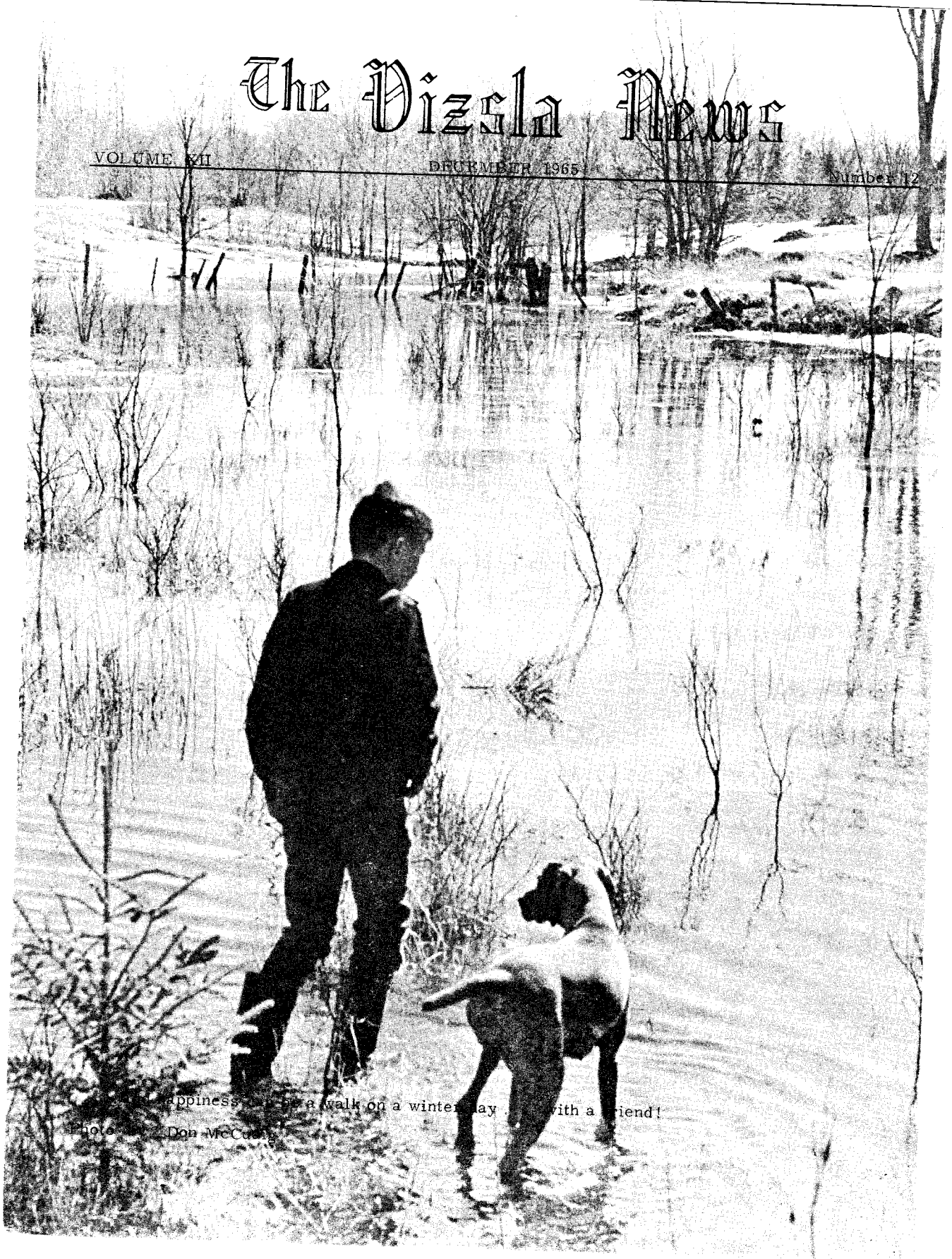
The Vizsla News

VOLUME XII DECEMBER 1965 Number 12



Happiness . . . a walk on a winter day . . . with a friend!

Photo by Don McCuen

ABOUT THE COVER....

If the picture of a boy and his dog does not say all that is in your heart about that "special feeling" that Vizsla owners all have, then it has been a long time since you were a little boy (or reasonable facsimile) or you have never known a Vizsla personally!

This beautiful print arrived in the mail one day this fall with the attached note:

> Memo to Mrs. Jane Graff
>
> These may or may not be suitable for your offset covers but to keep peace in our household I am shipping along prints of Pebbles wading a spring pond with my number two son....at the direction of my wife to whom this Vizsla is the be all and end all.
>
> We certainly enjoy reading your fine monthly effort and would love to see a real field trial some day.
>
> Best regards
>
> Don McCuaig
> Box 400, Renfrew, Ont. Can.

I don't think that I even found time to write a note to thank Mr. McCuaig for them -- they were of course just perfect for a cover -- but put a tag on the corner marked "December issue" and scurried off to one of the 101 tasks at hand. When sorting the material for this issue, I enjoyed all over again the many happy memories that tumble around in my brain as I, too, "wade" an icy pond with a friend. I read again the short note. It says a great deal -- in less than 100 words -- and says more, perhaps between the lines, at least to one pouring forth that "monthly effort", something, also, to the hundreds of members who took the time this past year to send their "prints" (or words, or thoughts, or what-have-you) to their dear-editor! It is these -- all of them -- that have made a monthly publication possible.

