

The Vizsla Club of America, Inc.

Versatility Field Test Overview

Eligible dogs: The Versatility Program is only available to Vizslas. AKC and PAL 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 the score sheet accordingly.

Test basics: **Dogs may be run singly or as a brace.** 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 the test.

Course layout: The test shall consist of a **back course** of at least 10 minutes and not more than 15 minutes, and a **bird field** of at least 5 minutes and not more than 8 minutes. **The bird field should be at least 5 acres. At least 2 game birds or pigeons** for each dog or brace must be placed in areas as close to natural cover as possible.

Please refer to the Versatility Program Overview and Rules for general information about offering the Field Versatility Tests.

Field safety

Field attire

All persons participating in, volunteering in, or judging a Field Versatility Test must wear a blaze orange upper body garment.

Guns and gunner safety

1. Official Gunners must have watched the "Guns, Gunning, & Gunners - The AKC Gun Safety Discipline" video.
2. Official Gunners are to carry only double barrel break apart shotguns of at least 20 gauge. Semi-automatic and pump guns are prohibited.
3. Blank pistols, up to and including .38 caliber, and incapable of shooting live ammunition, can be carried by the Handlers.

Scoring categories: There are 4 categories to score, each worth 10 points. Vizslas taking this test must score a minimum of 5 points in each category and have an overall score of at least 28 points out of a possible 40 points.

1. Application and desire

10 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 intelligently
- Dog should find game
- Dog should range away from handler but be close enough so that the handler can reach the dog in a timely manner.
- See Judge's Score Sheet for performance points and disqualifications

2. Point

10 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/she so desires, hold the dog by the collar and have the gunner flush and shoot the bird. If the handler believes the dog will hold its point through the shot, he/she 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 the handler chooses not to collar, until the bird is shot.
- See Judge's Score Sheet for performance points and disqualifications.

3. Retrieve

10 Points

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

Category Requirements

- Retrieve each bird promptly and tenderly at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 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 the handler without distractions or delay.
- "Tenderly" means without mouthing, chewing or damaging the bird (i.e., the bird should be fit for the table).
- "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

10 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.