



BULLETIN

A bimonthly newsletter for the members and friends of the VCOI

2003 National Field Champion FC AFC NFC Lakeside Sunny Girl Selle



FC AFC NFC Lakeside Sunny Girl Selle

AKC #: SM 93312407

OFA #: VZ 24827-G48F

Sire: DC Rebel Rouser ET ROM HOF

Dam: Lakeside Tizzie Whiz-Bang MH

Breeder: George R. Noren

Owners: John D. Parod and George R. Noren

Sunny was special from the day she was selected for John out of Tizzy's final mating with ET. Besides being very naughty -the last pup to submit to her demanding Mother-Sunny proved to be very athletic and stylish. At the age of nine months, Sunny was placed in the hands of Hank Rozanek in the hopes repeating the accomplishments of her older brother; DC AFC Lakeside Luke Skywalker MH ROM .Our expectations were to be rewarded "in spades" over the next eleven years.

At the age of eleven months, Hank placed Sunny second in both the Puppy and Derby stakes at the VCA

Field Championships. The following year Sunny again finished second at the VCA Nationals and was in the Top Ten Puppy Derby. Hank then broke Sunny and proceeded to finish her FC and placing her third at the 1997 AKC Pointing Breed-one hour non retrieving-Championships.

Sunny was then brought home to Minnesota where John proceeded to campaign her for her AFC. Like Luke, John walked Sunny in all trials, which were for the most part all-breed horseback stakes. John then moved to Virginia where Sunny finished her AFC at a GSP trial. Prior to heading to Virginia, Sunny was given to Greg Dixon to run in the 2001 AKC Pointing Dog All Breed Championship where she placed second in the retrieving stake.

In the Fall of 2001, Sunny was given to Greg Dixon just one day prior to the running of the VCA Gun Dog Championship in Hagerstown MD where she placed third. Then three weeks prior to the 2003 VCA Gun Dog Championship, Sunny was placed in the able hands of

Bobby Seelye who brought out the best of this amazing dog and brought home the coveted NFC title just three weeks shy of her twelfth birthday. A title that Luke's son DC NFC Csardas Lakeside Zephyr SH had accomplished the year before.

John had conditioned Sunny for the VCA Championship by running her each morning in a soybean field or on the twelfth hole of a golf course, which were both near his home. This workout consisted of two to three ten minute wind sprints. Then each afternoon he walked her for one hour. This regime paid its dividends as Sunny drew an afternoon brace in the first series when the temperature was 87 degrees. Her race was consistent and wide-ranging. In the two series, Sunny handled eight coveys .Her fine performance was then capped off by a long blind retrieve with the bird being delivered to hand.

We are both very grateful to have a dog like Sunny and are particularly appreciative of her training and handling by Hank Rozanek, Greg Dixon and Bobby Seelye.

President _____

Wanda Berner ~ Began 2003
W342 S3976 Moraine Hills Dr
Dousman, WI 53118
(262) 392-9469
WSBerner@aol.com

Vice President _____

Gina Ordonez ~ Began 2003
301 E Wrightwood
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 833-5933
GOrdonez99@aol.com

Treasurer _____

Jeff Engelsman ~ Began 2002
21 W 740 Glen Crest Dr.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Engelsman@juno.com
(630) 858-9043

Secretary _____

Linda Busch ~ Began 2003
2643 Keith Rd
Winnebago, IL 60188
(815) 335-7673
lindabusch@att.net

Board of Directors _____

Cathy Gallagher ~ Began 2003
1405 Surrey Lane
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 458-5886
siennapointe@dls.net

Mark Vitkauskas ~ Began 2003
16855 S. Forest View Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 614-9714
B.vit@attbi.com

Lois Greffin ~ Began 2002
26525 W. Hickory Alley
Ingleside, IL 60041
(847) 587-7299
roylo@mc.net

Greg Hedien ~ Began 2002
W 89 Circle Dr.
Mundelein, IL 60060
(847) 566-6655
ghedien@wje.com

Dennis Nowak ~ Began 2003
2820 Brook Ct.
Joliet, IL 60435
(815) 439-0720
DNowak@famnid.com

Michel Berner ~ Began 2002
308 E. Prairie St.
Boscobel, WI 53805
(608) 375-2744
MIRAvizslas@mchsi.com

Breeder Referral

Tony Ordonez
301 E. Wrightwood Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 833-5933
Tonyordonez@aol.com

Specialty Standing Chair

Kathy Harmer
7541 Edwardsville Rd
Rockford, IL 61102
(815) 963-3039
polarkap@aol.com

Bulletin Editor & Webmaster

Michel Berner
308 E. Prairie St.
Boscobel, WI 53805
(608) 375-2744
MIRAvizslas@mchsi.com

Field Trial Supernumerary

Greg Hedien
W89 Circle Drive
Mundelein, IL 60060
(847) 566-6655
GHedien@WJE.com

Midwest Vizsla Field Futurity Standing Chair

Rodney Albin
2445 Carter Rd
Moscow Mills, MO 63362
(636) 366-9746

AKC Public Education & Program Chair

Christine Quaid
2018 Brandon Lane
Glenview, IL 60025
(847) 729-6299

Hunt Test Supernumerary

Patty & Dennis Nowak
2820 Brook Ct.
Joliet, IL 60435
(815) 439-0720
DNowak@famnid.com

Membership Chair

Linda Busch
2643 Keith Rd.
Winnebago, IL 61088
(815) 335-7673
Lindabusch@att.net

Volunteer Coordinator

Tim Dyer
135 Stott St.
Genoa, IL 60135
(847) 784-2816
havocvizslas@tbcnet.com

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI or it's Board of Directors.

