

CONNECTICUT VALLEY VIZSLA CLUB, INC.

FALL/WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2014

# VIZSLA TALES



CVVC



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

 BANNER'S STORY  
BY DIANE BLISS

 MERCHANDISE...

 BRAGS...

 2014 HUNT TEST  
PICTURES

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo by  
John & Linda Morris

Happy Holidays, everyone! It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of another year!

It's been an event-filled year for CVVC, from Holiday Party in January to our upcoming Walking Field Trial in December--with Specialties, a Fun Day and a Hunting Test in between.

### New Things in 2014:

- The CVVC web site--check it out at [www.ctvalleyvizslaclub.org](http://www.ctvalleyvizslaclub.org). Don't forget to wear your hardhat, as it is still under construction.
- The 2015 CVVC Calendar Contest that culminated into a beautiful calendar. View page 5 to get a sneak-peek and learn how to order your own copy of it. Information will also be available on CVVC web site.

Hope to see some of you at the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Walking Field Trial and/or the January Holiday Party. (For particulars see the CVVC web site or Facebook page)

Linda Morris



Photo by  
John & Linda Morris

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You are responsible for evaluating the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, advice or other content in this newsletter. CVVC, Inc. reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any submission. Under no circumstances will CVVC be liable for any loss or damage that anyone incurs as a result of reliance on information obtained through this newsletter.



# BANNER'S STORY

BY DIANE BLISS



Photo by  
Diane Bliss

In the autumn of 2012, with an AKC Master Hunter title achieved years before but continuing to compete for fun, Banner (*CH Zarya's Star Spangled Banner MH*), my 8 year old vizsla, was ready for a new challenge. Always a natural swimmer, NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) seemed the perfect choice for Banner. We found a wonderful trainer near Saratoga, New York with access to many fields of varying terrains, ponds to work and a terrific group of like-minded, sporting dog enthusiasts. We were on our way....but not quite in the direction I'd had in mind.

As a puppy, Banner had been slightly roachy but as the years went by the arch in the middle of his back became more pronounced. He didn't appear to be in pain and he certainly wasn't compromised in his movement or stamina until one afternoon in February 2013. Banner walked into my bedroom and I heard a cracking sound. He sat down whimpering and trembling uncontrollably. I got him into the car and drove to my veterinarian's office. Dr. Sue Tanner examined him, took some x-rays and by the look on her face, I knew that Banner was in trouble. Sue looked at me with compassion and said, "Banner needs to see a neurologist right now. I'm sending you up to Dr. Todd Bishop at Upstate Veterinary Specialties. I'll call them and tell them you're on your way. Take the x-rays with you and we'll talk later."

After a harrowing 45-minute drive, we were ushered into a sitting room where we met with Dr. Bishop. He took a look at the x-rays and then gently but thoroughly examined Banner. He felt along his neck, back and hind quarters, tested his responses to pain stimuli and studied his movement as I walked him around the lawn and up and down steps.

Dr. Bishop suspected that a recent trauma...something as simple as slipping in snow in the backyard or twisting and torquing while catching scent in the field.... was causing the severe pain. Banner stayed overnight at the hospital and the following morning had an MRI which confirmed a potentially life-threatening but certainly life-altering diagnosis - degenerative intervertebral disc disease. Dr. Bishop suspected that the disease process had begun in response to a fracture of the spine suffered years earlier, perhaps during Banner's difficult birth. So much bone had grown around the fracture site that it had nearly destroyed three discs and was beginning to compress the spinal cord. Dr. Bishop recommended that we try a combination of pain medications as well as physical therapy in an attempt to relieve his pain, maintain his mobility and, perhaps, avoid a surgery for which there was no guarantee of a good outcome. In fact, there was only a 30% chance of improvement and an even greater chance that Banner would be paralyzed. I knew without Dr. Bishop saying it that performing this brutal surgery on a 9 year old dog was something he didn't even want to contemplate.