As I page through "Volume XII" I find pictures from half way 'round the world and others taken at the doorstep -- your doorstep; there are articles that have taken months to compile; others dashed off -- a passing thought, perhaps -- but each adding greatly to the context of this humble endeavor to join the many individual Vizsla owners into a unified voice representing the whole of the Vizsla breed. The accounting of the many club events includes the participation of hundreds of you -- and hundreds more who felt part of the action because their own Vizsla (unable to participate because of location of a show or trial) was "cousin" or "kin" to one who did great things.

To many, the V. News recalls memories of a big day in our lives; to others, it is the only glimpse into the world of Vizslas other than through the eyes of the one snoozing at their feet. To some, the sharing of ideas or snap-shots is a casual thing; a few have reached deep into the heart and soul and given a bit of themselves in their "sharing"...and each is enjoyed (with the varying degree of personal experience in each) by members around the world.

For the year just passed and the many individuals who have shared their talents through the Vizsla News, I thank thee.

PILOT DOGS HAS AN URGENT NEED FOR DOGS!!

Shirley Rothan, national member from Cincinnati, Ohio, first brought it to the attention of the Board of the Vizsla Club of America: Pilot Dogs, the group training guide dogs for the blind, is urgently in need of dogs. They are especially anxious to train some from the Vizsla breed for this work. Their initial introduction to this breed has been most satisfactory, and are interested in getting more high calibre dogs for this service.

At present German Shepherds, Dobermans, Labradors and other retrievers are being trained. A representative of the center visited with some of the Ohio Vizsla owners at the Columbus show and was most delighted to learn of the ease of grooming characteristic to this breed... "he was impressed to learn that our dog had never had a bath, looked so clean and had no odor." There are many times that a long haired dog is objectionable, or when a particular disposition is more compatible.

Pilot Dogs will ship a crate and pay the shipping costs; dogs between the ages of 9 months and 2 year are accepted. (If small puppies are given, they are placed in one of their member's homes until it is of trainable age.) This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show some of the better traits of the Vizsla. All dogs received will be x-rayed and neutered. This is a fine service; instead of breeders putting to sleep puppies with faults (faults that make them not satisfactory for breeding, yet well built with a good disposition) this organization could benefit greatly. They will be trained by them for use as seeing eye dogs for the blind.

For more information contact PILOT DOGS, INC. 625 West Town Street, Columbus 22, Ohio. or call, CA 1-6225.

PROCEDURES - SPENDING AND MONEY REQUESTS 1965 - 66 FINANCE COMMITTEE

R. J. Buhman, Chairman

The following procedures are intended as a guide to be used by officers and members of the Vizsla Club of America in determination of money allocation, administration of funds and accountability for funds.

1. Those persons having a need for funds to further the aims of the Vizsla Club of America on a one-item basis (club event, shows, field trials, special expense), and on a semi-annual or annual basis (Office of the Vizsla News, Secretary, President, and so forth), shall submit in triplicate a request for funds, a proposed budget, and justification to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. The finance committee shall then process the request: approving unanimously; disapproving; or in matters involving large amounts or difference of opinion in the committee -- forward the request to the Board of Directors for their consideration.
3. The Chairman will notify the individual of the decision and with the treasurer decide on the method of administration.
4. An accounting of the fund will be submitted to the Treasurer at a determined date.

SPRING FIELD TRIAL APPROVED AT VOLO, ILLINOIS

Word has been received that AKC approval has been given for our spring field trial to be held on April 30 - May 1, 1966, at Wing and Fin Shooting Preserve, Volo, Illinois. A letter from Sharon Simon expresses most adequately the kind of preparations that are being made:

"We are all looking forward to Spring 1966 at Wing and Fin, Volo, Illinois. Our club held a very successful Field Trial there in September (ask anyone of our Illinois members who were present and they'll gladly bend both ears -- and with good reason!)

"With George Solberg sitting in the driver's seat and especially since he has moved to within 15 minutes drive of our next National location, I'll guarantee an exceptional Trial with the assistance of friendly Vizsla owners, Vizslas, and the cooperation of everyone involved. Although we do not all have specific jobs to do, we will all be taking part in the trial -- just being there will be helping to make it successful.

"Participation in any club function by you and your Vizsla always helps to better our breed!"

For those traveling by plane or train -- Volo is just outside of Chicago, so whether coming to trial your dog, attend the meeting or just watch, this one is at least "accessible" to all!

SHOW COMMITTEE

Plans for the 2nd National Vizsla Specialty are pending, the Show Committee is presently working on the location and date -- and the many other details involved in such an event.

Individuals or groups interested in donating to the trophy fund for this event are asked to contact Pat Carter, Chairman of Show Committee, 116 Hazelton Avenue, Manchester, N. H. or Virginia McHaney, 6651 Southern Vista Drive, Fairborn, Ohio. (Trophy Committee). All doners to this event must have their names on the list that goes in months in advance of the Show ... so do it NOW.

VIZSLA OWNERS at the GARDEN....

Genevieve Wolfe, Regional Governor of New Jersey and immediate surrounding area, is making plans for a luncheon during the Madison Square Garden Show, February 14-15, 1966, for the many Vizsla owners attending this Blue Ribbon event.

"It would be nice for everyone from out of town to be able to get together with the Vizsla folks in this area for a bit of sociability other than the crowded isles in the Garden... will hunt out a nice spot near the Garden and arrange a time when it won't conflict with the judging... so please have any exhibitors or just visitors contact me..." that is, Genevieve Wolfe, 129 Llewellyn Rd, Montclair, N. J.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT...

Jack Merrill, Chairman

The objective of our committee has been to first explore every possible way to encourage all Vizsla owners and friends to join the Vizsla Club of America and, second to get these people to take an active part in both national and local organizations.

