

The Vizsla Club of America, Inc.
OBEDIENCE VERSATILITY TEST OVERVIEW
(Revised November 2008)

ELIGIBLE DOGS: The Versatility Program is only available to Vizslas. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are eligible to enter. AKC and ILP registered dogs are eligible.

MINIMUM ENTRY AGE: Six months of age.

PURPOSE OF TEST: This is a test of **basic obedience ability**. Judges should score as close to the AKC Novice Obedience Rules as possible.

TEST BASICS: The dog and Handler should perform in a manner similar to the AKC Novice Obedience requirements. The Judge's commands for all **five (5) exercises** are outlined in the document "**Versatility Obedience Judge's Commands.**"

SCORING EXERCISES: There are five (5) exercises to score. Vizslas taking this test must score at least fifty percent (50%) in each exercise and have an overall score of at least 65 points out of a possible 130 points.

1. HEEL ON LEAD and 2. HEEL OFF LEAD 20 POINTS EACH

The principal feature of these exercises is to demonstrate that the dog can respond to the Handler's movements with little or no assistance from the Handler. Before the Heel Off Lead exercise begins, the Handler should remove the leash and give it to the Judge. This exercise shall be executed using a **simple "L" pattern** as outlined in the document "**Obedience Versatility Commands.**"

Exercise Requirements - 1:

- Handler chooses whether dog sits or stands on the Halt.
- Dog and handler walk briskly.
- Dog walks close to Handler's left side with a loose lead.
- Dog should match Handler's pace.
- Dog responds promptly to the Handler's actions without commands, except for the Heel command.
- No Figure 8 exercise in the Heel on Lead.
- Exercise is complete when the "L" pattern is completed and the Judge announces, "Exercise Finished."
- See the Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Deductions and Disqualifications.

Exercise Requirements – 2:

This exercise is the same as for Heel On Lead, except without a leash. Before this exercise begins, the handler should remove the leash and give it to the judge.

3. STAND FOR EXAMINATION

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog can stay in position with little or no reaction during a brief exam by the Judge. Once the dog is in position, the Handler should remove the leash and give it to the Judge.

Exercise Requirements:

Dog is easily placed in a standing position by Handler.

Dog remains in position during exercise.

Dog does not react to examination.

This exercise is considered complete when the Handler returns to the dog and the Judge announces Exercise Finished.

See the Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Deductions and Disqualifications.

4. RECALL

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog can stay in position until called by the Handler and promptly come when called. Once the dog is in position, the Handler should remove the leash and give it to the Judge.

Exercise Requirements:

Handler chooses whether dog sits or stands when set up for the Recall.

Dog is easily placed in position by Handler.

Dog remains in position until called by Handler.

Dog comes directly and briskly to Handler when called.

Dog comes within reach of Handler to the front or side.

Dog is not required to finish to the Heel position.

This exercise is considered complete when the dog reaches the Handler and the Judge announces, "Exercise Finished."

See the Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Deductions and Disqualifications.

5. STAY EXERCISE

30 POINTS

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog can stay in position without distraction from the other dogs in the group or from distraction outside of the ring. This exercise shall be for **three (3) minutes**. Once the dog is in position, the Handler should remove the leash and give it to the Judge. **There is no minimum number of dogs required for this exercise.**

Exercise Requirements:

Handler chooses whether dog sits, lies down, or stands when set up for the Stay.

Dog is easily placed in position by Handler.

Dog remains in position during exercise.

Dog doesn't whine or bark during exercise.

Timing for the exercise starts when the Judge tells the Handlers to leave their dogs.

This exercise is considered complete when the Handlers return to their dogs and the Judge announces, "Exercise Finished."

There are no individual Long Sit or Long Down exercises.

See the Judge's Score Sheet for Performance Deductions and Disqualifications.