Banner was managed on pain medications and, most importantly, had twice weekly physical therapy sessions with Dr. Laura Perez. He worked for Laura during PT sessions the way he had always worked for me and his trainers in the field, enthusiastically and with joy. Nothing she asked of him was too difficult or too scary. He worked a regimen of active exercises and alternative therapies including acupuncture, laser, massage and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, walked on an underwater treadmill and swam in a hydrotherapy tank. For ten months, Banner seemed relatively pain-free and was back to most of his normal activities although not permitted to hunt or jump into or out of the car. Unfortunately, his disease progressed to include serious compression of the spinal cord with resulting loss in sensation and compromised mobility. Fearing waking up one morning with a paralyzed dog, it was clear to me and to Dr. Bishop by January 2014 that surgery was our only viable option.

The doctors and I were agreed, the surgery was not only to save Banner's life but to preserve quality of life. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Bishop performed a dorsal laminectomy, a surgery which lasted 7 ½ hours. Banner tolerated the surgery well but exhibited little movement, sensation or awareness of his hind quarters during the following two weeks. We all looked forward to the stitches being removed so he could once again get into the hydrotherapy tank which we hoped would stimulate movement while he was being supported in the water.



Photo by  
Diane Bliss

However, two weeks to the day of the initial surgery, Banner's bladder ruptured – a not uncommon consequence of being catheterized for two weeks. Dr. Bishop gently suggested that we not put Banner through another operation. After all, he hadn't yet initiated movement in his hind end despite repeated encouragement, ongoing range of motion exercises and sling-walking him outside just to give him respite from the hospital environment. I knew that under normal circumstances repairing a ruptured bladder is relatively straightforward so I pleaded with the doctors not to give up on Banner. The 3 ½ hour surgery was successful but hydrotherapy was postponed an additional two weeks to wait for this second incision to heal....an enormous setback. As if this wasn't enough, Banner developed a large pressure sore on his chest requiring surgical debriding and packing of the wound every day for weeks until it healed. The odds were definitely not in his favor.

But Banner beat the odds when, five days after the bladder surgery, without any indication that he could, Banner stood up. It is a moment that I will never forget nor, I suspect, will the doctors and vet techs who came running from all over the hospital when they heard me calling for help. Banner stood, leg muscles trembling with exertion, for about two minutes while we held our collective breath.

Banner came home after four weeks in the hospital, able to bear weight on his hind quarters but unable to walk without a sling. Not the outcome anyone had hoped for but several days later, again without any indication that he could, and to my utter astonishment, Banner opened the door of the 8 x 10 foot kennel in my room (why lock the door for a dog who can barely stand on his own?) and walked the 25 steps into my kitchen where I was making coffee.

As I write this, Banner's progress continues to be amazing. He runs, stretches forward and backward, scratches his ears with his hind legs, grooms himself and sits with ease...none of which was he able to do just a few short months ago. Best of all, he is hunting again quartering any terrain with ease and although his point isn't as lovely as it once was, his retrieves are efficient and always right to hand. In July, after watching my 4 year old vizsla bitch, Breeze, doing an unsuccessful duck search while training with our NAVHDA group, I sent Banner into the pond to cool off. To our delight, he found, pursued and retrieved the duck, his first ever, bringing it back to my hand seeming to say, "Now THAT'S how it's done."



Photo by  
Diane Bliss





## CVVC MERCHANDISE

Get Ready  
CVVC Style...



Photo by  
Jasmine Kovacs

### Hats & Tick Keys available for purchase.

Items will be available at the December Field Trial & CVVC's Holiday Party/meeting in January.

For more information contact Sandra Jacobus at [sriac@att.net](mailto:sriac@att.net)



Calendar Sneak Peek...

### 2015 CVVC calendar is now available for purchase!!!

The photos displayed in this calendar are the contest winners of the 2014 CVVC Calendar contest. These winning photos show the creativity of our members and the beauty of their wonderful four-legged buddies.

Not only do these calendars make great gifts for the holidays, but they are also great for keeping up with the dates for important CVVC events. All proceeds will go toward future club events for the benefit of our breed. This year the calendar will be sold for \$20, plus free shipping.

