

The Vizsla

**AMERICA'S
NEW
GOLDEN
GUN DOG**



**FOR
HOME
FIELD
SHOW**

BREEDED BY

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The Vizsla... A Versatile Hunter—A Good Companion

THE HUNGARIAN VIZSLA

by Jenó Dus

Amicable American promoters of the Hungarian Vizsla have asked me to describe the origin, breed marks, measurements, character and use of this peerless hunter.

In meeting readily this well-founded and honored call, I wish to acknowledge my admirable companion's faithful services, as well, as to introduce his outstanding qualities to a warmly welcoming American public of experts, breeders and friends. Yet this guide is not only for patrons of the well-deserving Vizsla cause, but also a devoted token of a stranded Hungarian newcomer's gratitude for the high amount of good-will and profound understanding granted by generous American minds and hearts to him and to his favorite.

I, the old master, may well assure you, the new masters that the intent look radiating from the gleaming Vizsla eyes, expresses a pledge, identical with mine:

"I am loyal, honest and duty-bound."

Where the Hungarian Vizsla came from?

Along with the final descent of his Magyar masters, the origin of the yellow Vizsla is blurred by historical mist. There is no doubt, however, that his ancestors made their beats in the company of ancient Hungarian huntsmen across the great eastern steppes where until the 10th century the migration of the Asiatic tribes never came to an end. Primitively carved outlines of Magyar hunter, falcon and Vizsla in stones of old foggy times in spite of the rudimentary handling, exhibit the characteristically curved lines of the Vizsla anatomy.

Outside Hungary, yellow Vizslas are found in Turkey and Bulgaria. The people of these countries were in close contact with Hungarians for many centuries. We cannot trace, however, the ancestors of the Hungarian Vizsla in western countries.

Dr. Ferenc Korbas, an outstanding Vizsla breeder, expert and trainer, stated during his explorations and researches in Turkey that the Vizsla breed found in this country is identical with the Hungarian breed.

Documents of private and public archives as well as drawings, painting and sculptures amply confirm the natural conclusion that the Vizsla is a peculiar kind of Hungarian sporting dog, brought to the Carpathian girdled country in the year of the conquest, more than 1,000 years ago.

The first written evidences for his existence originate from the 11th and 12th century. The early Magyars of the previous centuries as bearers of an ancient (Sumerian) culture were excellent huntsmen and thoroughly versed in raising cattle and sheep. It was simply indispensable for them to breed and use dogs and hounds too.

Hunting was also the training field for fighting, and fighting was the basic vocation of Hungarian lords and squires in those feudalistic centuries. Nothing was more natural than to stick to their old-bred hounds. Later the breeds spread as required by the various types of country sides. Big games of the mountainous Transsylvania and North-Hungary called for deerhounds, the plain and rolling lands of Transdanubia and the river valleys abounded in small game and wild fowl, so they needed and bred setters, retrievers and pointers.

Many of the written documents about Vizsla breeds derive from the Turk occupation era in Hungary. (1526-1686) The name itself occurs chiefly in the correspondence between the Danubian provinces and the High Porta (Court of the Sultan in Istanbul) at the same time similar papers sent from Transsylvania deal only with the drive hound. This goes also for the letters exchanged by the aristocrats of that age. The spread of the Vizsla in those areas has hardly changed since then until 1945.

A large scale exploration has been initiated by the Hungarian Vizsla Club to dig up as many papers as possible. By 1944 the bulk of the material was ready for publication but in consequence of the ensuing turbulent circumstances nothing became known about these precious sources and their use.

Thanks to the courtesy of Colonel Vertessy the chairman of the Hungarian Vizsla Club, several facts have still remained in my recollection:

1.) A hamlet, called Vizslas in the Danube valley bore this name in the 12th century already proving that in its

environment many Hungarian Vizslas were to be found.

2.) A letter sent on June 11, 1569 by her son to the wife of the Hungarian Lord Chancellor, Tamas Nadasy reads: "... besides the falconer of Milady Baththyanyi says that his mistress has two Vizslas and three falcons, and would give me one of each if I asked for them."

3.) An artful initial in the famed Vienna Chronicle (a Hungarian codex deriving from the era of King Louis the Great, 1342-1382) exhibits the picture of the Vizsla. The chapter deals with the falconry of the high nobility.

4.) Hungarian historians and historical novelists, as the renowned Ferenc Herczeg, using their archival sources, make frequent mention of the favorite Vizslas of their heroes, one of which is Prince Ferenc Rakoczi the anti-Habsburgian insurgents' war-lord.

All this is to prove beyond doubt that the Hungarian Vizsla was bred and used by his Magyar masters at a time when neither the English pointer nor the German Vorstehhund nor the Weimarian existed. So the theory attributing Weimarian blood to the Hungarian Vizsla collapses all the more because no reasonable motivation would explain such a strange assumption as it is well-known that this species in his appearance, abilities, versatility and usefulness was never inferior to any other pointer breed; on the contrary, his virtues have always been surpassing the qualities of those breeds involved.