The first objective has not been fully completed or the surface even scratched, nor should we ever stop looking for ways to implement these objectives!

Some of the steps taken to reach these goals have been taken by a lot of people:

1. Each of the committee members is taking turns writing articles for the Vizsla News.
2. Lists of all owners by areas have been started with the help of regional governors.
3. A list of present members and subscribers was furnished by Jane Graff. (The list also indicated those who have let their membership or subscription expire.) Using these names as a starting point, extra copies of the Vizsla News and an application blank have been sent. Each committee member has those names in his area. Regional Governors have been asked to assist.
4. A catalog of owners is a dream we could all benefit from and would be a great source of new members. Someone with the time and willingness to be a collecting agency for the list is needed!
5. It is urged that all members of the Vizsla Club be an active member of the membership committee through their efforts to implement "Every Member Get A Member".

Personal notes: I feel that all Vizsla owners should support the National Organization's efforts to strengthen the breed by any means. It is our duty to encourage all owners to join. Our breeders need to "sell the club" with every pup! Too often dogs are ruined by people who know absolutely nothing about the temperament of the Vizsla -- while all the time looking for information about the breed -- information that is available through the club! Membership in the Club is a means to answers for the new owner. Let's not be guilty of selling the pup and not the Club. It might be wise to supply the new owner with a subscription to the News -- or $3 toward a membership as an incentive from the breeder. (Several do just that!) The pedigree now available from the club is an excellent way to encourage membership, but it needs our personal touch!

We must remember that as we strengthen the National Organization we have much to gain. A stronger national organization means greater recognition for the breed and a more knowledgeable public when we have puppies to sell. We can also guard against puppy factories whose only breeding program (to quote a friend) is male to female!

My family feels we have friends all over the country -- this through the correspondence of the Vizsla club. We hope to take a trip during the holidays to visit some of these people and do some hunting... this would not have been possible had we not become adquainted with some wonderful people through the club!

I strongly urge you to take an active part in our membership drive. All suggestions will be considered and used whenever possible!

THE HIP DYSPLASIA REPORT....

On the whole, the report prepared by Bill Kline on the study of hip dysplasia and its place in the Vizsla Club of America's policy for accepting ads, and information for the enlightenment of the members (both breeders and owners interested in purchasing new stock in the future), was quite well received.

On a few occasions, however, people jumped to some very wrong conclusions -- conclusions that were neither implied nor inferred by the report... they have done some bombarding from their typewriters...but I hope, in time, a better understanding -- all the way around -- will come as a result. I think that a new name is in order for the committee ...since the one given them seems to get a few people's dand'er up,! Well, anyone having a better title for the committee now known as Breeders' Approval might send it along. But by what ever name they are called, I will agree with the writer who says... "...they have done a remarkable job!"

At the moment, they are deep in x-rays and trying to work out a proper form, procedure and system for the processing of them. Problems? yes, there are a number that will take considerable thought and discussion before this is all set-up... but I don't believe that anywhere it was said that this would be easy. The Committee and your officers are working overtime ... when the new year arrives and time is not at such a premium, should have some of the answers hashed out.

In the mean time, there has been some additional correspondence that will be of interest to all members: some informational, some supportive, some dontroversial...but all interesting, and should be added to the topic under discussion.

FIRST: A letter from Dr. Spurrell to Wilmer Kline relating some of the information that was not included in the November report:

Dear Mr. Kline:

I am glad that the Vizsla Club of America has been able to form a committee which is functioning in evaluation of Vizsla dogs as to hip dysplasia status. I would also be glad to serve this committee and the Vizsla Club as radiologist along with Dr. Griselda Hanlon of our college. Two of us will assure that at least one is available for consultation at all times. Likewise both being at one place will reduce long waits in radiograph evaluation.

A fee of $5 per dog for interpretation of hip dysplasia status would seem reasonable. We would appreciate your services in collecting and holding these fees in escrow for accumulation. It is hoped that a program for utilization of these fees can be established which would further the cause of normal hips in the Vizsla breed. (We are not able to accept outside fees in our position.) The Genetics Center of the University of Minnesota is available for pursuit of problems of this type. (Following a sizable accumulation, they would be accepted for a specific purpose in this field.)

Films which are not of diagnostic quality will be interpreted insofar as possible and specific improvement suggestions made... (Charges for this purpose should be minimal --$1 per film.)

We will send you the original report, one copy, and retain one copy for our files. You will note that several items of information are needed from you to enable accurate record keeping. Several of these forms are thus being sent to you. (ie: this information to be put on x-ray with lead markers --

Owner's name
Registration number
Sex Age in months
Date of radiograph
Right or Left side to be labeled

We are glad to be able to participate in this program to reduce the incidence of the developmental hereditary disease in the dog.

Francis A. Spurrell, D. V. M., Ph. D
Professor: Veterinary Radiology
Member: Genetics Center, U. of Minn.

Wilmer Kline added, in his letter, that In reference to the positioning instructions mentioned in his article, Dr. Spurrell has advised that he hopes to work on this during Christmas holidays, so, hopefully, it will be forthcoming before long!

