

Vizsla In Ring Hands- On Examination

While some hands-on is required, the Vizsla does not require as thorough of a physical exam as that of a coated breed.

- To gain an overall impression of each dog, begin your assessment by viewing the dog standing in profile. The Vizsla is a medium-sized, short-coated hunting dog of distinguished appearance and bearing. Along with the golden rust color, look for the sweeping line from the neck over the loin through the gently rounded croup with a proper tail set. The color along with the gentle curves of the silhouette is a breed hallmark. The dog in profile should have correct breed proportions. While the Vizsla may appear square, it is slightly longer than tall. Chest should reach to the elbow. Balanced moderate angles front and rear. The dog should appear in good muscular condition.
- Approaching from the front, view the head and expression, oval shape and the width of chest, straightness of the front legs, and compact, cat-like feet. If white is apparent, ensure it is not disqualifying.
- Ask the handler to show the bite and look for the preferred scissors bite. No other dentition evaluation is required.
- Examine the head. Notice the blunt wedge shape, slightly tapered muzzle, and eye color blending with that of the coat. Stop is moderate. Skull moderately wide between the ears with a median line down the forehead. The back skull is slightly arched but not domed. The ears should reach to at least the corner of the mouth but should not reach the nose.
- Moving to the side, gently lift the head slightly to look for white on the throat and neck. White should be contained only within the defined areas on the chest or toes. At no time should the dog ever be lifted off the ground while looking for white.
- Continue your hands-on exam from the side by running your hands down the neck ensuring it blends smoothly without disruption into the moderately laid-back shoulder. The withers are set high. Check for approximately equal bone lengths of scapula and humerus. You should be able to visually see the chest fill and depth.
- Run your hands from the neck across the high withers, with the slight prominence of the scapula, feeling it blend into a level back. Moving on to feel the muscular fullness and slight rounding of the short loin, starting just after the last rib and concluding at the crest of the pelvis. This all rounds gently into the croup that is never steep or flat and ends with the tail set a thumb's thickness below the level of the croup. Ideally, the tail should reach to the back of the stifle joint. It is not necessary to verify tail length. The dog should feel and appear in strong muscular condition. Do not penalize a dog in sinewy, field condition.
- The hands-on exam is complete after checking for testicles. The remainder of the exam is completed visually.
- View the dog from behind noticing the spring of rib, the slight narrowing at the short loin, broadening once again at the pelvis/croup. The thighs are well developed. The hocks must be straight. Various lighter shades of coat color along the sides of the neck and shoulder saddle area are noticeable from this angle. This is common for the breed.
- Step back to the side profile and once again view the overall picture the dog presents. Pay particular attention the front and rear angles to ensure they are moderate and in balance with one another. The dog should appear within the prescribed height range for its sex. If in doubt, measure.