The purity and singularity of the race, apart from the characteristic yellow color of the coat is manifested by the fact that the specific breed-marks as found in the Vizsla, never occur in any other variety of the pointers.

The Vizsla... A Family Companion



Dogs! Everyone has seen and knows a great many different breeds and each breeds own certain specialties, but when you go to choose a puppy each member of the family wants a dog that fulfills their desires for the puppy. The father is likely to desire a dog that he can take hunting and demonstrate the alertness and birdy abilities of his dog to friends. Then again the father may not be the sporting type and may want a dog that can bring him his slippers and paper, that will greet him at the door. The mother will most likely hope to possess a dog that she can trust with her most precious possessions, "her children". A dog that will protect her from intruders any time of the day or night. One thing a woman wants is a clean dog, one that will not shed hair, that will be difficult for her to remove from rugs and furniture, and that can be easily trained to allow you to know his wants.

Children love dogs and they need a dog to play. An intelligent dog can be trained to protect and guard a child from running out into a busy street. We have all at one time or another read of how heroic dogs have saved their little charges from drowning, being hit by a car or have summoned help. There are many dogs that could fill anyone of the above uses, but it is not practical for most families to own more than one dog, yet, the Hungarian Vizsla can do just all these and more. One dog will satisfy; the housewife, the man of the house and the children.

Vizsla ... THE GOLDEN BIRD DOG OF AMERICA!

An Open Letter from Jenő Dus

Dear Mr. Janora

I shall gladly comply with your request to write about the Magyar Vizslas.

In 1954 I wrote the "Origin, Physical Appearance and Measurements of the Hungarian Vizsla" which an American gentleman, held in high esteem by myself, Frank J. Tallman (3900 W. Coloman Road, Kansas City, Missouri) had printed and published in booklet form.

I am enclosing a copy of this publication for you. In this pamphlet I did not elaborate on the working of the Vizsla. I'd like to mention one or two things relative to this.

It is my personal desire as well as of all hunters in general that the Vizsla should search before the hunter (whether is near the hunter or at a distance depends entirely upon the individuality of the hunter. The trial judge should be convinced of the demands of the hunter before the meet); he points the game, does not jump at the sound of the gun, finds and retrieves the game which has been shot or wounded.

The Vizsla has that in-born talent so that we can train him for the above mentioned. We must not think that the Vizsla grows up and that I can go out hunting with him without any training. The Vizsla descended from good parents, will search and point too, but not for the benefit of the hunter. Hunting with such an untrained dog, surely ends with much grief and anger. Therefore the Vizsla must be trained in the first place, then he must be accustomed to those activities which we demand of him.

Your Vizslas are very beautiful and faultless both in appearance and physically too. Their movements are rapid, elastic and graceful. Their stop is rapid and tense. I can only congratulate you on the specimens I have seen by you.

I wish that they get into the hands of a true hunter for then both will be very happy—the hunter and his faithful hunting mate: The Hungarian Vizsla.

Respectful greetings,
Jenő Dus

Mr. Jenő Dus



Foremost authority on the
Hungarian Vizsla



THE YELLOW POINTER OF HUNGARY

The Vizsla is a rare breed of Hungary. They are new in this country and are really making a good name for themselves, in the field and in the home. These dogs have been in Hungary for many years. They were mostly used for hunting and retrieving. As a rule a Vizsla is soft mouthed and very easily trained. He is extremely birdie, has a lot of stamina, and will hunt all day for the hunter who has trained him to do so. The Vizsla is used for pheasant, quail, grouse and retrieves ducks.

The Vizsla is a home dog as well as a field dog. He is fond of children and Mr. Dus tells me that in Hungary, parents leave small children completely in his custody around the house and yard. He will guard them and try to keep them out of trouble. The Vizsla is satisfied with just a rug in the hall to sleep on. He is able to smell an approaching intruder in his sleep long before any one else can see or hear one.

The Vizsla is striking in appearance and never fails to draw attention from strangers. They look good in a Jeep or a Cadillac. He is very alert in any situation. These dogs seem to adapt themselves to any climate. They are a dog of great driving power and never seem to be lazy or hard to play with. Their nature to work the ground carefully and pick up with their nose, the faintest scent and are ideal for man trailing.

PRICE AND GUARANTEE

A little about the Vizsla pups, I guarantee satisfaction on my pups. I guarantee live delivery and a 14 day inspection period. These pups are eligible for AKC and FDSB registration and absolute conformation to the official breed standard. You get a veterinary health certificate. All pups have their dew claws surgically removed and tails professionally docked to conform to official standards. My breeding stock has been radiographed and certified free of hip dysplasia.

