



The Bulletin

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1988



CH. POLAR KAP'S FOUR ON THE FLOOR

O/H Kathy Harmer

Judge Marcia Hostetler

OFFICERS

President: Randy Boggs, 10708 Smith Road,
Pecatonica, Il. 61063 (815)-335-7572

Vice-Pres: Harry Ruffner. 714 S. River Road,
Naperville, Il. 60540 (312)-355-8739

Secretary: Gwen Tomlinson, 513 Thomas,
Bolingbrook, Il. 60439 (312)-739-6190

Treasurer: Iris Pechota, 19721 Fairfield St.,
Lombard, Il. 60148 (312)-627-8766

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosemary Crago 923 TimTam Circle, Naperville, Il.,
60540 (312)-420-0133

Bill Elliott 4414 Greenwood Rd., Woodstock, Il.,
60098 (815)-648-4209

Roy Greffin 26525 W. Hickory Alley, Ingleside, Il.,
60041 (312)-587-7299

Kathy Harmer 7541 Edwardsville Rd., Rockford, Il.,
61102 (815)-963-3039

Tony Lucas 404 N. Park St., Westmont, Il., 60559
(312)-964-1219

Geno Woehrl 23W737 Maple, Roselle, Il., 60172
(312)-529-0978

Bulletin Editor: Sue Boggs, 10708 Smith Road,
Pecatonica, Il. 61063 (815)-335-7572

ADVERTISING RATES: Full page, 1 photo - \$15; 1/2 page
1 photo - \$12; full page, no photo - \$10; 1/2 page:
no photo - \$5; 1/4 page, no photo - \$3. 1/4 page puppy
advertisement free for club members.

Opinions expressed in articles submitted are those of the author and do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI, nor its Board of Directors. The VCOI endorses the efforts of organizations such as the VCOA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs, and encourages all of its members to use ONLY CERTIFIED NORMAL BREEDING STOCK AT ALL TIMES. The OFA Dysplasia Control Office is located at 817 Virginia Ave., Columbia, Mo. 65201.

MEMBERSHIP: Check type of membership and mail to TREASURER, IRIS PECHOTA,
1 S 721 FAIRFIELD, LOMBARD, IL., 60148.

\$7.50 Single _____ \$10.00 Family _____

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NO. (_____) _____

With the enclosed membership dues, I agree to abide by the Vizsla Club of Illinois Constitution and By-laws.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular November meeting of the Vizsla Club of Illinois was called to order by President Randy Boggs at 8:30pm on November 14, 1988. Sue Boggs motioned to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in The Bulletin. Motion carried. Iris Pechota gave the Treasurer's Report, indicating a favorable bank balance.

The Hunting Test has been approved for Feb. 25, 1989 (Sat.). The committee has already met and made arrangements for judges: Earl Colclasure, Tony Dewar, Bill Elliott, Bill Lyman, Jim Couris and Geno Woehrle. In anticipation of a large Junior Hunter entry, we will run two courses simultaneously. Rose Crago is in charge of the lunch. Duke Ficek has ordered birds. Harry Ruffner and Larry Tomlinson are the chief gunners. Geno relayed an idea from Bill Lyman for making bird carriers to be used as raffle items. There will be a judges' seminar on the Hunting Test program on January 16th.

Geno Woehrle will serve as the Spring Field Trial Chairman, with Mark Johnson as the Trial Secretary. Committee to meet at Mark's house on December 17th at 1:00pm.

Nominating Committee Report: Geno Woehrle presented the slate of officers for 1989: President, Randy Boggs, Vice-President - Roy Greffin, Secretary - Gwen Tomlinson, Treasurer - Iris Pechota. Board of Directors: Tony Lucas, Lois Greffin and Earl Colclasure. Terms expiring this year: Tony Lucas and Rose Crago. Voting for officers and directors will be at the regular January meeting.

New Business: Geno Woehrle motioned that the VCOI propose the Green River Conservation Area grounds as a permanent site for the National Events Field Trial. Discussion followed Cheryl Woehrle motioned that we table the discussion until our next meeting.