The VCOI endorses the efforts of the VCA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs, and encourages it's members to use only normal breeding stock.

Advertising Rates Per Issue:
Half Page \$10.00 Quarter Page \$5.00 Business Card \$2.50 Color ads (any size) \$250 per issue to cover additional printing costs.

Ads are limited to one half page per family per issue. Editor may limit advertising due to space limitations. Half Page / Quarter Page ads may contain a three (3) generation pedigree. Business Card ads may contain the name of sire and dam only.

All ads must be paid in full before printing and contain the full OFA rating of the sire and the dam. Copies of the OFA certificate must be sent with the ad.

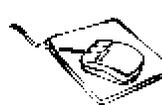
Deadline for submission to the Bulletin is on the first of each even numbered month. Deadlines are non-negotiable!

Cover stories are limited to one per family membership in a 12 month period. Color covers are available for \$250 to cover additional printing costs.

All brags, articles, and submissions must be submitted in writing either through the minutes or directly to the Editor.

All photos submitted to the Bulletin must include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Photos without return postage will remain the property of the VCOI. Exception to the cover photo, which will be returned at the VCOI's expense and include a computer generated color copy of the Bulletin cover.

Bulletin Covers	September 2004 ~open
March 2004 ~C. Gallagher	November 2004 ~open
May 2004 ~Lykowski	If your dog has completed a prefix title (CH, FC, AFC, CT, MACH etc.) and you want to reserve a cover, contact Michel Berner miravizslas@mchsi.com
July 2004 ~open	



Virtual Vizsla
VCOI Website: www.vizslclubofillinois.org
Subscribe to the VCOI e-mail list:
VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoo.com

For all of your Gun Dog needs
www.dogsunlimited.com
The owner, John Ingram, also owns Vizslas and is able to answer any of your questions about fitting, etc.

SECRETARY REPORT

VCOI Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2003

The November 19th meeting of the VCOI was called to order by the President Wanda Berner, at 7:27 p.m. at the Pine Grove Restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois. In attendance were members: Wanda Berner, Michel Berner, Linda Busch, James Busch, Jack Hanlon, Gina Ordonez, Tony Ordonez, Kathy Engelsman, Jeff Engelsman, Larry Lykowski, Patty Nowak, Dennis Nowak, Greg Hedien, Teresa Curtis, Jeff Parise, Kevin Berta, and Cathy Cook.

Reports:

Board of Directors – none,

President's Report – none,

Secretary's Report – none. Motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Passed.

Christmas party/Awards banquet – Wanda read a report from Cheryl Lykowski, chairman of the dinner. Everything is set and will be pretty similar to last year's dinner.

It was mentioned the AKC has added a new paragraph at the bottom of the premium entry forms.

Treasurer Report – Jeff Engelsman gave his report and we have a favorable bank balance. Gina Ordonez reported on the treasurer's audit prepared by You See Solutions with Gina's help. She passed a report to everyone and explained the findings. The purpose of this audit was because we had not had one for a considerable amount of time; to suggest possible strategies for streamlining processes; examine revenue/expense categories with unfavorable outcomes; determine reasons for declining bank balance; and provide outlines for Treasurer to provide board with revenue/expense statements. Findings were: Conformation event trophy donations do not cover cost of trophies; field trials and hunt tests had favorable outcomes; had potential loss of revenue due to bad checks; membership dues do not cover cost of newsletter, website, and insurance; expenses for double bubble weekend exceeded the revenue; and other venues had positive outcomes. Members and Gina went page by page over the report and made suggestions for the future. Michel moved that all checks generated

by any event must be mailed to the treasurer within seven days of the conclusion of the event. Patti N. 2nd. Passed. Gina moved to give Terry Farmer, Pres. and CEO of You see Solutions a big and a small Vizsla calendar for his work on the report. Michel 2nd Passed.

Winter Walking Field Trial – report given by Linda Busch stating everything is set and ready to go, and we can take a few more entries.

Awards Dinner – Larry Lykowski reported that he needs material for the "roast" at the dinner. Anyone knowing of any embarrassing, funny, or eventful news from Vizsla events he can use, to please contact him.

Wheaton Supported Entry show – Cheryl Peterson is buying the trophies and has donations.

Feb. Hunt Test – Nowaks: They are finding judges now. Manuel Chavez training to judge has agreed to judge but needs someone with experience to be with him. They still need three other judges. Mike Dalby will be Capt. Of the Guns.

Futurity Report – Wanda: Wanda gave a report based on info received from Rodney Albin, Chairman of the Futurity. So far 17 litters have been nominated for 2004, but only 7, 8, or 9 are renominated. For 2005 one pup is already renominated and so far 13 or 14 litters have been nominated.

Spring Field Trial -Tony Ordonez stated since we have a small futurity this year, perhaps we should have another stake on Friday and it was agreed by those in attendance. He has the judges slated for the trial already.

Field Trial Clubs of Illinois – Greg Hedien stated the winter meeting is Jan. 4, 2004, and he will contact Carl Wilbur to ask him to attend. A reminder was made that the \$1.00 per dog fee to FTCL should be sent in to them within one week of the trial's end. Greg also mentioned that the Des Plaines Conservation area people want each club to work or be fined. It was stated they need to tell us when they want us. The fence putting up and taking down project discussed in earlier meetings never materialized.

