla. Today, the Vizsla has developed into a premier sporting dog and a lively affectionate family member. Photos hang within homes across the country illustrating extraordinary connections between the Vizsla and their families.

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. They will gladly fill the role of hiking buddy, hunting partner, agility qualifier or tracking expert. They are superb athletes and supreme snugglers always looking for an opportunity to curl up next to you on your couch at home. Be prepared to challenge and be challenged by this elegant and beautiful dog.

The Vizsla Puppy

Your 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.

Physical Exercise

The Vizsla was designed to cover upland fields with ease, so it should come as no surprise that your puppy will be energetic and ready to run! As a new Vizsla puppy owner, be prepared to engage your puppy in frequent periods of on-leash and off-leash activity. Daily physical exercise will help settle your Vizsla puppy for a successful day.



the **VIZSLA CLUB** *of* **AMERICA**

Mental Exercise

Daily mental exercise will help boost your connection with your puppy. Tricks and obedience skills will not only dazzle your friends but also 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

Socialization is important for all dogs and young 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. While socialization is a life-long process, Vizsla owners are encouraged to seek varied positive experiences through the critical development periods (4 to 16 weeks) with health precautions in mind.

Crate Training

Crates are a highly recommended tool for dog ownership. With proper introduction and application, the crate will become an essential tool for successful potty training and a safe haven in your home or auto.

Life Training

Your Vizsla puppy will benefit from puppy socialization classes that introduce him to new playmates of a similar age and development. Early positive puppy to puppy interaction will instill confidence and teach important early life lessons. Puppy owners are further encouraged to attend basic obedience classes using positive techniques. The skills you gain will assist you for the life of your dog.

Hunt Training

The Vizsla is a hunter by design. He was built to locate, point, and retrieve upland game with proficiency. Should you want to explore your dog's primary purpose, we encourage you to get your puppy on birds early and often. Seek out experienced hunters using positive techniques who will introduce your dog to birds and guns with great care. Gun-shy dogs are not born; they are manmade.

Competition

Consider adding titles to your dog. The AKC has competitions waiting for your involvement. Your "versatile" Vizsla should be well suited for recognition in Conformation, Hunt Tests, Field Trials, Agility, Fly-ball, Nose-work, Rally and Obedience. The process will also increase the bond between you and your dog.



Safety

Identify your dog with a tagged collar and a micro-chip. A collar with an ID plate having your contact information (e.g. cell phone) will facilitate a quick recovery. Similarly, a micro-chip will identify your dog when he is lost without an identifying collar. Also, remember to secure your canine friend within your vehicle to protect him from injury in the event of quick stop or accident.

Health

Discuss with your breeder and veterinarian guidelines and requirements for vaccinating and feeding your puppy. While it is very important to

avoid dangerous contact with unknown dogs and areas where dogs frequent as your puppy gains immunity, it is also very important to find safe ways for your puppy to meet new people and dogs during critical development periods.

Neutering

Consult with your breeder and veterinarian for the right time to spay or neuter your Vizsla, keeping in mind the maturation process of the dog. Current research/findings suggests early spay/neuter may increase health risks for both males and females. We encourage you to make an informed decision.

The Vizsla Club of America (VCA)

The VCA is dedicated to the maintenance of the Vizsla breed. Our members are Vizsla owners/breeders who are committed to preserving/enhancing the characteristics of this noble/classy sporting dog. The VCA sponsors three national 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 the following web pages:

- <http://vcaweb.org/about/index.shtml>
- http://vcaweb.org/about/code_of_ethics.shtml
- <http://vcaweb.org/clubs/clubs.shtml>