For more information contact Marisa Fowler at [viszl1@juno.com](mailto:viszl1@juno.com)

#### Your order options:

- Have order mailed to you by CVVC
- Or pick up calendar at the CVVC Walking FT on Dec 7th & 8th.

If you choose to have order mailed please send your order request to Marisa Fowler at 36 Nicholas Rd. Wallingford CT 06492. **Please make check out to CVVC, Inc.**

**Note:** Please allow 7 - 10 business days for order to arrive to you.

For those of you who would like to pick up a calendar and can get to Flaherty Field Trial Grounds in E. Windsor CT on Dec 6th - 7th, we will be holding our annual Walking Field Trial then. The calendar will be available for purchase at the Flaherty Field club house. You are also invited to stay for the wonderful Field Trial Dinner (\$10 per person) and Raffle, which will be start at approximately 5:30-6:00. Calendars will be available for purchase at future CVVC meetings & events.

If you would like to participate in our Dec Walking FT event and had not yet signed up please go to CVVC [website](http://www.cvvc.org) for event premium. **Entries close at 5pm Dec 3rd**, please get a hard copy of your entry and a check to the secretary by then.

Any question regarding calendar order(s) please contact Marisa Fowler at [viszl1@juno.com](mailto:viszl1@juno.com)



# BRAGS...

## Classic Toy Dog Club Agility Trial – Saturday, October 11, 2014



Standing-O for Pekogait One Man Band JHA, owned by Kim Himmelfarb, earned his Novice Agility Preferred Standard title at the Classic Toy Dog Club Agility Trial in Hamden CT on Oct 11, 2014 and his Novice Agility Preferred Jumpers title at the Longshore Southport KC Agility in Hamden CT on Oct 12, 2014.

"Ben" also won Winners Dog at Windham County Kennel Club for a 3-point major on Nov 21.

## Saratoga Kennel Club - Wednesday, August 6, 2014



Judge Ms. Elizabeth Sweigart/ dog Shenipsit's I Remember You/ dob 03/17/2011 Best of Winners  
Owner handler Marisa Fowler

## Albany Kennel Club - Friday, October 17, 2014



Mr. Filiberto Arniella/ Best of Opposite

## Troy Kennel Club - Sunday, October 19 2014



Ms. Judy A. Harrington Best of Winners





# 2014 HUNT TEST PICS

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DAVID MARGOLIN







## CVVC COMMITTEE GUIDLINES

For All CVVC Committees/Standing Committees,  
Event Chairs, and their Members



Photo by Dee Chuisano

Chairs and members who graciously volunteer to serve on any CVVC committee shall comply with operational guidelines put in place by the Board of Directors. These guidelines are shown below.

- Committee members are expected to support committee activities and events to the best of their ability.
- Committee members shall represent the best interests of CVVC and its membership.
- All committee members are to be involved in the planning and execution of events and support activities. All committee decisions are expected to be the result of a majority vote among committee members.
- Committees may seek help from outside CVVC if members lack required expertise and skills or do not volunteer. Associated expenditures shall be pre-approved by the Board.
- Committee and event chairs shall meet all AKC event filing and reporting deadlines (three months prior, seven days after).
- Committee and event chairs shall submit a proposed budget two (2) months prior to an event. Final reports shall be submitted to the Board of Directors within 30 days of the event unless an extension is granted by the Board. Proposed budgets and final reports shall conform to established CVVC formats.
- All checks, cash, and documentation of income and expenditures shall be submitted to the CVVC Treasurer within seven days of conclusion of the event. Receipts and expenditures shall be submitted to the treasurer within thirty (30) days after the event.

Revised and approved 7/23/2013



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

## DECEMBER 6TH - 7TH

CVVC Walking Field Trial  
Flaherty Field in East Windsor, CT  
For more information go to CVVC website

## DECEMBER 6TH




CVVC meeting to be held at the Field  
Trial Club House at 4:30pm,  
just prior to dinner

## JANUARY 10TH

CVVC's Holiday Party  
At the home of John and Sue Smayda  
136 Woodberry Hill Road, Southington, CT  
For more information go to CVVC website

\*\*\*Stay current on all  
CVVC news & events by  
visiting CVVC website or  
CVVC Facebook Group Page.

# DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
7 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 			

\*Please refer to the CVVC Website for locations not listed and possible date change.

## CVVC OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Linda Morris  
(860)585-8505  
[morislindak@comcast.net](mailto:morrislindak@comcast.net)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Marissa D'Andrea  
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### TREASURER

Kim Himmelfarb  
[pekogait@comcast.net](mailto:pekogait@comcast.net)

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Marisa Fowler  
(203)645-1570  
[visz11@juno.com](mailto:visz11@juno.com)

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Joan Toepke  
[jztvizsla@aol.com](mailto:jztvizsla@aol.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR

John Smayda  
(860)621-7803  
[jsmaydajr@cox.net](mailto:jsmaydajr@cox.net)

Sandy Jacobus  
[sriac@att.net](mailto:sriac@att.net)

Cory Roy  
[montyvizsla@hotmail.com](mailto:montyvizsla@hotmail.com)

Sue Makoski

Kim Karkut



Photo by  
Debra Steele



*"Share  
Pictures,  
Stay  
Connected,  
Make  
Memories"*



*Members  
Friends &  
Family  
Welcome*



## CVVC COMMITTEES

### RESCUE:

Marisa Fowler

203.645.1570

[viszl1@juno.com](mailto:viszl1@juno.com)

or

Amanda Tortora

[amanda52706@gmail.com](mailto:amanda52706@gmail.com)

### BREEDER REFERRAL:

Linda Morris

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### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

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### WEBMASTER:

Jasmine Kovacs

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### FUN DAY:

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[valleyvizsla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:valleyvizsla@sbcglobal.net)

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John Smayda

860.621.7803

[jsmaydajr@cox.net](mailto:jsmaydajr@cox.net)

### NEWSLETTER/PUBLICATIONS:

Jasmine Kovacs

914.319.4149

[ctvalleyvizslaclubjk@gmail.com](mailto:ctvalleyvizslaclubjk@gmail.com)

### OBEDIENCE:

John Morris

860.585.8505

[reddogsmorris@comcast.net](mailto:reddogsmorris@comcast.net)

### FIELD TRIAL: Audra Jaconetti

[birdygirl420@verizon.net](mailto:birdygirl420@verizon.net)

### CONFORMATION:

Ida Kavafian-Tenenbom

(203)746-3466

[vizslas@aol.com](mailto:vizslas@aol.com)

or

Joan Toepke

(914)242-1858

We welcome members to any of our committees. Just let us know if you would like to join one or more of our committees or if any corrections to this list are needed. Each committee reports to the Officers & Board of Directors of CVVC.

**NOTE:** CVVC president sits as a member on all committees, but only votes if there is a tie.

\* denotes chair

+denotes communicator

### \*ADVERTISING RATES\*

- Cover Page Photo with Full Page Story (300 words) \$35
  - Full Page with Photo (300 words) \$23
  - Full Page with no photo(300 words) \$21
  - Half Page with Photo (150 words) \$13
  - Half page with no photo(150 words) \$11
  - Quarter Page with Photo (65 -70 words) \$9
  - Quarter Page with no photo (65 -70 words) \$7
  - Litter Announcement with photo (45-50 words) \$6
  - Litter Announcement with no photo (45-50 words) \$0
- (Free to Members)

- Show Win / Brags with photo (25-30 words) \$2
- Show wins / Brags with no photo (25-30 words) \$0
- (Free to Members)
- Apply Additional photo \$2

**\*Additional fee may be applied if word limit is exceeded.**

**\*Any dog ads need to include dam and sire names and if dog is over 2 needs to include their OFA number.**

For more information on how to get your dog(s) story into CVVC next issue contact Jasmine Kovacs at [jasminekovas0523@gmail.com](mailto:jasminekovas0523@gmail.com)



[WWW.CTVALLEYVIZSLACLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CTVALLEYVIZSLACLUB.ORG)