Site M event: The possibility of

having a fun/training day at Site M was discussed, but it was generally felt that new people will not travel that far for a training day especially since the weather may be bad or too cold. Jim Busch agreed to work with Carl Wilbur to host an AKC field trial at Site M in March 2004. Mark Johnson had informed Wanda he would like to do the field trial handler's seminar. Since his training will be more slated towards the new people interested in field trailing, it was felt we should also have a training seminar for beginning hunters and hunt test people. Nowaks agreed to ask Roy Greffin to host such an event. Discussion ensued regarding the best time and place for the seminar. Early summer was deemed most suitable for getting new members out to a training event rather than in winter. Busch Farm is available for the training events and Jim Busch will contact Mark Johnson and Roy Greffin regarding a suitable date for each event. Ottawa Field Trial Association – Wanda: Wanda attended the meeting and noted that the fence still is not in. She said approximately 10 people attended the meeting this time as opposed to just two of them last time.

VCOI Calendar – Cathy Gallagher: Cathy reported that sales have been excellent for the calendars and we will most likely have to reorder the larger ones soon. The small pocket calendars are 3 for \$10.00. The large wall calendars are \$15.00 each or 5 or more @ \$13.00 each. The members thanked Cathy for an excellent job. Michel and Wanda resigned from doing the calendar contest. Gina volunteered to take over for next year. She stated that photo-paper quality pictures 8 x 10 are needed for best results. Linda volunteered to call Andrea Barker (club member and graphic arts person) to ask her if she would put the calendar together for next year.

June Hunt Test – Cathy Gallagher and Cheryl Lykowski are chairing the event.

July Specialty – Kathy Harmer is chairman. No report.

Double Bubble – Jeff Parise had volunteered last summer to coordinate activities for 2004 July event.

Fall '03 Hunt Test – Jeff Engelsman reported we had a very

favorable profit with 124 entries/121 started dogs.

Nomination Committee – Michel chairman of the nominating committee stated the following Board member's terms are up this year: Lois Greffin, Greg Hedien, and Michel Berner. Also all officers terms are over. She said to please call her if you are interested in running for a position.

Jeff Engelsman stated he had filed the tax forms and paid the insurance.

Wanda asked if anyone had brags for their dog(s). It was mentioned that:

George Noren's and John Parod's Sunny Girl Selle won the National Field event in North Carolina earlier in the month.

John Reid's DC Onpoint's Tuff Stuff FD TT (Tuffy) was the #1 Open Gun Dog on the Top Ten in the VCA news bulletin just out, and her son, CH Onpoint's Tuff To Beat (Eddie), is the #1 Puppy/Derby dog.

Linda Busch's Chevee is #2.

Wanda Berner's FC/AFC Strider's TNG JH CGC (Gennie) is the VCA's Field Trial Dog of the Year and Wanda accepted the traveling trophy at the awards dinner at the National event.

Engelsman's JNEK's Commander In Chief (Joey) won his 15-18 months class in Sweepstakes at the Nationals.

Cathy Gallagher reported her Callie is the offspring to the 3rd place Brood Bitch at the nationals.

Master Agility Ch. Gabaielle Winfield CGC who graces the cover of the directory this year recently passed away. It was mentioned what a terrific tribute to her to be the first color cover.

Discussion ensued regarding also offering the cover of the news bulletin in color to club members. The cost would be approximately \$250.00, and people can also submit colored ads for the same fee of \$250 to cover printing costs.

Jim Busch stated only one person guessed at the quote of the month and it was not correct. The correct author was Sam Snead. It was in his obituary in Newsweek magazine recently.

Motion made and passed to adjourn. Time 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Busch, Secretary

EDITOR'S DESK

I hope everyone enjoys the new look of the Bulletin. Some things have been moved around, but most importantly, we have a new printing company! Hopefully we will never see another bad picture again!

I am still in the process of updating the VCOI website, but at press time, we had over 11,000 hits to our site since I took over two years ago. On average, we get 5 e-mails a week with questions from puppy owners about training, people interested in field trials, and probably about 5 more a week that are sent directly to our Breeder Referral.

On the home front, "uncle Trav" is adjusting quite nicely to having Marley around. His new job is to wear her out, and he takes it seriously. I think there is a path worn in the linoleum from the hours of keep-away and other dog games that happen in my kitchen. Of course the other job he has is to tattle on her whenever she is naughty...there will be no running amok when Uncle Trav is on the job!

We haven't done any formal bird work yet, but we have gone on lots of "big adventures" around Busch Farm. This little girl is catching on quick! Watch for her in puppy stakes in late spring...

Michel, Travis & Marley

PREZ SEZ

Here it is a sunny day and reasonably warm out and I'm inside writing this instead of training or hunting. Darn it. By the time you read this Christmas and the December field trial will be history, but I'm still trying to get ready for both right now.

I want to remind you all to sign up for the club email site. It really is low volume in mail, but invaluable to getting information out to club members. This morning I received the first VCOI mail in days, but it was good news. Lykowski's finished their Ziggy in conformation! They aren't computer members, but Cathy Gallagher emailed us all to share the great news. Come and join us and share in the experience. It is simple to do. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to :
VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com .

