

BREED STANDARD BALLOT BREAKDOWN—sample

(Not to be used for vote collection. Official ballots will be mailed to current VCA members.)

1. GENERAL APPEARANCE SECTION

That of a medium-sized, short-coated, hunting dog of distinguished appearance and bearing. Robust but rather lightly built, the coat is an attractive shaded golden rust. Originating in Hungary, the Vizsla was bred to work in field, forest and water. Agile and energetic, this is a versatile dog of power, drive and endurance in the field yet a tractable and affectionate companion in the home. It is strongly emphasized that field conditioned coats, as well as brawny or sinewy muscular condition and honorable scars indicating a working and hunting dog are never to be penalized in this dog. The requisite instincts and abilities to maintain a "dual dog" are always to be fostered and appreciated, never deprecated.

2. HEAD SECTION

A. MUZZLE AND STOP

Stop between skull and foreface is moderate (delete "not deep"). Foreface or *muzzle* is of equal length or slightly shorter than skull when viewed in profile, should taper gradually from stop to tip of nose. Muzzle square and deep. It should not turn up as in a "dish" face nor should it turn down. (Change "must" to "should" for consistency)

B. NOSE

Nose self-colored. Any other color is faulty. A partially or completely black nose is a disqualification. Freckles due to aging or sun exposure are not to be faulted.

C. EARS

Ears, thin, silky and proportionately long, with rounded-leather ends, set level with the outside corner of the eye when relaxed, and hanging close to cheeks.

D. EYES

Eyes, slightly oval in shape, medium in size and depth of setting, their surrounding tissue covering the whites. They are very expressive, radiating energy, intelligence and curiosity. Color of the iris should blend with the color of the coat. A light yellow eye detracts from the desired expression. The eyes should not protrude and the lower eyelids should neither turn in nor out, as these conditions allow seeds and dust to irritate the eye.

3. NECK AND BODY SECTION

While the Vizsla may appear square, when measured from point of breastbone to point of buttocks and from the highest point over the shoulder blades to the ground, the Vizsla is slightly longer than tall. A proper proportion of leg length to body length is essential to the desired overall balance of the Vizsla. The Vizsla should not appear long and low or tall and leggy. Backline firm with a slight rise over a short and well muscled loin. The croup is gently rounded to the set on of the tail and is not steep, sunken or flat. When moving at a trot, a properly built Vizsla maintains a steady, level backline. Chest moderately broad and deep reaching down to the elbows. Ribs well –sprung and carried well back; underline exhibiting a slight tuck up beneath the loin. Tail set just below the level of the croup, thicker at the root and docked one-third off. Ideally, it should reach to the back of the stifle joint and when moving it should be carried at or near the horizontal, not vertically or curled over the back, nor between the legs. A docked tail is preferred.

4. FOREQUARTERS SECTION

Upper arm is about equal in length to the shoulder blade in order to allow for good extension. Forelegs straight and muscular with elbows close. Feet cat-like, round and compact with toes close. Nails brown

and short. Pads thick and tough. The removal of dewclaws, if any, on front and rear feet, is strongly recommended, in order to avoid injury when running in the field.

5. COLOR SECTION

A. Wording regarding shading:

Golden rust in varying shades. Lighter shadings over the sides of the neck and shoulders giving the appearance of a "saddle" are common.

B. Wording regarding permissible white:

Solid or roaned white, as minimal as possible, is permissible on the forechest and on the toes. Solid or roaned white extending above the toes or anywhere else on the dog except the forechest is a disqualification.

C. Exception for scarring

White due to aging or scarring must not be faulted.

D. Wording regarding self-coloration

The Vizsla is self-colored, with the color of the eyes, eye-rims, lips, nose, toenails and pads of feet blending with the color of the coat.

6. GENERAL STATEMENT REGARDING FAULTS

The foregoing describes the ideal Vizsla. Any deviation from this ideal must be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Deviations that impact performance and function should be considered more serious than those that affect only appearance.