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A letter from Texas brings out some points of interest:

Dear Jane:

After reading that letter, I too felt like writing but put it off -- I see many people did not... Good for them. Many of my thoughts were spoken; perhaps better than I could have expressed them...however, I have one major comment that I feel needs to be said. The VC of A has set itself up as the guardian of the breed. This I believe should be the function of a newsletter representing the national club. By the requirement that all stud dogs advertisers have their dogs x-rayed and free from H. D. you are helping to preserve the perfect ideal of the breed. As a newcomer to the breed (but having had a background in German Shepherds) I was overjoyed to find your requirement of x-ray clean dogs advertised. Bob is a member of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and we get the national publication The German Shepherd Review. Within the last year they have begun the practice of allowing people to advertise... "so-and-so has been x-rayed and information is available from owner." The German Shepherd breed has a far greater problem in H. D. than the Vizslas...yet, their national publication has only recently begun to allow the quote above.

Since H. D. has been proved hereditary it is a protection of the breed to require that dogs which are advertised (at least in our own breed magazine) are H. D. free. We both know that this doesn't prove that genes-wise they are necessarily free, but, if there, they are at least recessive. It's at least a small protection for the unknowing beginner.

If nothing else is accomplished maybe the newcomer will wonder about this strange thing called H. D., and might become more aware of the possible problems involved and by this alone be careful of breeding his dog indiscriminately.

About the puppies -- who can tell at 8 - 12 weeks? Even x-rayed clean parents can produce unsound pups, I don't see how they can be guaranteed. I only

wish you could prove genetic soundness by a simple thing like an x-ray!

I hope that we keep the policy about Stud dogs, everything that contributes even a little toward helping the breed should be done.

Martha Ann Coody
Austin, Texas

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Another slant on the subject was sent by a member from Illinois...

TO: EDITOR, V. NEWS
FROM: DICK BUHMAN,
Box 804, Milan, Illinois

More Controversy on Hip Dysplasia

I'm not so sure as some, that Vizslas known to have this trait should be destroyed, or sterilized, or just not "allowed" to breed. There are some people that evidently think that an otherwise "good" Vizsla with H. D. should not be used for breeding. purposes, except for laboratory experiments. I don't agree. I think there are too few "otherwise good" Vizslas to justify this attitude. There are many other characteristics of the animal to consider beside hip joints. A Vizsla with an idiot dog mentality, no nose, or lacking in desire to hunt, is not condemned if he has nice hip-joints. I have seen too many advertisements of "Show Vizslas" with no evidence of hunting ability. If we require our Vizslas to be "free" from H. D. (as "proven" by x-ray photo and verified by Minnesota vets) should we not also require them to be able to smell a quail 50' away, upwind with a 3 mph breeze? Should they not also be required to run at an average clip of 10 mph over a cross-country course for 4 hours? (And on and on.....)

Of course, these tests are artificial -- just as is the test for H. D. Why do we need a "new requirement interjected into the picture? Should the VC of A attempt to control breeding of Vizslas? by establishing an "approval" list of H. D. free Vizslas? Why, when we have a many-years established method of proving the utility of bird dogs in the field trial. If you want to establish an "approved list" of Vizslas, let's have a Championship Stake: run 'em for 3 hours. Vizslas "approved" in this manner are more likely, over the long run, to produce the type of Vizslas our field-oriented members have in mind, I'm sure.

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PLEASE NOTE: The forgoing two letters are letters "to" the editor, not "by" or "for"... they express personal knowledge and ideas, and very well, I believe. If you wish to debate a point or two, do it with them!

The next letter arrived at a moment when I needed it most; lifting my spirits from the depths to one of humble gratitude to a man who has REAL problems, yet took his precious time to send these words along:

To: The Vizsla News, Mrs. Jane Graff, Editor.
From: Jack Baird - the man who -------

Subject: Dedication and 'fishing'.

Dear Madam Editor:-

It is an axiom that when one (or a group) starts a publication, it is figured what "fish" are to be caught and what "bait" to use. The Vizsla News was started for the benefit of the oldest gundog breed in the world - the VIZSLA. Therefore its duty is to that breed first --to club members second, to overall service to the breed.

From having been the first person to stage an exhibition of the breed back in 1951, at Chicago's International, I've become a "fan" of the Vizsla as a worthwhile member of the impolite society of great dogs; and when I read of some character decrying the space given to the VERY serious problem of hip dysplasia, I do a very fast sun-tan of my emotions.

The problem IS there, and we can't play ostrich and think that when he get his neck out of the sand that the problem will have disappeared. We are adult, I think, and we ought to be able to meet the problem head on with whatever means we have at our disposal.

SO, let the Vizsla News ring the clarion bell and summon all to the real study of the problem, and keep a magnificent breed from going down hill in a hand car. The Vizsla is more human and humane than most so-called humans. Just let us mortals try to be as good in our way as is the Vizsla in its way.

Hopefully,
Jack Baird
The little old man from the country.

...and so it shall be! Whether that which the Vizsla News is carrying is "ringing" or "clanging" may depend on your point of view -- at that moment! In either case, this and other subjects are open for discussion.

The point should be stated: we have done some serious "soul searching" -- we, as a club, are no longer treating the subject of hip dysplasia (or other similar problems) as a "fad", but as a fact with a set standard for reference; we have brought our policy into focus (for years we have required x-rays on stud dogs -- now require the same for the other half of the making of puppies!); we, of course, are free to express ideas about the subject in the News -- but ads will reflect stock meeting this and other standards.

Work to do? You bet! but it is begun, and that is the hardest part... with the cooperation of the membership, we continue to make progress.

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There is hardly a magazine that I pick up to read that does not have something on the subject of hip dysplasia: latest facts and/or ideas, and every columnist trying to express in his words just what he thinks it is and means to his particular breed of dog. You can wade through volumes only to realize that it is just talk-talk, possibly re-stated or one small part of the picture magnified making comparison quite out of focus.

