

Vizsla Tales



A letter from the President;

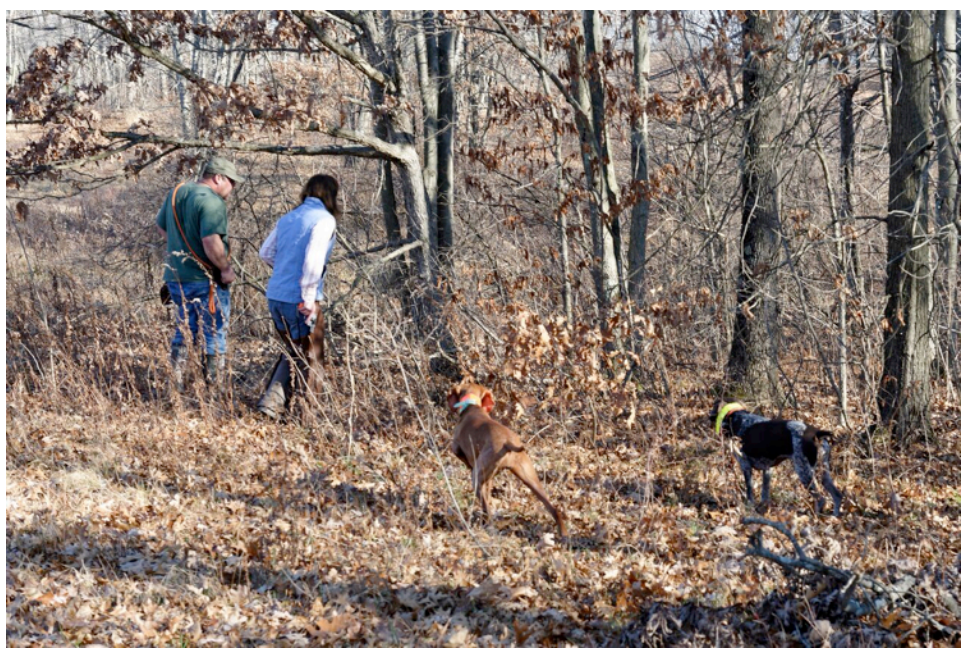
The Connecticut Valley Vizsla club had a very active year in 2016. Several events were held beginning with our annual holiday party hosted by club member Susan Nakamura on January 16th. The Winter Garden Specialty was held on February 13th and 14th. Our next Winter Garden Specialty is scheduled for February 11th and 12th, 2017. Two Hunt Tests were held the weekend of April 16-17 and again on November 19-20. The club hosted two Field Trials at Flaherty Field in East Windsor, CT on April 23-24 and December 10-11. The club's events continue to be very popular and are well attended. Finally, our Vizsla Fun Day was held on March 19th at Tails-U-Win in Manchester, CT. The event featured a class on agility along with a caricature artist who drew portraits of our dogs. We hope you will be able to attend one of our special events this year.

The CVVC Board of Directors meets monthly throughout the year. Our web page is updated regularly posting events, photographs, merchandise and event results. Please visit our web page at www.ctvalleyvizslaclub.org.



A message from

Flaherty Field



Good Afternoon,

I just want to pass this onto the membership that the Youth Hunt Day that was held this past Saturday on the Dearborn property of Flaherty was a huge success. The kids and their parents had a great time (some even took home birds) and the State of Connecticut's D.E.E.P had nothing but praises for our efforts in making this a successful event for everyone involved.

We were first approached by the D.E.E.P about the Youth Hunt Day last December. The State's official date was October 10, 2015 so this meant that we would have to juggle the Flaherty schedule in order to make that happen. I would like to thank Bob Fleury for being involved from the beginning of this project and for handling the meetings with the State in my absence. A special thanks to the S.N.E.B.C and Henry Wierzbicki for his help and for working with us making the necessary adjustments in the running of their fall trial to accommodate the Hunt day.

The high point of the day was of course the dogs and we had some great dogs and handlers who did a marvelous job with the kids. I would like to thank Cory Roy, Tracy Faber, Andrew Campbell, Tim Cavanaugh, Paul and Dawn Hill and Larry Gates for sharing their dogs and knowledge with the kids and their parents.

Thanks to Andrew and Tim for cleaning a few birds for some of the young hunters and thanks to Larry and Paul for keeping the birds supplied throughout the day. I would also like to thank Tracy for doubling as event photographer and finally a thank you to my brother Gary for coming up and taking care of the lunch duties and feeding everyone involved with the Hunt Day. All in all it was a good day, thank you all.

Sincerely
Rich Murphy
President Flaherty FTA

CVVC would like to thank Rich Murphy for his contributions as President of the Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Clubs Association. We wish him the best in his retirement!

It's Hunting Test time!

Our annual Hunting Test was held on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 - one test in the AM and a different test in the PM. I thought I'd tell you a little about this activity. If you've never seen a vizsla hunting, this is a good opportunity to watch our breed do what it was bred to do. If your dog has exhibited hunting/pointing ability, this is your chance to try him/her out in the field.

