

# **The Vizsla Club of America, Inc.**

## **Versatility Certificate Program Overview and Rules**

The Versatility Program is intended to help in maintaining overall excellence in the Vizsla Breed, showing the versatility of the Vizsla as a good-looking, well-mannered hunting dog.

### **VCA Club test procedures**

1. Any AKC recognized Vizsla Club or group of VCA members shall be eligible to conduct any or all of the Versatility Certificate Tests, provided it complies fully with all portions of the Procedures, Rules and Requirements as laid out by the Vizsla Club of America, Inc.
2. A member of the VCA must witness all Tests. This VCA Member must be thoroughly familiar with the rules and regulations for all tests being conducted by the Local Club. This VCA member, in conjunction with the host club, must be willing to vouch for the accuracy, honesty and compliance with regulations and conduct of the tests.
3. The Local Club shall appoint a Test Secretary who shall be knowledgeable about the test(s) to be conducted. The Test Secretary may be the same person as the designated VCA Member or another individual. The Test Secretary shall be responsible for the entire running of the tests and the selection of the judges.
4. The Test Secretary shall provide a report to the VCA Test Coordinator within 14 days after the completion of the test(s). Clubs are encouraged to send reports via email. Each report shall include:
  1. Name of Club administering the Versatility Tests.
  2. Date or dates of the event.
  3. Location where the tests were held.
  4. Names and addresses of the judges. Only one judge is required for each test. (For more information on judges see the section entitled "Selection of Judges.")
  5. The type of birds to be used in the field test.
  6. Name, address, phone and email address of the Test Secretary.
  7. The name of the VCA member witnessing the test(s).

### **Eligibility of dogs**

1. Any AKC or PAL (Purebred Alternative Listing) registered Vizsla who has reached the age of six (6) months on the first advertised day of the Test(s) may be entered in the Conformation, Field and Obedience tests. Litter numbers may be used for participation in the test(s); however, no certificates will be issued until the Vizsla is AKC registered and the AKC or PAL number is sent to the VCA Versatility Chair.
2. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are eligible to enter all Versatility Test segments – Conformation, Obedience, and Field.
3. If the Test-Giving Club so desires, bitches in season may participate in the tests. Bitches in season must be tested after all other dogs have been tested.

## **Versatility Test Rules**

1. The Versatility Program is a VCA event. Results of all tests shall be sent to the Versatility Test Coordinator via US postal service.
2. All ratings shall use the Versatility Program score sheets, and no rating is to be considered official until confirmed by the VCA Versatility Test Coordinator. In addition to scoring each item on the score sheets, Judges may make comments and recommendations that may be helpful to the handler.
3. Test Overviews, Entry Forms and Judges Score Sheets are available to all Clubs on the VCA website: [www.vcaweb.org](http://www.vcaweb.org). If needed, the VCA Versatility Chair or Test Coordinator can mail the forms.
4. Entries must list the registered name of the Vizsla, sex, AKC or PAL registration number, birth date, breeder (if known), name, address, and email of owner. No test results will be officially recorded until all this information is supplied to the Versatility Test Coordinator. Test Secretaries may forward all forms to the Test Coordinator even if all the information has not been provided. In this case the owner should be required to forward missing information to the Test Coordinator; however, the Test Secretary may do so. In either case the owner should be informed that results will not be recorded until the information has been provided.
5. Entry in the Field and Obedience Tests may be made as many times as necessary to fulfill certificate requirements. Entry of a dog in the Conformation Test shall be limited to three (3) failures; after the third failure in the Conformation Test a dog shall no longer be eligible to enter this test.
6. Local Clubs may take advance entries and/or take entries at the test site.
7. Any or all of the tests may be held in conjunction with any other local club activity, or a special date may be set aside for conducting the tests.
8. Any or all of the tests may be held in conjunction with AKC events but must in no way interfere with the running of the AKC event, and AKC permission must be obtained by the test giving club.
9. Clubs can hold multiple tests in Conformation, Field, and Obedience in the same day. There is no limit in the number of days a year that a Club can hold Versatility Tests. A Judge cannot judge the same dog more than once in a test segment.
10. A test-giving club may offer Measurement Only at a test site for Field and/or Obedience. Only dogs that are Champions of record, or dogs which would otherwise qualify for a Conformation Certificate, except for a measurement, may participate. The name of the individual who will do the measurements must be entered as the Conformation Test judge. The minimum age for height measurement is 24 months. (For use of an Agility Jump Height Card to satisfy the measurement requirement, see "How to Obtain Versatility Certificates," below.)
11. The Test Giving Club may charge an entry fee to cover any expenses incurred. The amount of the entry fee is the prerogative of the local club.