In the way of recent accomplishments, Kathy Harmer announced that Shifter won the First Twin Cities Vizsla Club Specialty Show, over an entry of 32 dogs. Jim Busch announced that Curly placed 3rd in the Puppy and received an Honorable Mention in the Derby at the National Events. Joel Lundin's Vypor placed 3rd in the Derby at the Nationals, also. Randy & Sue Boggs' Moose won a major Open Limited Stake at the Michigan Trial.

At 9:45pm, Sue Boggs moved, seconded by Lois Greffin, to adjourn the meeting.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Best wishes for 1989! Have you made all of your New Year's Resolutions yet? Is there room for at least one more on your list? How about, "I resolve to take part in at least one VCOI activity with my dog this year."? We've got a lot of exciting things coming up this year to choose from, starting with our Hunting Test/Training Session weekend on February 25-26, 1989. Close behind will be the Spring Field Trial on March 11-12. There will be much more to follow, including the summer specialty show and fun trial, so STAY TUNED!

This is where I make my usual pitch for pictures! If you've got doggie/people pictures - I might be able to use them! I am the first to admit my skills as a photographer are not the greatest, and I sometimes forget to bring the camera along to all of our fun events. Anyone who could help me out in this regard would be much appreciated. Pictures need contrast to show up as half-tones, so that's something I take into consideration when I look for photos to publish.

In this issue is a re-print from the AKC Gazette's Vizsla Breed Column, written by guest columnist Bill Murphy of California. I thought the insight into falconry and its influence on the development of the Vizsla breed was very interesting, and I hope you enjoy it.

See you at the Hunting Test??

* * * * *

* ON THE COVER * * * * *

* * * * *

* Featured on the cover of this issue of The *
* Bulletin is Ch. Polar Kap's Four on the Floor *
* and his owner and handler Kathy Harmer. * * * * *

* * * * *

* After winning the Illinois Specialty Show *
* this past summer, Shifter rolled into high *
* gear in November, winning the first Specialty *
* Show sponsored by the Twin Cities' Vizsla *
* Club under Judge Marcia Hostetler. * * * * *

* * * * *

* Congratulations to Kathy and Shifter on their *
* exciting 1988 accomplishments! * * * * *

Vizslas

This month's guest columnist is Bill Murphy of Watsonville, California, a licensed falconer.

FALCONRY AND VIZSLAS—

A circling falcon waits on over a flock of reluctant ducks, as a frantic falconer throws rocks and screams in a futile attempt to present quarry to his bird.

A goshawk bates violently in response to the explosion of wings and the cackling of a pheasant that a startled austringer has walked over.

After walking for hours without seeing a single rabbit, a discouraged hawker picks up his bird and heads for home.

Have you ever found yourself in one of these situations? You're not the first: falconers have suffered through these difficulties for thousands of years. I'd like to discuss a solution to this problem that was developed in the 11th century A.D. and is still effective today.

Development

Birds of prey native to the area now known as Hungary include the Saker falcon and the goshawk. Each has a distinctive hunting style. The goshawk, short-winged and long-tailed, hunts by surprise: using its maneuverability and explosive speed, it generally captures its prey from behind after a relatively short chase. The Saker falcon, on the other hand, is a long-winged predator which does its hunting from the air. Its prey is captured by mid-air strikes or by being grabbed on the ground, as the falcon stoops from above. As different as they may be in appearance and hunting techniques, the Saker falcon and the goshawk share a trait which caused them to be held in highest regard by the Magyar tribesmen who inhabited Hungary over 1,000 years ago. Both birds show remarkable versatility in the number of prey species they can capture, including hares, rabbits, upland game birds and waterfowl.

The Magyars, devotees of the art and sport of falconry, used the goshawk as well as the Saker in the pursuit of small game. To aid them in the location and capture of small birds and mammals, the Magyars also depended on dogs. Their dogs needed as much versatility as the hawks they trained and flew. Specialized breeds which excelled in one aspect of hunting—pointing, flushing, or retrieving—would prove ineffective for a falconer who might call upon his dog to locate and point a partridge, then a hare, then flush a flock of waterfowl, and finally retrieve a duck that his hawk knocked into the water, all in the course of a single day's hunt. Such stringent hunting requirements forced the Magyar to develop a marvelously well-rounded dog: the Vizsla. The origins of the Vizsla, intertwined with the development of falconry, are documented in stone etchings over a millenium old.

