How do you find a reputable Vizsla breeder?

Finding a Vizsla breeder is the first (and most important) step to locate your new best friend. Breeders are invaluable resources: a bridge between you and your perfect dog, and someone who will be by your side throughout your dog's lifetime.

Get a referral.

- ***Contact vcaweb.com*** for Breeder Referral, area Vizsla clubs, and Rescue groups.
- ***Ask close friends*** who own healthy purebred Vizslas.
- ***Visit AKC dog events*** and ask participants for recommendations.
- ***Ask your vet*** if they can recommend a reputable breeder.

Get references. Ask the breeder for references from recent clients. Call owners and ask if they were happy with their experience, and the pros and cons of working with that breeder.

Meet in person. A visit is the best way to get to know a breeder; don't just call or e-mail. Are the premises clean? Odor-free? Does the breeder show a genuine passion for dogs? Are the dogs well fed and cared for?

Ask questions. You can never ask too many, and there are no dumb questions! Is the breeder available to talk and explain things clearly? Do you have good rapport? Responsible breeders want to see their dogs in happy, loving homes and love to share their knowledge.

Learn about the pup's parents. There's no better way to know how your dog will grow up! It will give you a sense of your dog's temperament, personality, size, and appearance.

Get a full medical history. Reputable breeders are happy to show proof of health screenings like OFA and CERF certificates, and are knowledgeable and transparent about the health history of their dogs.

Be patient. Don't expect to meet and bring home a puppy the same day. Reputable breeders aim to produce healthy, temperamentally sound puppies for show, work, and home. They often have waiting lists for their puppies, so you may have to wait for your ideal dog.

A good breeder should:

- Be very knowledgeable about the breed.
- Ask you questions about yourself, your lifestyle, and your family.
- Be concerned about the animal for a lifetime.
- Keep puppies until they're at least 8–10 weeks old.
- Provide references.
- Answer your questions and provide lots of information.
- Welcome you to meet their dogs and see their kennel.
- Use temperament testing as a tool to determine the best puppy match for your home. Good breeders will match people with puppies based on lifestyle, interests, puppy strengths and temperament.
- Provide documentation of your puppy's pedigree and health test results.

TIP: Don't let your desire for a puppy right now send you to a less-than-reputable source. You're going to live with your new dog for a decade or longer; it's worth waiting a few months to get a dog who has a better chance of making those years happy ones.

A good breeder's commitment to you and your puppy doesn't end when the sale is final. You get tech support that would be the envy of any software company!

Vizslas are more than dogs—they're a lifestyle!

The modern Vizsla thrives as an active member of your family. These physically energetic and emotionally attentive dogs are known for their "Velcro" quality. They want to be outside with you and inside with you. Balance physical exercise with mental stimulation. They gladly fill the role of hiking buddy, hunting partner, agility qualifier, or tracking expert. Yet these superb athletes and supreme snugglers always look for an opportunity to curl up next to you on your couch. Be prepared to challenge and be challenged by this elegant and beautiful dog!

Vizsla Facts

Origin: Hungary **Year Recognized by the AKC:** 1960

Breed History & Job Description: The Vizsla was developed by the Magyars, Asian invaders on horseback who swept into Europe about 1,500 years ago. The Magyars, and their neat-looking red dogs, settled in the land now known as Hungary. During their long history in Europe, Vizslas became famous as swift, all-purpose hunting dogs who could be counted on to do just about anything they were asked. In modern times, that same can-do attitude has won Vizslas generations of fans here in America.

Health: Vizslas are commonly very healthy with a life span of 12 or more years. Like all breeds there may be some health issues, like cancer, hip dysplasia, epilepsy, autoimmune thyroiditis, and eye disease, but careful breeding has helped control these problems.

Puppy seekers are encouraged to find a breeder that loves this breed and strives for excellence in temperament, health, capability, and structure. And, above all, avoid purchasing a puppy from a pet store, a puppy mill, or a puppy farm.

The Vizsla Club of America (VCA) is dedicated to the preservation of the Vizsla breed. Our members are Vizsla owners and breeders committed to preserving the characteristics of this noble sporting dog. The VCA has also created a Welfare Foundation (WF), a non-profit, to provide enduring financial support for health research and breed rescue.