12. The required information on each Vizsla participating in a test and the Judge's Score Sheets should be recorded for the VCA Versatility Program, the dog's owner, and the club holding the test. Scanned, photocopied or photographed copies are acceptable. The VCA Versatility Test Coordinator must receive the entry forms and score sheets within fourteen (14) days after the completion of the test(s). The Test Coordinator shall review and record the test results.

13. When offering any Versatility Test, clubs are expected to place a high priority on the safety of all participants and dogs. The Field Test has specific safety requirements which are described in detail in the *Field Versatility Test Overview*.

### **Selection of Judges**

The Test-Giving Club shall provide each Judge with a copy of the Test Requirements and Score Sheet of the test to be judged.

### **Conformation test**

Any person in good standing with AKC and approved by the VCA Versatility Chair. If the judge has not previously been approved, the Test Secretary should contact the Versatility Chair by email with the proposed judge's name and contact information, at least 10 days in advance of the test. This Judge shall be chosen by the Test-Giving Club for his/her knowledge of the Vizsla Breed Standard and experience in the showing and/or judging of the Vizsla.

The club hosting the test must ensure that the Conformation Test Judge has a copy of the current Vizsla Breed Standard and the VCA's Illustrated Standard at the test. These are available online at [https://vcaweb.org/breed/for\\_judges.shtml](https://vcaweb.org/breed/for_judges.shtml).

### **Field test**

Any person in good standing with AKC and approved by the VCA Versatility Chair. If the judge has not previously been approved, the Test Secretary should contact the Versatility Chair by email with the proposed judge's name and contact information, at least 10 days in advance of the test. This Judge shall be chosen by the Test-Giving Club for his/her knowledge of AKC Field Trial and/or Hunting Test Rules and Procedures as well as for personal experience in field trials and hunting tests.

### **Obedience test**

Any person in good standing with AKC and approved by the VCA Versatility Chair. If the judge has not previously been approved, the Test Secretary should contact the Versatility Chair by email with the proposed judge's name and contact information, at least 10 days in advance of the test. This Judge shall be chosen by the Test-Giving Club for his/her knowledge of AKC Obedience Rules as well as personal experience in the obedience ring.

Judges may not judge any dog that they own or co-own, or any dog that is owned or co-owned by a spouse. Should a Judge desire to enter his/her dog in a test he/she agreed to judge, the Judge should inform the Test Secretary at least 10 days prior to the test. The Test Secretary may include an alternate Judge for this purpose.

### **How to obtain Versatility Certificates**

A Vizsla shall be eligible to receive any or all certificates upon providing proof of proper performance in the various test segments. Along with the appropriate proofs of performance, the owner will need to submit the *Application for Versatility Certificates* form (available at

[www.vcaweb.org](http://www.vcaweb.org)). There is a nominal fee for each certificate, and current fees are listed on the application form. The owner may apply for field, obedience or conformation certificates separately OR all at the same time. Certificates for individual segments (field, obedience, conformation) will be issued by email in PDF form. When the Versatility Certificate is earned, a printed certificate will be mailed to the owner.

Here are the various ways a Vizsla can qualify for their certificates:

### **Versatility Conformation Certificate**

A. Versatility Tests – Three passes in the Versatility Conformation test under three different judges. The documentation is to be submitted by the Test-Giving Club. The owner submits a completed *Application for Versatility Certificates* and the certificate fee.

B. AKC Conformation Wins –AKC Points/Summary of Title Progression report showing three Conformation wins where points were awarded to your Vizsla, in AKC Licensed or Member Shows, from three different judges and a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee. The Points/Summary of Title Progression report is available free from the AKC website.