The following will give you an idea of what a Hunting Test is and what you might expect if you enter your dog.

A Hunting Test is an AKC sponsored event where you and your dog can earn titles: Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter, and Master Hunter. For this article, I will concentrate on Junior Hunter, including information on what happens and what is required of the dog to earn the title.

During their run, the dogs will be scored in four separate categories with scores that range from 1 to 10:

1. Hunting - the dog must exhibit a desire to find birds, and, while doing so, must work away from the handler. It must not look like you are out for a walk.
2. Pointing - A dog must point 50% of the birds it finds. It must hold its point for a count of three or so.

It may flush and even chase the bird once the pointing requirements have been met.

3. Bird Finding - your dog *must* find birds on its run--even one is fine.
4. Trainability - dogs should show willingness to follow your commands (to some degree at least) while it is on its run. It is not an obedience trial, but he/she should acknowledge that you exist!

In order to earn a leg towards its title, the dog must score an average of 7 with no score below 5. Four passes are required to earn the title.

Sound hard? It's really not--most of our Vizslas have the hunting and pointing instinct in them--it just needs to be brought out by the handler. There are several members of CVVC who are more than willing to answer your questions, including being able to tell you about trainers in the area. In addition, most of the judges you will have in the Junior Hunter class are very helpful and will answer any questions you have before, after, or even during your run.

For this test we are running what is called a 'double-header'. We will be running two tests, AM and PM on Saturday and the Southern New England Brittany Club

will be doing the same on Sunday. That way it will be possible to earn the four passes you need to earn your Junior Hunter title in one weekend!

In my experience working with Vizslas, I found this to be one of the venues where we had the most fun. Working together also enhances your bond with the dog and makes owning them more of a pleasure.

If you are still unsure about whether or not you want to enter, at least come out to watch some of the dogs run at our test. You will see dogs who love what they are doing--and can decide if you are interested in trying it yourself at some point.

Note: If you want the official requirements for the various Hunting Degree titles, this information can be ordered from www.akc.org (search Hunt Tests).

Good luck, and have fun with your Vizsla! John Morris

A Blast From the Past!



This is an old photo from June 21, 1999. Pictured from left to right are Linda Morris with KC, Sandy Jacobus with Spensir, Steve Tannenbom with Gus, Kim Himmelfarb with Pekoe and Dee Chuisano with Kalee.

Introducing Puppies to Game Birds

In preparing for my new puppy's upcoming hunt tests, it occurred to me that some of the training experiences we are having would be good information to share in my column. Introducing a young pup to game birds is an especially important piece of the initial hunt-training experience.

I have had the good fortune of learning to handle two Wirehaired Pointing Griffons under the expert guidance of professional trainer and North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association senior judge Tracy Harmeyer of Krystal Creek Kennels in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. Tracy has trained and successfully handles 12 dogs to both AKC hunt test titles and NAVHDA Utility Prizes, as well as 42 puppies in NAVHDA Natural Ability.

Harmeyer believes that puppies should be first exposed to birds at a very young age. What is most important is not exactly when but *how* puppies are introduced to birds. She believes that a young puppy's physical and developmental disadvantages make them especially receptive to bird exposure. For example, having less-keen eyesight encourages young puppies to use their noses to locate a bird in cover, their short legs and lack of endurance make it more difficult

for them to actually catch a live bird, and young puppies tend to be less fearful of new situations.

Live quail are ideal birds to introduce to puppies because they are smaller than other game birds. The puppy should first be allowed to smell the quail in your hand. Next, the quail should be released into short grass, so the puppy can still see the bird. The pup should be allowed to chase, catch, and carry the bird. This builds prey drive and interest in the bird.

Harmeyer says, "The dog has to want the birds so badly that they don't want anything else. They stay focused on just the bird."

At this point quail should be released into heavier cover. By pulling a few flight feathers on one wing, you'll make it so the quail can't fly very far. This allows the puppy to continue to search for the bird multiple times after it is flushed.

"Not being able to catch a bird builds desire to point," Harmeyer says, "because they want to sneak up on the bird next time so they *can* catch it."

The handler should continue to work with the puppy on quail. When the pup is completely focused on finding the bird, it is time to introduce the gun. Harmeyer stresses that the puppy must be chasing a bird, be totally

intent on just the bird, and not be distracted by anything else before a blank starter-pistol is shot from a short distance away and from behind the back. Most puppies will not take much notice of the shot if they are so completely engrossed in their chase and search for the bird.

With continued bird work, the handler can move closer with the blank pistol, working toward ultimately shooting over the dog. Once you are able to shoot over the dog, Harmeyer says it is time to introduce the shotgun--first from a distance, and gradually moving closer, as with the starter pistol.