A \$50.00 deposit will reserve a pup until you inform us to ship. Most of my dogs are shipped by airway express, it is faster and easier on the dogs.

The price on young pups is usually \$100.00 for either sex. As they grow older the price is higher, I also have brood bitches and older dogs for sale. My stud dogs are from some of the best bloodlines in the country, they all have very good noses, are alert and have a lot of desire to hunt.

THE VERSATILITY OF THE HUNGARIAN VIZSLA



Breed Character of the Hungarian Vizsla

THE GENERAL APPEARANCE of a Hungarian Vizsla in repose suggests dignity and subtle vigor, with a gentle appeal though. His nobly shaped medium sized, square body, exhibits a fair balance of poise and ease in movement.

THE SKULL of the graceful, dry head, shows extremely developed muscles. The top is moderately wide and bisected lengthwise by a slight furrow. A distinct stop is not desirable; the skull profile is prolonged in a mild arch to the muzzle.

THE EARS are positively long, low set and by no means fleshy. They fall in graceful folds flat to the cheeks, their lower part is rounded, the fine skin is well clothed with silky hair.

THE EYES are full but not prominent, they are set neither too close, nor wide apart. The lids close tightly, the white of the eyeball is not visible. The yellow of the iris may be lighter or darker than the hair, yet too light shade is not desirable.

CHEEKS . . . The muzzle is straight, somewhat longer than the skull, moderately tapering, and never pointed. The nostrils are of medium width, the nose should be dark yellow but flesh color is not objectionable: only slate or black nose disqualifies. The flews cover tightly both the upper and the lower jaws, they must not be loose and pendent.

The china colored teeth are strong; overshot or underhung jaws represent grave defects.

THE NECK is of medium length and well muscled, it is graceful, sloping and broadening into the shoulders, its skin is fairly tight, never wrinkled.

THE SHOULDERS, powerful and elastic, lay back obliquely to the body.

THE CHEST, not too broad but rather long, reaches down to the elbow. The distance from its top to bottom approximately equals the distance from the bottom to ground. Also the ribs behind the shoulders reach deep and are well rounded.

THE LOINS, short and slightly arched, are tied firmly to the spine.

THE BODY is well muscled and proportional.

THE RUMP is proportionally long, broad and sloping.

THE BELLY is moderately large and tucked up.

THE FORE LEGS are straight with strong musculature, also the pasterns show a straight line seen from all directions. The well set elbows show no declination to either side. The angle, formed by the upper thigh and shoulder blade is 110°-120°.

THE HIND LEGS are well muscled, and seen from the rear, straight. They are stretched backwards at an angle even in standing position.

THE FEET are furnished with well arched, tightly closed toes, both pad and toes are strong. Hard foot and wolf toes are faults.

THE TAIL is set low, slightly below the back level. Though cropping is prescribed to, to leave 2/3 of the length, complying with the general wish and usage, is mostly cut in half.

THE BACK is rather short, broad and muscular. Convex and concave curvature (Camel back or sway back) is objectionable.

THE COAT is silky, dense, the hair short; it lies close to the skin. Although there is no undercoat, the skin stands moisture and all kinds of weather well. Too thin and too short-haired coat (mouse coat) forbids eligibility for breeding.

THE COLOR of the coat varies from tan to yellow shades; sedge-yellow is characteristic of the breed. Dark brown and pale yellow colors are objectionable. Small white spots on breast or toes may occur, but the smaller they are, the better.

Scale of Points

Skull	10	Tail	15
Muzzle	15	Coat	10
Eyes-ears	5	Neck, breast, shoulders	10
Body and belly	10	Legs	10
Feet and toes	10	General appearance	5
Total 100			

In order to qualify the usefulness of the Hungarian Vizsla, we do well in comparing him with the best-known two breeds in the pointer line.

The English pointer has an extremely speedy dash and excellent scent. He points firmly but retrieves poorly. Not a too many-sided breed.

The German pointer is more versatile; he has a fine scent, retrieves and brings well, but at a moderate speed.

The Hungarian Vizsla unites the good faculties of these two pointers. Never nervous, he is quick, has superb scent, is reliable in retrieving, bringing and trace keeping. A peerless all-purpose gun-dog.

Measurements

Height — 19-5/8 - 24-3/8 in. (20 1/2-22 1/2 desirable)

Ideal Weight — 50-54 pounds.

By virtue of these facts, as the Hungarian Vizsla Club's Registrar of long service, and as Senior Expert in breeding, I cannot help refusing all theories and efforts displayed by non-Hungarian publications, aiming at a distortedly different representation of the Hungarian Vizsla's breeding and origin. Neither of Transylvanian, nor Bulgarian, and by no means of Weimarian origin, he is very, very old specially bred Hungarian pointer type.