C. Combination of A & B – You can combine passes from A and wins from B to reach the required three for the Conformation Certificate. Also need to submit the *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

D. AKC Conformation Championship – Photocopy of the AKC Championship Conformation Certificate and completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

### Height Measurement Requirement Options

In order to receive a Conformation Certificate, your Vizsla must be measured when they are **24 months or older** to confirm that they are within the Vizsla Breed Standard.

Here are the two options to fulfill the height measurement requirement:

1) Wicket measurement – This is done by a Regional Vizsla Club hosting a Versatility Test. You will need to include a copy of the completed and signed VCA Height Measurement form when you submit the Application for Versatility Certificate form.

2) Agility Jump Height - In order to obtain an AKC Agility Jump Height Card you will need to attend two AKC agility trials and get your Vizsla measured by two different “Officials” (VMO’s, AKC Agility Field Reps, or Director of Agility).

You can find AKC agility trials in your area by searching the AKC Event Search Site: <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/##/search>. Once you find an agility trial, you should reach out to the trial secretary to ensure that there will be a VMO, AKC Agility Field Rep, or Director of Agility at the trial as they are the only individuals authorized to conduct the height measurements and occasionally there may not be one of those officials at a trial. Once you receive your Permanent AKC Jump Height Card, you will need to submit a photocopy of the card with the Application for Versatility Certificate form in order to receive a Conformation Certificate and/or Versatility Certificate. Information on obtaining a jump height card is also

available on the AKC website: <https://www.akc.org/sports/agility/exhibitor-resources/jump-height-card/>.

### **Versatility Field Certificate**

A. Versatility Tests – Three passes in the Versatility Field test under three different judges. The documentation is to be submitted by the Test-Giving Club. The owner submits a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

B. AKC Hunting Test Passes - AKC Points/Summary of Title Progression report showing three passes in Senior or Master Levels, in AKC Licensed or Member Hunting Tests, from three different judges, and a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee. The Points/Summary of Title Progression report is available free from the AKC website.

C. AKC Field Trial Placements – AKC Points/Summary of Title Progression report showing any three placements in Regular Retrieving Stakes, in AKC Licensed or Member Field Trials, from three different judges, and a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee. The Points/Summary of Title Progression report is available free from the AKC website.

D. Combination of A, B, or C. You can combine passes from A and B and placements from C to reach the required three for the Field Versatility Certificate. Also need to submit the *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

E. AKC Hunting Test Title or AKC Field Trial Title - Photocopy of the AKC Senior Hunting Test Certificate or of the Master Hunting Test Certificate or of the AKC Field Championship Certificate or of the AKC Amateur Field Championship Certificate and completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

### **Versatility Obedience Certificate**

A. Versatility Events – Three passes in Versatility Obedience test under three different judges. The documentation is to be submitted by the Test-Giving Club. The owner submits a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

B. Obedience Qualifying Scores - AKC Points/Summary of Title Progression report showing three qualifying scores in any level Regular Obedience Classes, in AKC Licensed or Member Obedience Trials, from three different judges, and a completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee. The Points/Summary of Title Progression report is available free from the AKC website.

C. Combination of A & B – You can combine passes from A and qualifiers from B to reach the required three for the Obedience Certificate. Also need to submit the *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

D. AKC Obedience Trial or Obedience Title Championship – Photocopy of the AKC Obedience Title Certificate (CD, CDX, UD, or UDX) or of the Obedience Trial Championship Certificate (OTCH) and completed *Application for Versatility Certificate* and the certificate fee.

## **Versatility Certificate**

In order to receive a Versatility Certificate, a Vizsla must fulfill the certificate requirements in all three test segments (Conformation, Field, and Obedience) and submit the necessary documentation to the VCA Versatility Chair. The owner may apply for field, obedience or conformation certificates separately OR may submit one application for all three and the Versatility Certificate. The certificate fees are the same whichever way the requirements are met.

**Once the Versatility Certificate has been issued, the letters VC can be used after Vizsla's name.**

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