

Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club Breeding Guidelines

Last Revised: February 2002

Purpose

These guidelines were prepared to help CWVC members and any interested parties make wise decisions about breeding their dogs. The goals of these guidelines are to protect and advance the development of the Vizsla through continued improvement of soundness, stable temperament, natural hunting ability, and conformation as set forth in the official AKC Vizsla Standard.

Breeder Motivation and Issues

Before you start evaluating dogs, evaluate yourself. Make sure your PRIMARY motivation is not:

- *My friend or neighbor wants a puppy;*
- *The kids can see puppies being born;*
- *You want a pup out of your dog;*
- *You want your bitch to have one litter of pups before she's spayed;*
- *The breeding will (might) be profitable.*

Your PRIMARY motivation for breeding should be a desire to improve the breed.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- *What is my background in Vizslas? Will I need advice?*
- *Who will be whelping the litter? If you intend to do this and you've never done it before, do you have someone experienced who can help you?*
- *How will you grade or evaluate the litter so that puppies can be sent to the appropriate homes?*
- *How will you evaluate prospective buyers?*
- *Do you have a waiting list for the proposed breeding? How will you advertise the pups?*
- *How will you deal with pups which may have health problems?*
- *If pups remain unsold after 8 weeks or more of age, are you prepared to keep them for weeks, months, even years?*
- *How will you deal with dogs which are returned to you?*

Vizsla Issues

Still want to breed dogs? OK, let's get to dog considerations. You should research the pedigree of both dogs a minimum of three generations, preferable five generations. The titles of past generations are clues to what these dogs may produce. Championship titles correspond to conformation; obedience titles correspond to temperament and trainability; and hunting titles or field championships correspond to hunting ability and trainability. However, you should go beyond the reading of pedigrees - call the owners of these past generations and inquire about health, temperament, or hunting problems that will not be apparent from the pedigree. Start by talking to the breeder of your dog; you may be able to get much of this information by gathering the information that was considered in breeding your dog. A call to the prospective mate's breeder should yield similar information on the other line. You will probably want to update this information to ensure that there hasn't been any recent problems in the various breed lines. Make sure that your prospective breeding does not bring similar weaknesses together.

Both dogs should be within the American Kennel Club's Breed Standard for Vizslas. A Champion title would be indicative of meeting breed standards (*Note: Championships do not guarantee conformance to the breed standard. Dogs which finish their championships before they have fully matured could continue to grow outside the Breed Standard size limit; handlers may also be successful at hiding major faults in structure, movement and temperament*). If the dog has never been shown, you are urged to seek the opinion of experienced Vizsla breeders. The CWVC will be happy to refer you to breeders with years of conformation experience.

Both dogs should have sound temperaments and be "easy to live with". Overly aggressive dogs or dogs with biting histories should not be bred.

It is preferable that both dogs have demonstrated their hunting abilities. Again, an AKC hunting title or field championship, or a NAVHDA natural ability certificate demonstrates these abilities. If your dog has not been entered in these types of events, you should consider the hunting ability the dog has demonstrated throughout a season of hunting.

The dogs should be free of serious hereditary defects, including epilepsy, progressive retinal atrophy, von Willebrand's disease, entropion and cranial muscular atrophy. Both dogs should be X-rayed and OFA certified as free from hip dysplasia (this implies that both dogs should be over two years old, as OFA will not issue certifications for dogs under two years of age). We also urge you to obtain a CERF certification (eyes) as well as a brucellosis test. Bitches should not be bred in their first heat cycle, and generally not in consecutive heat cycles. Dogs whose testicles were not descended by seven weeks of age should not be bred. Your vet and/or breeder can help you with these items as well as evaluate the general health of your dog for breeding. (*Note: These are the types of items that should be checked in prior generations as well*).

Dog Sales

You are urged to NOT sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet shops or other commercial ventures such as lotteries or raffles.

We believe that a key breeder responsibility is the evaluation of prospective puppy buyers. Screen all prospective buyers to ensure that puppies have safe and loving homes. The breeder should honestly evaluate the quality of the Vizsla(s) sold and fairly represent that evaluation to the buyer. We suggest you sell pet quality pups with limited registrations and spay/neuter agreements.

Puppies should not be released to buyers before they reach seven weeks of age. Buyers should be provided with written details on feeding, care, inoculations, pedigrees, and sales agreements. Breeders should be willing to provide assistance and support to puppy buyers for the life of the Vizsla.