By the 18th century, firearms had replaced hawks as the most popular method of hunting small game. Gunners did not experience the restraints of falconers, for their quarry was limited only by what they could locate and what they could shoot. In addition, their weapons were neither susceptible to injury nor disease, nor would they fly away. Although the shotgunners of Hungary might have abandoned the goshawk and the Saker falcon as hunting partners, they still owed these birds a debt, for in developing a dog versatile enough to accommodate these feathered hunters, the Magyars developed the perfect gun dog, the Vizsla, hundreds of years before the development of the gun!

Today in the U.S., as well as Europe, the Mid-East, and Asia, a few hunters continue to pursue game in a manner similar to that used by the nomadic Magyars several hundred years ago, utilizing hawks and falcons to capture game for them. Naturally, these modern falconers have refined this art and sport. Modern medical treatment, for example, can cure hawks of diseases once considered fatal.

Telemetry, a product of electronic technology, also aids the modern falconer, allowing him to track and retrieve birds that would formerly have been lost forever. Changes in equipment, housing and management have also accompanied the evolution of falconry.

Today

Modern falconers have refined their sport, but have not altered its essence. They, like their medieval counterparts, rely on a well-trained bird, a suitable hunting area, and—for many—a dependable dog to locate and capture game. These prerequisites, as simple as they may sound, place falconry beyond the scope of most people, for they require a level of dedication that borders on fanaticism. To train and maintain a hawk, for example, one must combine daily attention with tremendous patience. The need for daily attention places heavy demands; a hawk, unlike a shotgun, can neither be placed on a shelf when not in use nor forgotten during the off season. In short, training a hawk or falcon for use in falconry involves a full-time commitment.

Securing a suitable hunting area also places demands upon a falconer, for he must locate a site that satisfies three important criteria. In the first place, the area must be close to the falconer's home. If he can't travel there at least three times a week, he can't develop a successful game hawk. Secondly, the area must be free from indiscriminate gun hunters. Many fine hawks and falcons have been destroyed by thoughtless or ignorant men with firearms. Finally, the hunting area must contain the type of quarry that the falconer wants his bird to capture. This game supply must be relatively abundant, especially for the newly-trained bird, because a hawk needs repeated opportunity to become proficient. If a person cannot locate a place to hunt with a hawk that satisfies these three requirements, he should not entertain the thought of becoming a falconer.

In areas of extremely high game concentration, a well-trained hawk may be all a falconer needs for hunting success. In a vast majority of instances, however, a hunting hawk

cannot realize its full potential without assistance. This need arises from the nature of small game animals. Gallinaceous birds and rabbits excel in remaining undetected, even in areas of high population. Ducks, while easily seen, show a reluctance to leave the water with a falcon overhead that would surprise even veteran waterfowl hunters. To aid his hawk in location and capture of quarry, a falconer must rely on the third essential ingredient in successful falconry: a dependable hunting dog. In my opinion, no finer dog exists for this purpose than the Vizsla.

The Dog's Role

Ignoring the many other roles a Vizsla may play in its master's life, it accomplishes four functions in the hunting field that a serious falconer depends upon. First of all, a Vizsla allows maximum utilization of available game. In the area where I hunt with my Harris hawk, for example, a small species of cottontail, the bush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) inhabits a broad, sandy area covered with sage brush. A person walking alone through this area would notice very few of these elusive little creatures that hide themselves most effectively in dense underbrush. While brush shields the rabbit from sight, it does not alter their scent. Consequently, my dogs locate them on a steady basis, and my hawk receives several times as many opportunities to chase game as he would if I were hunting alone.

Almost as important as locating game, a Vizsla allows the falconer and his hawk to prepare for the upcoming flight. A stiff motionless tail, lifted front leg, and an intent facial expression tell the falconer (and, incidentally, experienced hunting birds as well) that a flight will ensue shortly. During this period of preparation, the falconer may arrange himself and the hawk so the flight will occur downhill, downwind, or away from cover. Such preparation allows for better odds for success than a sudden, unexpected flight.

A third important function of the Vizsla in falconry, a consistent flush, also raises the chances of capturing game. When, for example, a falcon waits on in proper position over a pond, a Vizsla charging and swim-

ming after ducks has a much higher success ratio in making them leave the water than even a group of rock throwing human beings.