In the summer issue of Dog Research (published by Gaines) 1963, an item caught my eye -- possibly you will see it too:

INHERITED DEFECTS STUDY

Are inherited defects of dogs really becoming more common?... Prominent British veterinarians think so and frankly spoke their thoughts at the recent congress of the B. V. A. Inherited defects are particularly common

among the more favored breeds, according to these gentlemen who presented a veritable catalogue of what they termed "hereditary abnormalities".

The list included extreme nervousness amounting to mental instability among Miniature and Toy Poodles and Labradors; patella luxation in Chihuahuas, King Charles Spaniels, and Pomeranians; hip dysplasia in German Shepherds, Boxers, Labradors and Golden Retrievers; otitis due to hair in the outer ear canal; and intervertebral disc luxation in the long-backed, short-legged breeds; uterine inertia in Scotties; stomach distension and torsion in Bloodhounds and Irish Setters; lens luxation in Wirehaired Fox Terriers; cryp torchidium in Boxers, German Shepherds and Poodles.

Given as among the causes for this deterioration in canine structure of performance are the high prices paid for pedigreed dogs, the large number of "amateur" breeders and their reluctance to cull poor specimens, and a lack of understanding of the principles of breeding. The inventory of abnormalities is causing such concern among responsible breeders that the British Kennel Club has asked the Veterinary Association to make a survey and report on the existing situation.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER HOME.....

Dear Frank:

I miss the company of the many puppy friends and you; those were carefree days, without responsibility and never to be forgotten. Yours is a nice place to stay.

On the other hand, I am a big dog now weighing in at 45 pounds. I have Ted and Eleanor completely on the run. The other evening Ted said, "Tito, cool down, your tongue is hanging out a foot"... but I just gave him a sardonic look and kept on frolicking because I didn't care if it all hung out.

They try to teach me not to jump on people and to keep off the furniture. I pay little attention to all this because it is fun to have them get after me. However, there are many chores too. I have to get them up in the morning which I do by banging on the door and barking. I also have to greet them when they get home and entertain them before dinner. This is easy because I have many toys to chase and retrieve and to tug. I like best an empty sardine can which makes a lot of noise when I throw it around the floor.

The accommodations here are fair to good. I have a bed in the kitchen and also in the basement to myself during the day and the run of the house at night. The food is just palatable although guests say Eleanor is a good cook. All I get is Friskies. Once in a while they give me cottage cheese or ice cream but no where near enough. These things I like but they are really stingy with them.

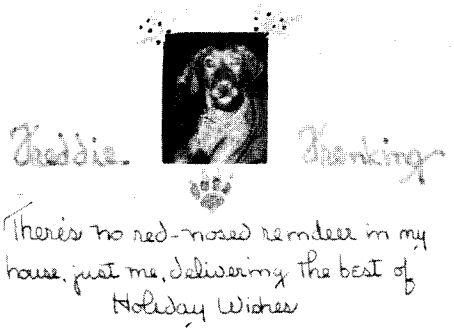
Notwithstanding the disadvantages,our home could be a lot worse. In fact I am already looking foward to wrecking the ornaments on the Christmas tree they are talking about and wish you also, a rollicking and fruitful Holiday Season.

"TITO"

** the foregoing letter was sent to the Vizsla News office from our national member in Grayeagle, Minnesota, Frank Engstrom.

TIME OUT ... FOR FUN!

All work and no play makes Johnny dull ... and Janie old beyond her years, or so it would seem! So it is that the "fun" your dear editor has been having this past year has not found the space or time in many of the issues of your NEWS... and it is high time to take a break and enjoy being just a Vizsla owner with the rest of you. There is quite a stack of greetings, notes and interesting items to share with you.. many self explanatory, others with notations.



MARION (Mrs. Ernest H) FRENKING, Mercerville, New Jersey, sends this very expressive greeting!

BURRELL & K. T. BOURN, Lexington, Nebraska, sent their happy smiling faces, and those of their three daughters with this small notation: Watch ABC-TV American Sportsman, Sunday, January 23, (4:00 - 5:00 p. m. E. S. T.) See a Nebraska Pheasant Hunt with Phil Harris, Kurt Gowdy, Tuffy Goff, and Burrell Bourn. Doesn't say if it includes any Vizslas ... know that Burrell only has some spotted dogs of German origin... but will sure be watching!

ALLAN HAHN, Muscatine, Iowa, sent his Christmas Greetings with a note telling about a "New" pup he has: He has loads of curiosity and is very bold... is running way out ahead, almost keeping up with ChaCha, and is starting to hunt on his own... his tail is always up there like this (and he had done some remarkable artwork of that portion of his pride and joy with a most happy tail -- like wow!)

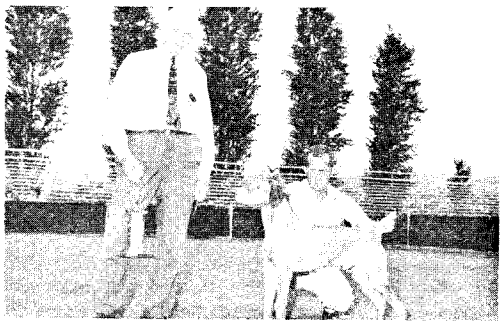
"HEXIE" HAMMERSTEIN, Sky Island, Penna, sends a beautiful color shot of a bowl of "butterscotch"...

saying... "My cup runneth over..." with a 2 weeks old puppy named "The Duke of Sky Island". Hexie also enclosed some news clippings showing her most interesting home, and in which she gives quite a bit of interesting coverage to these Vizsla dogs!