It is great to see so many young members that are starting to compete with their dogs. Mark Spurgeon drove all the way to NC to compete in Nationals. Thersa Curtis was there for the first time too. I hear Jeff Parise has bought a horse or two and maybe a trailer. Even if you are not competing or don't know how to yet, it pays to come and join the event. You learn about people, the dogs, the different breeders, different lines of dogs and so much more. Remember the only way to learn is to watch and ask questions. Ride or walk the fields with the old timers. Listen to them talk at the judges dinners. You can't pay for the amount of information they have stored in their heads and it is available just by eavesdropping! Sit at ringside and watch and listen and learn. At all events you attend you can try to judge for yourself who the winners will be. See if you can determine why the judges picked the dogs they did. Ask others who they like and why. This club has produced some of the top dogs in the country in every venue. Why not learn from the best?

Wanda Berner

DECEMBER FIELD TRIAL RESULTS

Judges for all stakes: Jerry Jordan and John Houck

Amateur Limited Gun Dog

1. Cherokee's Jazzmin of Shiloh Robert Tomczak
2. Saginaw T. Jack Mark N Johnson
3. Desert Storm's Billie Barry Peterson
4. Saginaw Dandy Sue Mark N Johnson

Open Puppy

1. My Lil Mel-Annie Joe Duffek
2. Macgyver Rebel Rising Kevin McLean
3. Mayfly of Grace Richard Hunt
4. Blazin's Takin' Chances Kevin Berta

Amateur Gun Dog

1. Cherokee's Jazzmin of Shiloh Robert Tomczak
2. Onpoint's Wilde Card Kate Kirk Potter
3. Saginaw T. Jack Mark N Johnson
4. Shiloh Madach's Mishka Robert Tomczak

Open Derby

1. Chevee Linda Busch
2. Crimson's Twenty-Gauge Ruger Mark Spurgeon
3. My Little Mel-Annie Joe Duffek
4. Onpoint's Cassanova Dina Spero

Open Limited Gun Dog

1. Cherokee's Jazzmin of Shiloh Robert Tomczak
2. Desert Storm's Desirae Barry Peterson
3. Saginaw T. Jack Mark N Johnson
4. Upwind Shiloh Mark of Zorro Robert Tomczak

FIELD TRIAL HANDLING SEMINAR

The VCOI will be conducting a Field Trial Handling Seminar in the near future - plans are still being made and dates will be determined.

If you would be interested in attending or helping, please contact Michel Berner
miravizslas@mchsi.com or 608-375-2744 to be added to the list.

Please include name, address, phone, and e-mail address so we can contact you when the details have been ironed out!

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD TRIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mark N Johnson

Field trialing is an old sport with roots in the U.S. going back to southern plantation days where debates between dog owners about who owned the "best" bird-dog were often settled by pairing dogs off to hunt the southern pines. A designated judge of the dogs decided who had the "best" dog that day. Well, over a hundred years have passed since those early days and two (2) significant governing organizations have evolved and now oversee, track, administrate, communicate, and arbitrate several thousand field trial events each year. These organizations are: THE AMERICAN FIELD/AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF AMERICA/FIELD DOG STUD BOOK - Chicago, Illinois (312)663-9797 and THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, Raleigh, North Carolina (919)816-3199.

The AKC and American Field's trial communities conduct events which are similar in their discrimination of: puppy/derby (juvenile) stakes from adult gun dog/shooting dog stakes: in their segregation of amateur stakes from open stakes and in their segregation of horseback from foot handled stakes.

Beyond these similarities, variation begins in areas such as: age standards for derbies, performance standards (i.e., gun dog vs. shooting dog) and rules of conduct and etiquette (i.e., horse speed and scouting practices during the running of braces.) so... what's the message so far? Hopefully simply that "you gotta know the rules of the game BEFORE you pay and play." Most of you would never think of heading off to get an Illinois drivers license

before you read the states RULES OF THE ROAD so why drive miles and miles – spend lots of time, energy and money, if you are not totally comfortable with what will be expected of you and your dog once you get to the trial?

Around this part of the country most (est. 80% or more) of the weekend field trials are licensed by the AKC, therefore the principle rules and procedures to know are spelled out in the AKC booklet FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR POINTING BREEDS. This 60 page booklet is updated periodically. For purposes of this article the areas that should be read and reread are the performance standards for: puppy stakes, derby stakes, gun dog and limited gun dog stakes and all age and limited all age stakes. The sections dealing with honoring, bracing, courses, running and handling as well as retrieving standards should also be carefully studied. For those few trials run under AMERICAN FIELD/AFTCA standards suggested reading is 'GUIDELINES TO FIELD TRIAL PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL PRACTICE. Subscribing to the AMERICAN FIELD (published weekly) will also keep you abreast of AF activities. The regulatory publications can be downloaded at www.akc.org and www.americanfield.com.

Lets visit a few other areas of importance in the world of field trials...field trials are about winners and all the rest on

that day (refer to roots). It's not a game of pass or fail, it is about winning or placing in a given stake, as measured against a given standard, on a given day. Your and your dog's diligent preparation, and oh yes, all that comes with "the luck of the draw" (i.e., brace mate, time of day, course conditions, whether etc.) are then tested.

This really points out the two (2) distinct elements of field trialing. Those being: owning, developing and training a dog AND competing against all of the other dogs entered in a given stake, against a standard on a given day. This article has not dealt with training, which is a different world that will be covered in later installments. And the realities are you can't win if you don't have a well trained and physically fit dog without clearly knowing the rules of the game and vise versa. While field trials have rules, procedures and practices, the reality is that is a rather subjective game that is judged by folks who love the sport, have experience and are willing to give up their time and money to put some objectivity into the weekend. All things being equal (never really can happen) judges will separate dogs based upon: manners, application, power and stamina, style and class, hunt, bid ability, range and rest of the actual performance they SEE in the 15-60 minutes the dog was down. These are all areas we'll explore next issues.