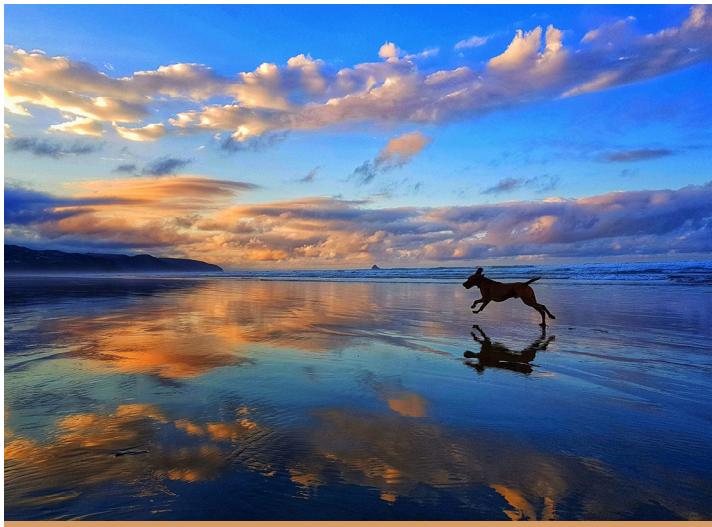
To learn more about the VCA, regional Vizsla clubs, and the VCA WF, please visit:

the VIZSLA CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.

www.vcaweb.org

Meet the Vizsla

People will stop you in the street when you're out walking with this gorgeous redhead. The Vizsla's strong, elegant body, alert face, and unusual coat color are a striking presence. But the Vizsla isn't just about good looks: this all-purpose hunting dog forms strong attachments and loves to be a part of family activities, whether a game of Frisbee or a run in the park. Your Vizsla puppy is smart, loving, and eager to learn. He'll be up for anything, as long as he can do it with you!



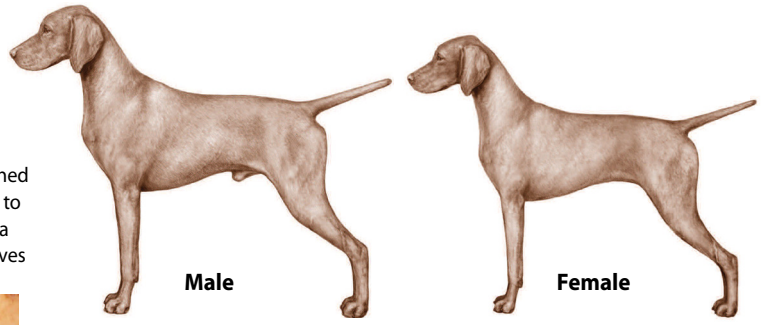
A thousand years ago, the Vizsla hunted with Magyar nomads before settling into an area that is now Hungary. Primitive stone etchings show the tribal hunter with his falcon and his Vizsla. Today, the Vizsla has developed into a premier sporting dog and a lively, intelligent, affectionate family member.

The Vizsla

ABRIDGED REFERENCE FROM THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

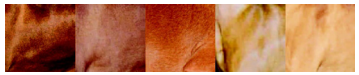
To see the full Vizsla Breed Standard, go to vcaweb.org

The Vizsla Breed Standard describes both the appearance and temperament of the breed. New owners can benefit from knowledge of the Breed Standard in evaluating a good Vizsla match for their family.



Essential Characteristics

The Vizsla is a medium-sized, short-coated hunting dog of distinguished appearance and bearing. Originating in Hungary, the Vizsla was bred to be versatile, agile, and energetic. Hallmarks of the multipurpose Vizsla are the glistening golden rust colored coat along with the gentle curves of its silhouette.



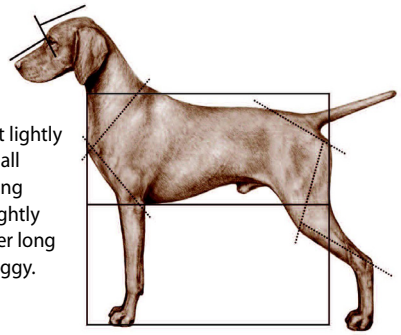
The coat color may come in various shades of golden rust. However, solid dark mahogany and pale yellow are faulty. Lighter shadings over the sides of the neck and shoulders giving the appearance of a "saddle" are common. While white is acceptable on the forechest and toes, less white is the preference. White due to aging or scarring is never faulted, nor are field-conditioned coats.