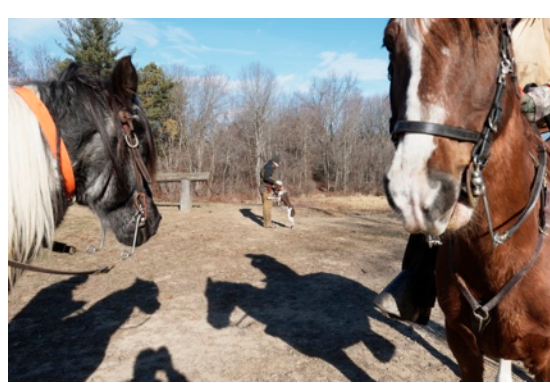
If hunt testing is in the future for your sporting dog, start your puppy early on game birds. Go slowly, and make it fun for your potential field champion!

Ann Allen

This article first appeared in the AKC Gazette October 2010 issue. It is reprinted with permission. To subscribe please visit www.akc.org

CVVC Hunt Tests, Field Trials and Holiday Party 2016







Kim Himmelfarb "Brag"

GCH CH Standing-O For Pekogait One Man Band JHA AXP OJP, "Ben" (owner: Kim Himmelfarb / breeder: Pamela Shaw-George):

9/19 Ox Ridge KC - Best of Opposite Sex (3 point GCH major)

9/20 Northwestern KC - Select Dog (3 point GCH major), to finish his GCH title with 7 majors

9/26 Talcott Mountain Agility Club - First Place, 20" Excellent Agility Jumpers Preferred

9/27 Talcott Mountain Agility Club - First Place, 20" Excellent Agility Jumpers Preferred

10/10 Longshore Southport Agility Club - First Place, 20" Excellent Agility Preferred

10/11 Longshore Southport Agility Club - First Place, 20" Excellent Agility Preferred, to finish his AXP title

Penlee Pekogait Here Comes The Sun, "Sollie" (owner: Kim Himmelfarb / breeder Betty Anderson):

8/20 Newtown KC - Winners Dog for his first 2 points

9/10 Cape Cod KC - Winners Dog / Best of Winners (1 point); Puppy Sporting Group First Place

9/11 South Shore KC - Winners Dog / Best of Winners (1 point); Puppy Sporting Group Second Place

10/4 CT Valley Vizsla Club Hunt Tests - 1st Junior Hunter leg

GCH CH Standing-O For Pekogait One Man Band JHA AXP AJP, "Ben" (owner: Kim Himmelfarb / breeder: Pamela Shaw-George):

11/20 LEAP Agility Club - First Place, 20" Excellent Agility Jumpers Preferred, to finish his AJP title

Penlee Pekogait Here Comes The Sun JH, "Sollie" (owner: Kim Himmelfarb / breeder Betty Anderson):

More Brags!

Pictured in her finishing photo with judge Janice Provenzano and Owner/Breeder?Handler Ida Kavafian is brand new Champion Bayview N Opus One's La Forza Del Destoni, better known to her friends as "ToniBaloney". All her points were earned from the Bred-By Exhibitor Class. Along the way, she won several Specialty and Supported Entry Best in Sweepstakes, Best of Winners at the Cleveland Specialty, Reserve Winners Bitch at the VCA Nationals as well as Best Futurity Bitch at the Nationals. Her sire is "Hudson" (Am Ch Olde Ridge Soar'n Pfalcon's Hudson JH ROM) and her dam is "Idalina" (Am Ch Britannia N Bayviews Ida One), who are both Top Producers for 2016, making this the sixth time that Hudson has earned Top Producer honors.

Owned and adored by Ida Kavafian, Steven Tenenbom, Lori Salb, Britt Jung and Lindsay Feters.
Bred by Lori Salb, Britt Jung, Lindsay Feters and Ida Kavafian





A note on Merchandise:

Merchandise can now be ordered directly from our vendor, Queensboro Shirt Company. All merchandise will have the CVVC logo embroidered on your items. There are many items available, shirts, sweatshirts, bags and more. If there is anything that you are looking for, that you don't see on the site, just let me know. More items can always be added. I can be contacted at srjac@att.net. The CVVC merchandise website is: ctvalleyvizslaclub.qbstores.com We will continue to have hats available at many of our club events. They can also be ordered on line. Please let me know if you have any questions and happy shopping.

Our new Paypal Account is located on our web site at www.ctvalleyvizslaclub.org. Membership dues can now be paid using Paypal. In addition, trophy donations for the CVVC Specialty may also be made using the online form along with Paypal.

Club Officers

John Smayda President
Marisa Fowler Vice President
Kimberly Markey Treasurer
Linda Morris Recording Secretary
Sandra Jacobus Corresponding Secretary

Board Members

Matt Ensero
Cory Roy
Kim Himmelfarb
Kim Karkut
Andrew Campbell

Calendar

January 14, 2017

Holiday Party, 79 Tromley Rd. East Windsor, CT 2:00pm

Winter Garden Specialty

February 12th, Rye Brook, N.Y

February 7th

CVVC Board Meeting, place TBD

Contributors

John Smayda
President - CVVC



John Morris