Let's summarize a little:

- 1) Field trials have unique performance and governance standards
- 2) Field trials have winners and those that didn't
- 3) Knowing the rules does not guarantee success but it sure is an important place to start and
- 4) Something I kind of omitted in the article is the concept of sportsmanship being a guiding principle in the game of field trialing

The next article will deal with " what to do when you get to the trial" and will

include more on sportsmanship and etiquette. Direct any comments or questions you may have to mjohnson6344@wideopenwest.com. See ya. Mark

Editor's Note: Mark Johnson is a member of the VCOI and Vizsla Club of America for 20 years, and has owned and campaigned Vizslas exclusively since that time. Mark has placed dogs over 100 times in AKC and AF field trials, and Judged nearly 100 field trials, most held by breeds other than Vizslas. Mark is a strong believer that breed specific field trials should be judged by people outside of the breed. He is a past President of the VCOI, served on the Board of Directors of the VCA, member of National Vizsla Association, and on the Board of Directors for the Field Trial Clubs of Illinois. His dogs have been 100% amateur handled, however he counts several professional dog trainers in the area as personal friends and doesn't hesitate to utilize the expertise of a pro to fix problems or take over during the breaking process.

Mark is the Owner/Handler of several noted field trial Vizslas including FC AFC Saginaw Dandy Sue SH, and DC AFC Mehagian KRC's Phoenix Fridge, pictured above.

FC AFC STRIDER'S TNG JH CGC 2002 VCA GUN DOG OF THE YEAR

AKC # SN45507806
 OFA # VZ-6319G25F-T
 Dam: Strider's Get A Job, SH
 Sire: FC AFC LIFO Riley
 Breeder/Owner: Wanda Berner

2002 was an amazing year for Gennie. She became a mother for the first time in January of 2002. She finished both her field championships and then I looked at her record and discovered that she had 3 JH passes when she was a pup. I entered her in a Junior Hunt test and ran her as a broke gun dog. She passed and added a JH to her name too. She was the recipient of the VCOI's Most Potential Young Vizsla traveling trophy. In November she went with John Reid to the VCA Nationals 2002 in Arizona and made the second series in both the Open Championship and the Amateur Championship. She received a second place in the Open Championship.

This November at the VCA Nationals 2003 in North Carolina, Gennie was awarded the VCA Gun Dog of the Year award for the year 2002. Thank you to John Reid for campaigning her and helping me to realize her potential.

Photographer Wesley Elsberry



BRAGGING RIGHTS

UACHX CH. Mehagian's Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, SH, CD, OA, OAJ, OJP, OAP, VC earned her Open Jumpers Preferred agility title on November 30, 2003. Zippy is owned and trained by Cheryl Peterson.

JNEK's Commander In Chief finished his conformation Championship. "Joey" is bred/owned/handled by the Engelsman family.

Crimson's Twenty-Gauge Ruger took a first place on Oct 4 at the Eastern Iowa Field Trial for Open Derby and he took a first place on Oct 5 at the Eastern Iowa Field Trial for Amateur Walking Derby. Submitted by Pam Spurgeon

New Junior Hunters
Rebel Rouser Brandywine JH April 5, 2003 at the German Shorthair Club of Illinois
Budapest Gypsy Lady JH May 3, 2003 at the Gordon Setter Club of Wisconsin
 Submitted by Rae Ann Jones

1st Place Open Limited Gun Dog & Amateur Gun Dog at the Hawkeye Vizsla Club field trial was won by **Onpoint's Wild Card Kate** owned and handled by Kirk Potter

2nd place Amateur Gun Dog at Hawkeye Vizsla Club field trial won by **CH Csillag's Day of Infamy "Stone"** owned/handled by Jeff Parise

At the Oshkosh Kennel Club agility trials October 18-19, Rainey (**Am/Can CH Sunnyside's Rainey Day Blues JH**) picked up her first Novice Standard leg with a 2nd

place and first Novice Jumpers leg with a 1st place. Buckley (**UAGI CH Foxfire PJ Buckley JH CD CGC**) did not come home empty-handed. He picked up his second Novice Standard Preferred leg with a 3rd place. I'm so proud of the "kids!" Submitted by Polly Poulos

At the WAG agility trials on October 26th, Rainey (**Am/Can CH Sunnyside's Rainey Day Blues JH**) picked up her final UAGI leg with a second place. She also had an extra qualifying run where she got another second place. Now on to UAGI!!!! Submitted by Polly Poulos

Strider's Ace won the Open Derby stake at the GWP of IL field trial on 10/26/2003 for 2 points. Submitted by Colomba Barger Jack (**Saginaw T Jack**) and Sue

(**FC AFC Saginaw Dandy Sue SH**) went to the GWPCI (Wirehair) field trial October 25/26 at Des Plains and won all three (3) Gun Dog stakes. Sue first in both the Amateur Limited and Open Limited stakes and Jack first in Open Gun Dog. Submitted by Mark N Johnson

Zigfrid's Got'Em Seeing Red TD JH finished his Championship, going Winners Dog and getting his final point! Lyndsay Lykowski handled Ziggy for many of his points, as well as Kelvin Robbins, and friend and Ziggy-lover, Cathy Gallagher put a few on, too. Submitted by Cathy Gallagher

CH Sunnyside Dawn's Kaleidoscope took Best of Breed on Saturday 11/29/03. Submitted by Cathy Gallagher

VCOI AT THE VIZSLA CLUB OF AMERICA 2003 NATIONALS AT NORTH CAROLINA

Award of Merit at the 2003 VCA Nationals
CH Prairie Heartsong,
Owned by Jan Cox and Fara Bushnell.
Bred by Luellen Hart.
Song was also shown in Junior Showmanship at the
Nationals Hilary Kain and Hilary won her Open Junior class.

