

The Vizsla Club of America, Inc.

FIELD VERSATILITY TEST OVERVIEW

(Revised January 2011)

ELIGIBLE DOGS: The Versatility Program is only available to Vizslas. AKC and ILP registered dogs are eligible. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are eligible to enter.

MINIMUM ENTRY AGE: 6 months of age.

PURPOSE OF TEST: This is a test of **hunting ability**. Judges should evaluate dogs as hunting dogs. The judge should ask – “Would I like to hunt over this dog?” and mark his or her score sheet accordingly.

TEST BASICS: Refer to the Versatility Program Rules about **Guns and Gunning and Field Attire requirements**. All gunning is to be done by the Official Gunner. The safety of people and dogs is of paramount importance at all times. If no birds are shot due to safety concerns or due to the Gunner missing the bird, the Judge may have a dead game bird or pigeon thrown out for a retrieve. The dog must complete the course to pass this test.

COURSE LAYOUT: The test shall consist of a **back course** of at least ten (10) minutes and not more than fifteen (15) minutes and a **bird field** of at least five (5) minutes and not more than eight (8) minutes. **The bird field should be at least 5 acres. At least two (2) game birds or pigeons** must be placed in areas as close to natural cover as possible. **Dogs may be run singly or as a brace.**

SCORING CATEGORIES: There are four (4) categories to score. Vizslas taking this test must score at least fifty percent (50%) in each category and have an overall score of at least 80 points out of a possible 120 points.

1. APPLICATION AND DESIRE

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this category is for the Vizsla to exhibit a natural desire to hunt in a bold and independent manner.

Category Requirements:

Dog should show excitement and desire to find game.

Dog should check objectives and work cover correctly.

Dog should find game.

Dog should range away from handler, but be close enough so that the Handler can reach dog in a timely manner.

See Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Points and Disqualifications.

2. POINT

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this category is for the Vizsla to demonstrate its pointing style and be steady on its point. In the interest of safety, once the Vizsla has established point, the Handler may, if he so desires, hold his dog by the collar and have the gunner flush and shoot the bird. If the Handler feels his dog will hold its point through the shot, he may go ahead and flush the bird once the gunner is ready.

Category Requirements:

Dog should have an obvious point with some intensity.

Dog should point at a game bird or pigeon, as opposed to at a "hot spot."

Dog should hold its point until the Handler collars the dog or, if Handler chooses not to collar, until the bird is shot.

See Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Points and Disqualifications.

3. RETRIEVE

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this category is for the Vizsla to **retrieve each bird** as described in Test Requirements below.

Category Requirements:

Retrieve each bird promptly and tenderly at least 3/4 of distance from fall of bird to origin of flush without excessive hacking by the Handler.

"Promptly" means going out to the bird, picking up the bird, coming back toward his handler without distractions or delay.

"Tenderly" means without mouthing, chewing, or damaging the bird.

"Excessive hacking" means that the Handler is giving the dog repeated commands to retrieve the bird giving the impression that the dog would not retrieve without those repeated commands from the Handler.

See Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Points and Disqualifications.

4. RESPONSIVENESS

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this category is for the Vizsla to demonstrate that it obeys the Handler's commands.

Category Requirements:

Dog is responsive to the Handler without excessive hacking.

Dog is aware of the Handler's location while it is hunting.

Dog shows no adverse reaction to the gunshot.

See Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Points and Disqualifications.