A fourth major use of the Vizsla in falconry involves locations and retrieval of dead quarry. Those flying falcons utilize the Vizsla's retrieving talents more often than those hunting with hawks because of the nature of the flights. Since falcons punch their victims in mid-air, dead or wounded birds often land in the water, reeds or dense brush. Without a retrieving dog, the game would be wasted, the falcon frustrated. Even with hawks, trailing wounded game occasionally becomes necessary. On one occasion, I had a red-tailed hawk chase a jackrabbit over a small hill and disappear from sight. By the time I located the hawk five minutes later, it was sitting on the ground panting heavily. Breast feathers as well as rabbit fur lay on the ground. Obviously, a terrific struggle had occurred. While I was picking up my bird, wondering what had happened, my dog Darcy went on point over a bush scarcely 30 yards from the scene of battle. Walking over with the hawk, I found the rabbit dead. Somehow, it had made a futile escape in spite of mortal wounds, but thanks to my Vizsla, the flight ended successfully and the hawk received a full meal for its efforts.

Why a Vizsla?

Of course, many breeds of hunting dogs serve very well in falconry, and I would be the first to state that Vizslas are not the best dog for everyone. For those who hunt vast prairies on horseback or by jeep, there are breeds more inclined to cover large distances. Vizslas were developed to hunt with men on foot. For those who hunt waterfowl exclusively in cold climates, there are breeds better designed to endure cold water and inclement weather. For any falconer with specialized needs, there are specialized breeds to accommodate them. There are also types of falconers who should avoid Vizslas. For example, those who want a dog for hunting only should avoid Vizslas, for they do very poorly in kennels. Don't believe the myth that a good hunting dog cannot be a good family dog as well. Those who expect their dogs to share the aloof

nature of their goshawks should stay away from a breed that craves human companionship. Those who have little time for care and training should not have any dog at all, but especially not a Vizsla. Remember: dogs are going to learn whether you teach them or not. If you don't teach them anything, they will learn how to dig holes, chew valuables, and bark out of boredom.

Finally, Vizslas should be avoided by falconers who need a scapegoat for their frustrations. Severe discipline and beating will render them useless, for they will do nothing in the field rather than risk punishment for making a mistake.

Despite the fact that Vizslas are not the best dogs for everyone, they do enjoy popularity among many California falconers and for good reason. For starters, they are shorthaired, low-maintenance dogs. They don't need clipping, don't hide ticks and burrs in their hair, clean easily, dry quickly, and shed far less than many other breeds. They have excellent dispositions. Since Vizslas love to please their owners as much as they love to hunt, they seldom need the heavyhanded treatment that is needed to get the attention of some hard-headed hunting hounds! Their good nature really shines around the home, where they gracefully accept abuse from children—if they are raised with kids—and do their best to become part of the family. A perspective dog owner should realize that for every minute his dog spends hunting, it will spend many hours around the house.

In closing, I want to strongly recommend that before you obtain a Vizsla or any other dog, check the animal's family background. Make sure the dog is from hunting lines, and, if possible, ask to see the parents or other offspring in the field. A dog is a 10 to 15 year investment, so take your time and get a dog that will suit your needs. To paraphrase an old saying, a falconer's best friend is his dog, and in my opinion, there is no finer falconer's dog than a Vizsla.

—B.M.

I thank Bill for his article.—*May Carpenter* ■

Placements!

HAWKEYE VIZSLA CLUB, 10/8-10/9/88

Open Limited Gun Dog

3rd - Ch. Greffin's Ha'Penny, o/h Roy Greffin

4th - DC Askim, NSTRA Ch., o/h Jim Busch

Open Derby

1st - Vypor, o/h Joel Lundin

Amateur Limited Gun Dog

4th - DC Askim, NSTRA Ch., o/h Jim Busch

Open Gun Dog

2nd - Ch. Greffin's Ha' Penny, o/h Roy Greffin

Open Puppy

1st - Reckless Curly Busch, o/V.J. Busch, h/Jim Busch

4th - Bailey's Irish Scream, o/h Duke Ficek

Amateur Gun Dog

2nd - Redwing's King Conan, o/h Roy Greffin

HUNTING TEST/TRAINING SESSION WEEKEND

Circle the weekend of February 25-26 on your calendar so you'll remember to join us at the VCOI's Hunting Test (Saturday, 2/25) and Field Training Session (Sunday, 2/26)! Come one day or both!