Sweepstakes Dogs class 15-18 months 22 entries
1st place: JNEK's Commander In Chief
handled by Kathy Engelsman

1st in the 15-18 month Puppy Dog Sweeps and 2nd in Bred
By Exhibitor
Jnek's Chairman of the Board
Owned/Bred/Handled by Jeff, Kathy, Christine Engelsman

2nd place in the 9-12 month Puppy Bitch Sweepstakes 25
entries
Strider's Maya Queen of Hearts .
Owned by Kathy Wessels, Bred by Wanda Berner, Handled
by Ginger Tierney

Bred By Exhibitor Class- Dog 12 entries
2nd place JNEK's Commander In Chief
Handled by Kathy Engelsman

2nd place in Veteran's Obedience.
CH Foxfire's PJ Buckley JH
Owned/Handled by Polly Poulos

Obedience Novice B 33 entries
3rd place and finished his title: Kezdet's Debonair Reese
handler: Judy Saddlemire
Sire: CH JNEK's King Ralph JH

Open Dog 19 entries
1st place: Kezdet's Debonair Reese
handler Judy Saddlemire
Sire: CH JNEK's King Ralph JH

Open Bitches 27 entries
Piper's Juris Prudence made the cut down to the final 6
bitches
handler: Florence Duggan
Sire: CH JNEK's King Ralph JH

Stud Dog Class 25 braces
BIS BISS CH. JNEK's King Ralph JH
offspring: Kezdet's Debonair Reese
CH. Skipfire's Mountain Milo
Made the first cut.

Best of Breed class 178 entries
CH. Kezdet's Black Diamond Zoe CD
made the first cut
handler: Darlene Erscher
Sire: CH JNEK's King Ralph JH



*CH JNEK's Commander In Chief "Joey"
Handled by Kathy Engelsman*



*CH Prairie Heartsong
Handled by Hilary Kain*

THE VCOI HOLIDAY PARTY & AWARDS BANQUET

Submitted by Cheryl Lykowski

Don't forget! The VCOI annual holiday party, award banquet, and membership meeting is Saturday, January 17, 2004 at the Milk Pail Restaurant in East Dundee.

See the VCOI website for a map and directions.
www.vizslaclubofillinois.org/awardsbanquet.htm

CHICAGOLAND FAMILY PET SHOW

Submitted by Tim Dyer

The Chicagoland Family Pet Show will be held March 19-21, 2004 at the Arlington International Racecourse in Arlington Heights, IL. For anyone who has never been to the Pet Show, it is an expo of pet related items, demonstrations and performances. Each year there is a variety of pets from dogs on down to mice and hedgehogs. Show attendees are able to shop at literally hundreds of booths containing thousands of different items relating to the pets of their choice.

VCOI has been a regular participant in the Pet Show for many years. We usually have our booth on the second level in the northeast corner by the stairs. 2004 will have us in the exact same location. As always, we will need volunteers to help out with the running the booth. It is a great way to meet other club members, show off your favorite companion, and best of all, get into the show for FREE (we'll have passes to get you in and to park). Please mark off those dates on your VCOI calendar (don't have one, talk with Wanda) and come out and join us. I will be taking names for those who wish to participate at a later time so keep watching the Bulletin for further details.

COLOR BULLETIN COVERS AVAILABLE

Submitted by Michel Berner

Effective January 2004, the VCOI will offer color covers and ads to members willing to pay the cost difference. The price per issue will be \$250, and will apply to all advertising and covers. Standard black and white covers will remain free, and the prices will be unchanged for b/w ads.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"...you don't drop everything when you make a mistake. You do it better next time."

If you can correctly identify the author of the quote above and where it was published, you may win a FREE TEN BIRD HUNT at Busch Farm. E-mail your entry to Michel Berner miravizslas@mchsi.com, by the Sunday before the meeting, or hand deliver it to Michel or Jim Busch at the membership meeting prior to the meeting being called to order. Be sure to include your name if submitting via e-mail.

Winners from correct entries will be drawn at the membership meeting.

November Quote: "The sun doesn't shine on the same dog's tail all the time" was from Sam Sneed as appeared in his obituary in Newsweek magazine. There were no correct guesses.

IN MEMORY OF MACH GABAIELLE WINFIELD CGC

Submitted by Tim Dyer

It is with sad regret that I inform you all of the passing of Pam and Mike Schiazzano's awesome Vizsla MACH Gabaielle Winfield CGC aka Gabby. Gabby is the current cover to the VCOI Membership Directory. To those of us in the agility world, Pam and Gabby were a common sight around trials not only outside the ring where Pam sells agility items but in the ring as well where she and Gabby consistently earned the top placements. As a team they possessed what it takes to be top competitors and last year Gabby became only the 4th Vizsla in breed history to earn a Master Agility Championship. Gabby was also the # 1 Vizsla in the agility rankings.

I'm sure that in the near future we will again see Pam in the ring with a vizsla. Maybe it will be with Mona, the Schiazzano's other V or possibly with another up and comer. Not one to replace Gabby as that can't be done, but one that will carry on the fact that "Red Dogs Rule!"