JOHN RYAN, Kansas City, Missouri, is a new member to the VC of A, but cuddles a couple dogs out of some of the first Vizslas to make their way to these shores. John was featured in the full page spread on hunting dogs a yearly series that heralds in the hunting season by Ray Heady, outdoor Editor for the Kansas City Star, along with Frank Tallman, one of the founders of the Vizsla Club of America. The long sought exact recording of the chain of events that brought the first Vizsla to the middle of the USA in 1944, is included, and will be shared with you in the near future. Thank you! Pictured with John are Rusty of Pancova and a 5 month old pup named Diana.

GEN & MAYNARD WOLFE, Montclair, N. J. added ... "A healthy, prosperous, and joyful 1966 to everyone!!" at the bottom of their lovely card.

TAFT JONES, Bremerton, Washington, enclosed this with his best wishes to the Vizsla owners...



His new champion, "Golden Boy's Flash" with his handler, James Hall, and Judge Joseph C. Quirk, taken at the Olmypic KC Show in August. Taft adds, "Have just read the report of the National Field Trial. Congratulations to all for a very fine showing. A mighty nice bunch of Vizslas. Just beautiful, all of them. Hope we can be there next year"... Will echo that hope! A National Vizsla Trial with top dogs from every corner of the map is my fondest dream!!

The lovely script of one known affectionately as "Silver" to much of the Vizsla world, MORRIS, SYLVIA & DOUGLAS CHATFIELD, Minneapolis Minn. says, "Hi -- The progress of the Vizsla Club is just great!" and from the one who was the Vizsla Club for a few years in there, that means a lot!

ERNY DAVIES, Pataskala, Ohio, writes (in red, yet!) This will be a red letter day for you. I am not going to do any "bitching", all I am going to do is wish you and yours a very, very Merry Christmas.

I am very pleased with the progress of the Club... It is very gratifying. It makes one feel as though one's efforts were worth while. You and I know how much time is involved in writing, don't we?" ....Aye, that we do! and sometimes just the reading of the writing is quite time consuming!

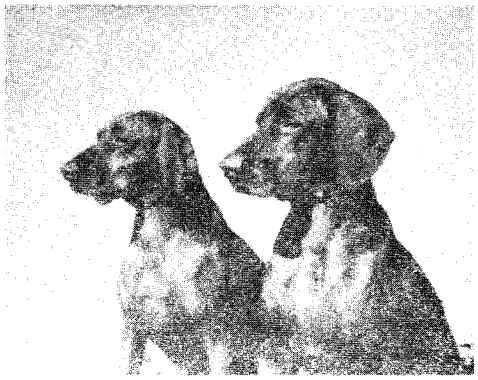
DOC & ANNE BYERS, Lincoln, Nebraska, are sure a hunting family! This picture -- in full color donned their Christmas Greeting...

...saying, "How we love our Goldie!" Goldie looks pretty pleased about the whole situation, too!

BOB HOLCOMB, and family, Englewood, Colorado, send their Christmas greetings in an annual letter... this one including a booklet showing the pictures of the ravages of the floods that surged across that part of the map this last summer.

BUD McGIVERN, Leonia, N.J. sends his congratulations to Harriet Anderson on "Trigger's" 1st in Sporting Group, and adds, ... "It is good to see more group placements coming to our breed -- we in the East have recently seen two of our Vizslas take Group fourths, which we felt was a real accomplishment, of course not the envious 1st place -- and first 1st, at that! They have been a long time coming but I feel that the hiatus has been our own fault (both as breeders and as exhibitors), we have learned a lot, however, in a relatively short time and that knowledge is now beginning to bear fruit! Again best wishes -- all the way around!"

CHRISTINE KELSEY, Newport Beach, California, has this full color picture on her Season's Greeting Cards... and added, "I enjoy the Vizsla News very much and am even going to change my subscription for a full membership this year!" Her two dogs (l to r) Ch. Warhorse Sheila & Ch. Warhorse Sammy.

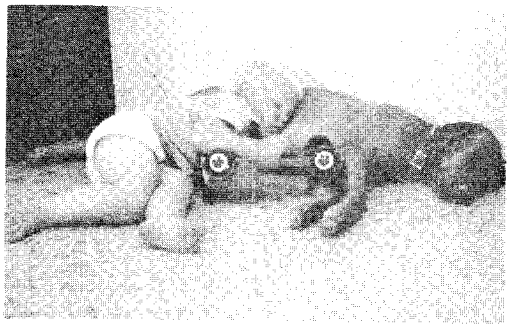


MICHAEL V. KENDE, Budapest, Hungary, gets the prize for the greeting from the greatest distance, for sure! I am sure that his greetings are for all Vizsla owners from their homeland, Hungary!

AL & GRETA STEVENS, get the prize for the largest greeting . . . titled "The Stevens Tour Guide of Merry Christmas wishes and Happy New Year Hopes" and privately published by them in the happy state of West Virginia!! which is indeed a whole map of our big land, with most happy cities noted. I think that I can see a small camper stuck in the drive way in Charleston --it didn't get out this way hunting as planned!

GEORGE N. TOTH, Three Rivers, California, sent this priceless moment! He calls it, "Two red headed youngsters. !" and in the color print they are a perfect match. There are some others that I will share with you just a little later, but he adds, " I'm a professional animal trainer and photographer, so if anyone is looking for vizsla pictures, I have them!" He has a very good collection of color and black and white pictures of our favorite subject, VIZSLAS!

