



VIZSLA NEWS

i n s p i r e d b y a v i s z l a

Breeding - how simple is it?

by Katalin

Firstly, one must remember that as a breeder you have a responsibility to the breed, and to those who buy the puppies. A responsible breeder will produce puppies that have all the qualities of a true Hungarian Vizsla.

To like your own dog and fulfill the few rules that are set, to allow dogs to be bred, is far from enough. Officially, a breeder might have fulfilled the demands of the kennel club and received pedigrees for the puppies. But the question is whether the puppy-buyers will be satisfied when their dog grows up? Disappointed puppy-buyers may feel cheated and demand of a breeder to take back a faulty dog and refund their money. And there are more issues: some of those untypical dogs will go further into breeding, thereby spreading the bad genes.

A responsible breeder must have a good knowledge about the breed. Not only should a breeder know the standard and special qualities of that breed, they must also know the bloodlines of the dogs. When mating two dogs, you mate their mother, father, grandparents, the whole bloodline behind those dogs. Most of the good qualities and the faults come back in the second generation.

It is so important to know the backgrounds of the dogs you intend to use for breeding. It is far from enough that you like your dog, or that it has won some titles, trials, or has free hips. Two seemingly good dogs could have unacceptable offspring. That could result in

What could be easier than to breed?

Let two dogs mate and after 60 - 63 days you have a litter, after 8 - 10 weeks you have sold all the puppies and everybody is happy.

Is that really so?

the owners being disappointed, spending lots of money for a vet or even having that dog put down.

People usually brag about show results. Not many Vizslas are seen at shows, making it easy to win as the judges often have no idea how a Vizsla should look or behave. Fancy titles are worthless. But people admire it and advertise their dogs or the

puppies as of very exceptional quality just because one or both parents have show-titles. Many people breed with dogs who have titles, no matter how that dog looks or behaves.

Do not be taken in by the titles of a dog. Study the dog and its ancestors / pedigree before you think it is worth breeding. Hungarian Vizslas - like every other breed - have special qualities that make them true to their breed. If one does not know those special qualities, one may as well breed mixed dogs, they will be just as lovely and good.

There are some qualities of Shorthaired Hungarian Vizslas one must know of and recognize. A Vizsla should have the standard looks, the typical Vizsla temperament and hunting abilities. Only if all three of these qualities are found in a dog, can it be called a true Hungarian Vizsla.

• ***The looks:***

The color of the hair is the first to be noted. The Hungarian standard says the color is "zsemlesárga", which means French-roll

yellow. I want to point this out specifically, because more and more brown or red dogs are appearing. Unfortunately the English translation of the color is incorrect. It says the color of the Vizsla is “russet gold” which is not a correct translation of the Hungarian “zsemlesárga” (french-roll yellow, or baguette).

• **The coat:**

Always short and smooth.

• **The hind legs:**

The angles of the hind legs are moderate, medium, (not extreme, like the other gundogs’), a fact that nowadays sadly many judges don’t know about or ignore.

• **The head and expression:**

The head and expression of a Hungarian Vizsla is also very significant:

They have a very special noble head with exceptionally intelligent, human eyes, looking mildly and kindly. They talk with their eyes. The lines of the head are mildly rounded everywhere, no harshness, hardness, hard angles, nothing like this:

• **General features:**

The Vizsla should be an elegant but strong dog. Now what does that mean? It should not be strong as a Rottweiler, and nor should it be as fineboned as a Whippet or Greyhound. Very well balanced body; straight horizontal line of the back; low set tail (never carried over the line of the back); round feet. Even here every line is mildly rounded, no hard lines or hard angles, like this.

I’ve included pictures and comments of standard vs faulty Vizslas, hoping to make it more understandable.



TYPICAL, STANDARD



(ABOVE LEFT) A very beautiful Hungarian Vizsla male, elegance with strength, noble head and expression, correct (french-roll yellow) coat color, correct (moderate and medium) hind leg angles, correct (low set) tail

(RIGHT) Here is the picture of a beautiful Vizsla female. Straight, horizontal backline, good hind angles, good tail and color



VS

NOT TYPICAL, FAULTY



(ABOVE RIGHT) Male dog, overangled hind legs, dark red color, (disqualifying fault according to the standard) too strong, head too heavy, line of the back not horizontal and straight, tail too high



(LEFT) An example of a faulty female, sharp lines of head, dark color, utterly faulty hind leg angles and tail too high

TYPICAL, STANDARD

VS

NOT TYPICAL, FAULTY

Comparisons of heads and expressions



Examples of standard Vizslas with the typical intelligent, mild expression, Good color, good earsetting

MALES

Examples of faulty dogs: Hard expression, color too dark, edgy lines, faulty earsetting, muzzle too narrow



MALES



FEMALES



FEMALES

Examples of standard female Vizslas with the typical intelligent, mild expression, Good color, good earsetting

Examples of faulty females: Hard expression, color too dark, edgy lines, faulty earsetting, muzzle too narrow



NOTE: All the adult dogs shown in the pictures are very rich in titles