FEBRUARY HUNT TEST

Submitted by Patti Nowak

Yes it's that time again, the February Hunt Test is now in it's planning stage. We have one judge and will need three more, any volunteers? We can use all the help you can give. We will need bird planters, line marshal etc. If you are interested in donating your time please call or e-mail Patti or Dennis Nowak at 815 439-0720 or e-mail pattinowak2003@yahoo.com or dnowak@famvid.com.

The test dates are Saturday February 21st and Sunday the 22nd at the Des Plaines Conservation Area in Wilmington, IL. Come join us and have some fun.

10 TIPS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

by Suzanne Clothier

At one time or another, every owner has to deal with problem behavior. Understanding why your dog does what he does, and how to handle the situation correctly can help resolve problems quickly.

Here are some basic guidelines that apply to nearly all problem situations:

Control the dog and you control the situation. By putting on a training collar and lead, you can control the dog. For many dogs, their training equipment means business, not playtime, and this can help in a problem situation. A dog who is on lead cannot run away or chase people or other animals, and his owner has a chance to help him understand what he should do by guiding him with the leash and collar.

Be positive. Instead of saying "NO", try giving your dog something positive that he can do for you, such as "Sit", or "Heel". This positive approach means you can praise generously for his good actions, instead of simply yelling at him. For example, a dog who jumps up can be told to sit, and helped if necessary, then praised for sitting.

Allow a dog to be a dog. Often, what owners consider problem behavior is simply normal dog behavior that they find unpleasant or annoying. For example, digging is a natural canine activity but distressing to a garden proud owner. Instead of scolding for what comes naturally, it might be kinder to set up an area in which you have buried small treats to make it more attractive than the rest of the yard, and praising your dog for digging in "his" garden.

Whenever natural behaviors conflict with what you might like, be creative and see if you can find an outlet for those interests and activities that is suitable for you both.

Be consistent. It is unfair to the dog to change your rules depending on what you're wearing, who's visiting or the kind of day you've had. If your dog is allowed on the furniture, he will be confused when you yell at him because Aunt Bess is visiting and she doesn't think dogs should sit in chairs! If he's allowed to jump up when you're wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, don't be surprised if he can't tell the difference between that and your best evening gown. Whatever your rules are, keep them consistent.

Have your dog earn what he wants. While everyone needs a few freebies now and then, your dog will not think you are a wonderful owner if you play with him, walk him, feed him and pet him whenever he demands it. In fact, this often creates problems since from the dog's point of view an owner who can be "trained" this well is not one who deserves much respect. Teach your dog to say "please" by sitting, laying down or following some other command before he gets what he wants.

Be clear. Owners often confuse dogs by changing the words or commands, repeating them over and over again without showing the dog what is meant, and worst of all, assuming that the dog understands.

When in doubt, gently show your dog physically exactly what you mean, giving the command at the same time so that he can associate the two. Use clear, matter of fact commands when addressing your dog, and be sure that your praising tone is excited, enthusiastic and upbeat.

Remember that while we use words to communicate, dogs are masters of reading body language. If your body language tells the dog one thing, but your voice tells the dog something else, chances are he will believe your body language. This is why people who bend towards their dog and shake a finger at them while scolding "No, no, no" often receive a playful bark - their body posture is much more like a dog inviting play than a dog who is annoyed or angry.

Exercise, exercise, exercise! The most common cause of problem behavior is boredom and a lack of sufficient exercise. While you work or go out, your dog has little or nothing to do, and his need to exercise will not go away. A familiar yard or house is boring, and few dogs exercise on their own without interaction with their owners. Take the time to play with your dog, jog with him, walk in the woods, swim or take long brisk walks each day. A tired dog is always a well behaved dog!

Provide mental stimulation. Dr. Roger Abrante's suggestions regarding using 1/3 of your dog's diet for treats to be earned during training, 1/3 to be given as usual in a food bowl, and 1/3 to be "hunted" (try a *Buster Cube*, an ingenious new training aid which the dog must persistently work with to receive a few kibble at a time. Even a border collie will be amused by this for hours! Buster Cubes are available from *Legacy by Mail* - troydog@maui.net, or from your local pet store.) This "home alone" 1/3-1/3-1/3 program helps your dog expend some energy and provides much needed stimulation.

Understand your dog's genetic heritage. Whether you own a Doberman or a Beagle, a Samoyed or a Westie, it is important to understand what your dog was bred to do. Owners often forget that the behavior that prompts a dog to run or stay close, hunt or guard, chase and kill or herd, work with people or work independently are all the result of generations of carefully selected traits. Research your breed's history, and talk to people who understand your breed's characteristics. You may find that Rover's tendencies, while annoying or amusing, are precisely what makes him what he is. You can then decide how best to work with your dog's instincts and where you need to concentrate training efforts.

Train your dog. Every dog should have basic manners, but dogs are not born knowing how to behave. Take the time to train your dog on a consistent basis using kind, positive methods. Find a class near you whose methods and philosophies you like. If faced with a behavior problem you can't solve, ask people you trust for a recommendation of an experienced trainer and get professional help fast. The sooner you begin working on a problem the sooner you will have it solved.