MRS. CLARENCE PEARSON, Littleton, Colorado, enclosed this precious moment of her son, Rusty, and Vizsla Brok Dardai's Honeydew . . . that possibly could be entitled, HAPPY NEW YEAR, everybody! and that it is, too... The letter bringing this was for two gift subscriptions to the Vizsla NEWS!



SARAH E. CLARK, Abington, Conn. sends a note saying that her Ch. Golden Boy Michael was one of the Vizslas to place in the Sporting group -- this November 7th at Union K. C. Show.

. . . . and then there is a stack of beautiful, cards bringing seasons greetings across the country from your homes to mine, and now back again: BOB & SHIRLEY FOSTER, Bremerton, Wash; CARL & NANCY WOLFE, Sutton, Nebraska; THE ERBERS, Chicago; ERNEST & SHIRLEY KNOX and family -- Sandy and Wendy, too (Vizslas, I am sure!) Copake, N. Y.: CLIF, HILDA, DIANA, NANCY, RANDY & CARL BOGGS, Springfield, Ohio; THE SOLBERG, Chicago -- or I should say Antioch; ROSS EGGESTEIN, Annandale, Minnesota; PAT & JOHN CARTER, N. H.; DARRAL LARSEN, Cordova, Nebraska; RUTH & BILL WALLACE, Corpus Cristi, Texas; LEW & SHARON SIMON and family -- Jodi, too, Antioch, Ill; THE STARS, Fairbury, Nebraska; HELEN & IVAN OSBORN and Brooke Desiree (this is not a Vizsla!) LeSueur, Minnesota; WY, PEG & STEVE STEDMAN, Palmyra, Nebraska; STEVE DePETRO, Omaha, Nebraska; PEGGY & LOU MAGYAR, and family, and Dragam & Tundor (?), South Salem, N. Y.; and one that says simply THE REINHARDTS, from somewhere out in western Nebraska, I believe!

Just one more here on the desk to include: the one from our family to each of you! Our "three", Tom, Lee and Peter with dear ol'e Maggie, who I guess is the reason for all this V. News jazz -- whether for better or worse, I don't know, but we all love her just the same.

. . . and so another year draws to a close. It has been fun, educational, interesting, frustrating, exhausting, encouraging, and fun all rolling and tumbling one upon the other! I remain,

Sincerely,

Jane

Your dear editor.....

HE WHO HAS the idea that everything has a price would change his mind in a hurry if he tried to buy a top cow horse from a real cattleman -- or a real bird dog from a sportsman.

REPORTING from the East.....
by: Pat Carter

It has been heard from a great many people that although the Vizsla is a good hunting dog he just can not compete in German Shorthair trials and could never run a 1 hour heat in a Pointer/Setter trial. This writer would like to go on record as stating that this is pure fallacy. True our Vizsla is an all-purpose gun dog, but with the proper training and handling he can 'bring home the bacon' from any field trial. Here in the East, we have racked up a pretty good list of placements in the November trials and as far as this writer is concerned, it is proof positive that our "red dog" can run with the best.

MAYFLOWER G.S.P. Trial, Mass. 11/7

Open Puppy - 16 starters

2nd - Szuzska Kis Viraq (f)
O/H Tim Smith
3rd - Szekeres' Aranyos Heja (m)
O/H Pat Carter

Open Derby - 8 starters

4th - Pirolin (m) O/H Betty Zezza

Amateur Gun Dog - 4 starters

1st - Jansci Futaki (m)
O/H Tim Smith
2nd - Ch. Szekeres' Kezdet (f)
O/H Pat Carter
3rd & 4th placements went to G.S.P.'s

LONG ISLAND G.S.P. Trial, N.Y. 11/13

Open All Age - 7 starters

2nd - Dual Ch. Futaki Darocz (m)
4th - Piri (f)
Owner/Bela Hadik
Handler/Chauncey Smith

These dogs competed against some of the top G.S.P.'s in the country.

HUDSON VALLEY G.S.P. Trial, NY 11/20

Open Puppy - 12 starters

3rd - Szekeres' Aranyos Heja (m)
O/H Pat Carter

Amateur Gun Dog - 8 starters

2nd - Ch. Szekeres' Kezdet (f)
O/H Pat Carter
4th - Ceasar (m) O/H Max Holland

N.E. Grouse Futurity, Mass. 11/20

This two-day trial is one of the important Pointer/Setter trials in the East. The heats are one hour in duration, wild birds only with no bird field whatsoever. All handlers must walk and a most interesting note here is that no 'foreign' breed has ever placed at this trial....until NOW!

3rd - Piri (f) O/Bela Hadik
H/Chauncey Smith

Both Piri and Darocz ran in this trial and so impressed the 'pointer' judges with their running, that both dogs were called back for a 2nd series.

WEIMARANER N.E. Region trial, Conn. 11/28

Open Puppy - 11 starters

3rd - Szekeres' Aranyos Heja (m)
O/H Pat Carter

Open Gun Dog - 6 starters

2nd - Dual Ch. Futaki Darocz
O/Bela Hadik
H/C. M. Smith

- - - - - - - - - -

Well - there you have it - now let's all forget this foolishness that our Vizsla can't compete in other breed trials. Stop and take a GOOD LOOK at these dogs that have been winning here in the East. These dogs have not only been bred for the field, but also for the bench. One is a dual Champion and one is a bench Champion. ...yet they consistently place in the ribbons every time they run.

Give your Vizsla a chance to show you what he can do. When he runs - let him run, just for the sheer joy of it. For heaven's sake - leave that whistle at home and stop yelling at your dogs every time you take him around a course. He is a very intelligent animal - he knows he's out there to find birds - give him a chance - then - take him to the other trials and watch him give them a run for their money. Trust him - he can do it, believe me!