There are five primary components of the top line. First, a slight prominence of the scapula and accompanying layer of muscle is the highest point of the backline. Second, this high point blends smoothly into a level back. Third, there is a muscular fullness and slight rounding over the short loin, starting just after the last rib and concluding at the crest of the pelvis. Fourth, this all rounds gently into the croup, which is never steep or flat. Lastly, the tail is set approximately a thumb's thickness below the level of the croup. The neck should be long enough to allow the dog to pick up birds and strong enough to carry game.

Head

Muzzle is equal to or slightly shorter than the skull with a moderate stop. Eyes blend with the color of the coat to create a soft, pleasing expression. Ears are thin and silky and frame the face. Nose self colored. Scissors bite.

Proportions



The Vizsla is robust but lightly built. It is moderate in all aspects. While appearing square, it measures slightly longer than tall. Neither long and low nor tall and leggy.

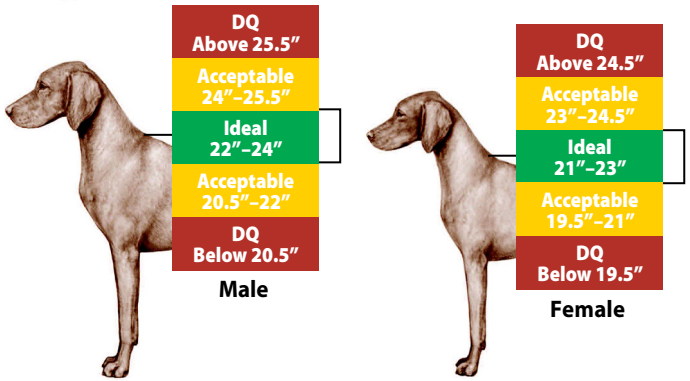
Movement

Far reaching, light footed, graceful, and smooth. Gait appears athletic and effortless. Covers ground with minimal steps and minimal effort. Tail carried at or near the horizontal.

As the speed of the trot increases, it converges to single tracking.

Size Preference

The Vizsla is meant to be a medium sized breed.



Disqualifications

1. Partially or completely black nose.
2. Solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest.
3. White extending on the shoulders or neck.
4. A distinctly long coat.
5. Any male over 25 ½ inches or under 20 ½ inches. Any female over 24 ½ inches or under 19 ½ inches at the highest point over the shoulder blades.

7 things You Didn't Know About the Vizsla

Adapted from an article by Katherine Ripley

Vizslas, also known as Hungarian Pointers, have a long history as the most prized possession of aristocrats in Hungary. These regal canines have a lot to offer. Here are seven things you may not know about them:

1. Their Ancestors Were Falconers. The Vizsla's ancestors are believed to be the dogs of the Magyar tribes who settled present day Hungary thousands of years ago. Archaeologists have found stone etchings that depict the Magyar hunter with his falcon and his dog: the canine that would become the Vizsla.

2. They're Pointers and Retrievers. The Vizsla was the hunting dog of choice throughout the history of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The aristocrats who owned them bred them to be good pointers and good retrievers.

3. Their Color is Always a Shade of Golden Rust. Eye, nose, and toenail color harmonize with the coat. Historically, this coloring helped camouflage the dog when hunting.

4. They Almost Went Extinct. The Vizsla suffered a severe decline in the late 19th century. Records indicate only about a dozen purebreds left in the Austro-Hungarian empire at that time. The breed was also near extinction after World Wars I and II. Fortunately, the breed bounced back, and in 1950, the first Vizslas were imported into the United States.

5. Lots of Vizslas Have Jobs. Vizslas work as guide dogs and service dogs, as sniffers for the TSA, and as search and rescue dogs. They also helped with search and rescue efforts after 9/11.

6. A Vizsla Is the First AKC Quintuple Champion! At age nine, TC AFC MACH Legacy's DeChartay UDX MH, a female Vizsla, was the first dog to earn five AKC championship titles in the organization's 116-year existence.

7. They're Very Clean. When it comes to grooming, an occasional bath will keep their short coat looking great. Vizslas do shed, but they do not have an undercoat. And their fast-growing nails need regular trimming.

Thank you to the following for the lovely Vizsla photos: Ben Sheehan, Jessica Mackey, Alyssa Perkins, Michelle Schaefer, and Julie Bokhof.