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Bite Inhibition - How to Teach It

Melissa Alexander

Rather than "No bite," I strongly, strongly, strongly urge you to teach your puppy bite inhibition instead. Bite inhibition is a "soft mouth." It teaches the pup how to use his mouth gently. Does this mean that the pup will forever be mouthing you? No, not at all. Actually, regardless of the method used, puppies generally grow out of mouthing behavior after a few months. So why should you teach bite inhibition? Because dogs have one defense: their teeth. Every dog can bite. If frightened enough or in pain or threatened, your dog *will* bite. That doesn't in any way make him a "bad" dog. It makes him a dog. It's your responsibility, therefore, to teach your dog that human skin is incredibly fragile. If you teach your dog bite inhibition that training will carry over even if he is later in a position where he feels forced to bite.

A story... Ian Dunbar tells a story of a bite incident he had to assess. A Golden Retriever therapy dog was leaving a nursing home and his tail was accidentally shut in a car door. The owner went to help, and the dog delivered four Level Four bites before she could react.

FYI, a standard scale has been developed to judge the severity of dog bites, based on damage inflicted. The scale is:

- ◆ Level One: Bark, lunge, no teeth on skin.
- Level Two: Teeth touched, no puncture.
- ◆ Level Three: 1-4 holes from a single bite. All holes less than half the length of a single canine tooth.
- ◆ Level Four: Single bite, deep puncture (up to one and a half times the depth of a single canine tooth), wound goes black within 24 hours.
- ◆ Level Five: Multiple bite attack or multiple attack incidents.
- ◆ Level Six: Missing large portions of flesh.

Technically, the woman received a Level Five bite from a long-time therapy dog. Dr. Dunbar wasn't the least bit surprised by the bites. I mean, the dog got his tail shut in a car door! Of course he bit! What shocked Dr. Dunbar was that a dog with no bite inhibition was being used as a therapy dog.

"But he's never bitten before." Of course not. And barring an accident like that, he probably never would have. But an accident is just that. An accident. Unpredicted. What if it had happened in the nursing home?

So how do you teach bite inhibition?

Again from Dr. Dunbar, there are four stages of bite inhibition. The first two stages involve decreasing the force in the bites. The second two stages involve decreasing the frequency of the bites. The training *must* be done in that order. If you decrease the frequency first, the dog won't learn to soften his bite. The stages:

1. No painful bites. 90% of puppies will stop if you give a high-pitched squeal or yelp. If they stop, praise and reinforce by continuing the game. The other 10% and puppies who are tired or over stimulated will escalate their behavior instead of stopping. This requires you to confine the puppy or end the game. Remove all attention. It does *not* require any added aversive -- yelling, popping the nose or under the chin, shoving your hand down his throat, or spraying with water.

If you end the game, you need to be able to get away from the puppy with as little fuss or attention as possible. Even negative attention is attention. It's often helpful to have the puppy tethered, so you can simply move back out of his reach. Or, have him in a confined area and simply stand up and move past a boundary. Because the getting up and moving is tough to do at the instant the undesired behavior occurs, consider using a hand signal that will always mean "You're a jerk. Fun's over." Use it consistently when poor behavior occurs and you're going to withdraw attention.

I am well aware that puppy teeth hurt, and that this step can be overwhelming. Do it when you can, and at other times redirect, redirect, redirect. Puppy mouthing is a 100% natural dog behavior. It's not dominant. It's not meanness. It's a puppy being a puppy. When it's too much either redirect or end the game. Aversives are confusing, unfair, and unnecessary.

2. Eliminate all pressure. You want to gradually shape the dog to "gum you to death." Service dog trainers do this routinely, because service dogs often

have to use their mouths to manipulate human limbs. Basically, you do this gradually. Set a limit of how hard the dog can bite. If he bites harder, yelp. Gradually set your limit for softer and softer bites. Remember to do this gradually. A big jump in criteria is confusing and frustrating to the dog.

3. When I say stop, you stop. Teach cues for "Take It," "Leave It," and "Drop It." You need to be able to both start and stop the game on your terms.

4. You may never touch a human with your muzzle unless invited. Basically, this is just taking stage three to complete stimulus control.

None of these stages require anything more aversive than time outs or withdrawal of attention. When teaching these behaviors, put your hands in your dog's mouth all the time. Get him used to your being there. Make sure you can open his mouth and examine his teeth -- the vet is going to do that, and you should prepare your dog. Play mouth games. Teach your dog never to touch an object in your hand unless invited. Make sure he knows when he *is* invited, he is never to bite both the toy and your hand at the same time.

By the way, regarding the "alpha dad." This is actually a prime example why dominance theory shouldn't be applied in dog/human relationships. "Dominating" a dog sets up an adversarial relationship. It sets up a relationship based on strength, power, and force. Is that what you want the relationship with your dog to be? Since some women, and most children and elderly people can't handle that kind of relationship, I'd say you were setting yourselves up for problems later.

You don't need to physically dominate a dog. Train it. Control the resources. Anyone in the family can train and control resources. *That* is what being a leader is.



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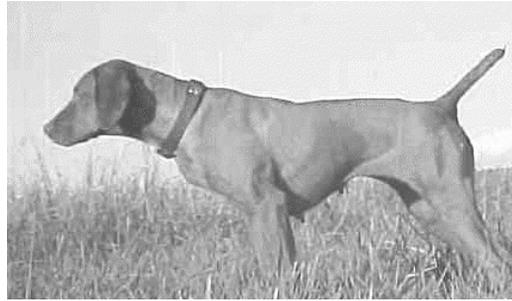


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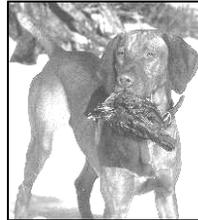
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