* * *

HONEST ENTHUSIASM and a desire to do the job will often put a young fellow ahead of an experienced old-timer who doesn't much care whether the job is done or not.

* * *

"No, thanks, I'll carry this one."

VIZSLA CLUB of IOWA ORGANIZES

by Mel Uhlenhopp

It was just an informal gathering, that last Sunday in October, but it sure was a nice turnout of people with a real spirit of cooperation for working for a new state Vizsla club. The membership was full of enthusiasm and optimism for the future and success of the Iowa Vizsla Club. Officers were elected: Joe Bentley, Independence, President; Mel Uhlenhopp, Wapello, Vice-Pres; Don Powell, Humboldt, Treasurer; and Tom Pratt, Secretary. The Board of Directors include Len Hartl, Muscatine; Dr. Phil Peterson, Paulina; Ben Prince, Belmond; Mike Curtis, Des Moines; and Dr. Leo Classick, Belmond.

The field trial was informal, but did not lack for quality or class because of that. Placings were as follows:

PUPPY STAKE (10 entries)

1 Weedy Creek Lobo, O/ Harold Wingerter, H/ Mel Uhlenhopp
2 Lady Bird, O/H Dr. Leo Classick
3 Irma, O/H Ben Prince, Jr.

DERBY STAKE (5 entries)

1 Weedy Creek Sasha, O/H Mel Uhlenhopp
2 Weedy Creek Lobo O/H Harold Wingerter, H/ Mel Uhlenhopp
3 Weedy Creek ChaCha, O/H Allen Hahn

GUN DOG STAKE (5 entries)

1 Weedy Creek Sasha O/H Mel Uhlenhopp
2 Weedy Creek Chacha O/H Allen Hahn
3 Bullet V. Selle O/H Tom Pratt

We had a nice day for the gathering. The hospitality of the Princes at the shooting preserve was exceptional. As a "reward" Ben Prince was named chairman of our spring field trial!

A DAY AT SPRING FARM

by Marshall E. Fink

That was the day of days for us -- our first hunting trip, and with our Vizslas. This may not be impressive to folks who hunt regularly as a way of life, but to us New York City people, it was a real eye opener.

Mike Varadian (who has two vizslas in L. I.) was our host at Spring Farm, Sag Harbor, N. Y. Warren Schnaars, the manager of Spring Farm is also a happy Vizsla owner. The group included my mother-in-law Gertrude Nestler (Marianka C. D. & Arpad, her dogs) my friend, Paul Zegi (Anka) and my wife and myself (Retes v Hunt and Yanka) -- it might be noted that the dogs, too, are related; a son and daughter of our dog in the group.

This was the first time out for the Fink family. After the first half hour of happy but untrained fun, the guide went back and brought out a good dog named Roscoe who showed us how to do it.

The preserve was full of pheasant and the weather and scenery ideal. Suffice it to say that after a couple of hours, Yanka got the message and flushed two birds for us -- our big thrill. We never knew of the fun of a hunt or that such places existed this close to NYC... perhaps other Vizsla owners will want to learn first hand about bird hunting. It's fun!

VIZSLA INTUITION

by Joan Hunt

When I was serving as British consul in Hungary, I had my first Vizsla, Kislany. She was eight months old when I got her, and she had lived in a one room apartment with her owner, who was rightly suspicious of all strangers... Kislany was extremely protective. She soon got used to her new routine and most afternoons accompanied me to the legation after midday dinner, taking over a big overstuffed chair as her property. She would lie quietly on my coat and ignore members of my staff (I was at the time acting Visa officer and interviewed visa applicants, also people seeking employment in the afternoon.) I soon realized that although Kislany could not see my visitors nor they her, by reason of the chair's position, she was extremely sensitive to their aura, and from time to time her hackles would rise and she would growl quietly to herself. I never found her judgement to be at fault. If something were wrong, or an applicant was dishonest, Kislany seemed to be aware of it.

At home, there was a lover's walk just outside the house and people passed by all the time. She would lie asleep in her chair the most of the time, but occasionally would suddenly leap to the floor and start to bark. Invariably, investigation would disclose that our Secret Police were on the prowl or some suspicious person was around.

How she could sense the difference I do not know, but she did. She was quite a gal and responsible for many things!

ONE PICTURE WORTH 1000 OUCH WORDS.....

"O. K. guys, I did the 'ho, ho, ho,' bit for the Christmas party, now how do I get this beard off?" Phoenix Boy seems to be saying. Actually, this bit was done mid summer on the Plains of Canada... and it is not whiskers, but porcupine quills! Winner of this month's picture contest is Paul Sabo, Waynesboro, Ga, with this picture of Ross Eggestein's pup. He comments, "It takes at least 3 hours under a tranquilizer to get them removed and then the dog usually has a two or three day session like a drunken sot sleeping it off! Come the next time out; damned if they don't do it all over again. One dog was into 'em on 10 different occasions!"

WITH SAD HEART it was learned that Bessie (Mrs. V. V.) VanDivort collapsed and died suddenly on November 5. Mrs. VanDivort, active in many Masonic affiliated organizations, was conducting a service at the time. Bessie is well remembered by the many Vizsla owners who met her at the Muscatine Spring Field Trial. The sympathy of the entire Club goes out to our friend, Van VanDivort, address, 27044 Fort Meigs Rd. Perrysburg, Ohio.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

(September, October, November & December)

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JANE GRAFF, Editor

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