

IS A VIZSLA THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU?

The Hungarian Vizsla, a medium-sized, golden-rust colored sporting dog, is one of the smallest of the pointing breeds. Males weigh 50-65 lbs and measure 22" – 24" at the shoulders; females weigh about 10 lbs less and measure 21" – 23". Vizslas have a unique temperament that many find charming, while others might consider them a bit overwhelming.

Temperament Characteristics:

- Û High energy level; requires plenty of vigorous daily exercise. A bored Vizsla will create it's own entertainment!
- Û Affectionate, outgoing and friendly; most Vizslas are good with children and the elderly *if* they are properly trained.
- Û Have very high social needs and need a lot of time and attention. Vizslas must be with their people and enjoy the company of other dogs.
- Û An indoor dog, not a yard dog, nor a 'kennel dog'. Vizslas kept isolated from their people can become high strung and destructive.
- Û Usually a good watch dog, but definitely **not** a guard dog.
- Û Intelligent and mischievous if left alone and bored. Requires early and consistent training.
- Û Responds well to praise and positive reinforcement training methods. Harsh training methods are counter-productive at best and can be very harmful to the dog psychologically.
- Û Versatile – an excellent dog for hunting, obedience, tracking, agility, flyball, therapy work, search and rescue and family companion.

Health Concerns:

As with any dog breed, Vizslas do have some health issues. The Vizsla Club of America's (VCA) code of ethics states that VCA members shall breed only those dogs that are over two years of age, are OFA certified free of hip dysplasia, and are free of serious hereditary defects including epilepsy, progressive retinal atrophy, von Willebrand's Disease, entropion and cranial musical atrophy.

Texas Gulf Coast Vizsla Club, Inc.
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Choosing
A
Vizsla

Introducing the TGCVC

The Texas Gulf Coast Vizsla Club (TGCVC) members offer breed information, advice from Vizsla owners, training opportunities and fun activities for you and your Vizsla. Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Gander Mountain store on Hwy 290 @ Hwy 6 and may feature interesting, practical programs.

Two types of membership are available: Regular/Household (voting) and Associate (non-voting). Associate memberships are recommended for those who live outside the area and are unable to attend meetings on a regular basis. Both types of membership receive the club's bi-monthly newsletter, "Texas Tales".

To find out more about activities and programs, call or email the following individuals

- Û **Agility:** *Joan Holth – jholth@hal-pc.org*
- Û **Conformation:** *Melinda Giles – 281-392-1296, melinda_meyer@kindermorgan.com*
- Û **Hunting:** *Susan Rushing – srushing@sbcglobal.net*
- Û **Obedience & Behavior Issues:** *Jan Nuzzo - 832-483-2286, jannuzzo@nushow.com*
- Û **Tracking:** *Jan Nuzzo – 832-483-2286, jannuzzo@nushow.com*
- Û **Breed Info/Breeder Referral**
*Judy Richey – 979-778-2502
everwhen@tconline.net*
- Û **Newsletter:** *Joan Holth -- jholth@hal-pc.org*
- Û **Rescue:** *Peggy Ross – 281-356-7350
tgcvcrescue@aol.com*

You may also find more information about the club and its activities by visiting our website at www.vizslaclub.com

How To Find a Good Breeder

A reputable Vizsla breeder will breed only to produce puppies of excellent quality and to improve on the characteristics of the sire and dam in temperament, structure, trainability, and hunting ability. A responsible breeder screens both puppies and buyers carefully to find a good match up. They should keep in touch to monitor the health and temperament of each puppy.

If you are searching for a Vizsla puppy, expect a responsible breeder to conduct extensive interviews and ask to meet with you before deciding to place a puppy with you. Since many of our local club members do not breed on a regular basis, you can expect that we might direct you to other Vizsla clubs and/or individual breeders who are out of the area. It is not unusual to be on a waiting list for six month or more to get a well-bred Vizsla.

Often people will say, "But I only want a pet." We believe that a pet owner is as entitled to a well-bred, healthy dog as the person who is getting a puppy with show potential. By purchasing from a responsible breeder, you are getting not just a puppy. You are also buying that breeder's expertise, knowledge base, and commitment to excellence. Most of all, you are buying their mentorship for the life of your dog.

To locate a breeder, contact our breed referral chairperson, **Judy Richey – 979-778-2502** (everwhen@tconline.net)

Consider Rescue

If you prefer not to start with a puppy or if you want a dog before a puppy might be available, please consider adopting a Vizsla from our rescue group. Rescued Vizslas are spayed or neutered before placement and are current on all their shots. We seldom have very young dogs available. Most often our rescue dogs range from adolescents to about 5 years of age: sometimes an older or a special needs dog comes into the program. Since the dogs have varied experiences with people and other pets, not every dog is suitable for every family. Our experienced volunteers work to place each dog with a family well-suited to caring for a dog for the rest of its life.

If you wish to place your Vizsla in the Rescue Program, please contact **Peggy Ross** (tgcvcrescue@aol.com) to discuss our policies and procedures. Requirements include: transfer of ownership to the TGCVC, a release of liability, and a current occult heartworm test. Complete medical records for the dog are very helpful as well as the AKC registration form and the name of the breeder

References

Internet Resources:

- Û TGCVC website – www.vizslaclub.com
- Û Vizsla Club of America – <http://vcaweb.org/>
- Û American Kennel Club – <http://akc.org>

Books/Magazines

- Û Save that dog, Liz Palika, 1997
- Û Second Hand Dog, Carol Lee Benjamin, 1988
- Û The Canine Good Citizen, J&W Volhard, 1997
- Û Texas Tales - TGCVC's bimonthly newsletter, www.vizslaclub.com
- Û The Vizsla News – Vizsla Club of America bi-monthly magazine (membership required) <http://vcaweb.org>
- Û Whole Dog Journal, monthly newsletter, 800-424-7887