As this is our first Licensed Hunting Test, qualifying scores earned will count toward a Hunting Test title. All three levels from Junior to Master Hunter will be offered. Be sure to enter early! If you haven't received a premium, contact Lois Greffin, 312-587-7299.

On Sunday we will have our usual informal field training session, with help for any and all. Bring your dog(s) and make a weekend of it!!

Scenes From 1988



SPRING - 1989

SHOWS

- Sunday, 2/19/89 - Marion KC, Marion, In. Sleeper, Supt.
- Saturday, 2/25/89 - Waukesha KC, Waukesha, Wi. Crowe
- Sunday, 2/26/89 - Burlington Wisconsin KC, Waukesha, Wi. Crowe
- *Sunday, 3/5/89 - Cudahy KC, West Allis, Wi. Crowe
- Saturday, 3/18/89 - Evansville KC, Louisville, Ky. Onofrio
- *Sunday, 3/19/89 - Louisville KC, Louisville, Ky. Onofrio
- *Monday, 3/20/89 - Bloomington Indiana KC, Louisville, Ky. Onofrio
- *Tuesday, 3/21/89 - KC of Columbus Indiana, Louisville, Ky. Onofrio
- *Saturday, 3/25/89 - Clinton Iowa KC, DeWitt, Ia. Onofrio
- *Sunday, 3/26/89 - Dubuque KC, Dubuque, Ia. Onofrio
- *Saturday, 4/1/89 - Blackhawk KC - BENCHED Chicago, Il. Crowe
- *Sunday, 4/2/89 - International KC of Chicago - BENCHED, Chicago, Il. Crowe
- Sunday, 4/9/89 - Sandemac KC, Decatur, Il. Onofrio
- *Saturday, 4/15/89 - Steel City KC, Hammond, In. Sleeper
- *Sunday, 4/16/89 - Lake Shore KC, Hammond, In. Sleeper
- *obedience trial in conjunction with show

OBEDIENCE TRIALS

- Saturday, 3/18/89 - Greater Louisville Training Club, Louisville, Ky.
- Saturday, 4/8/89 - Muncie Obedience Training Club, Muncie, In.
- Sunday, 4/30/89 - Quad Cities Dog Obedience Club, Rock Island, Ill.

SEMINARS

2/18-2/19/89, Obedience Training Seminar, with Terri Arnold, sponsored by Stone City Kennel Club, New Lenox, Il.
info: John Prinner, 815-469-2748 or Al Ferreira
212 028 7500

TRACKING TESTS EXCELLENT

Sunday, 3/19/89 - Fox Valley Dog Training Club,
St. Charles, Il.

Sunday, 3/26/89 - Randpark Dog Training Club,
Barrington Hills, Il.

Sunday, 4/2/89 - Pecatonica Tracking Club,
Rockford, Il.

Sunday, 4/9/89 - Westside Dog Training Club,
Barrington Hills, Il.

HUNTING TESTS

Monday ?, 2/20/89 - LaSalle Brittany Club,
Joliet, Il.

Tuesday ?, 2/21/89 - LaSalle Brittany Club,
Joliet, Il.

(ed. note - I question these dates which were in the
last AKC Gazette)

Saturday, 2/25/89 - Vizsla Club of Illinois,
Joliet, Il. Contact: Lois Greffin

FIELD TRIALS

3/11-3/12/89 - Vizsla Club of Illinois, DesPlaines,
Mark Johnson, Secy.

3/18-3/19/89 - Vizsla Club of Michigan, Ionia, Mi.

4/1-4/2/89 - Vizsla Club of Greater Cleveland,
Killdeer Plains

4/8-4/9/89 - Miami Valley Vizsla Club, Indian Creek

REMINDER



DON'T FORGET!!

OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING will be Wednesday, January 18, 1989
at 8:00pm at the home of Geno and Cheryl Woehrle, 23W727
Maple, Roselle, Il. Call 312-529-0978 for directions.
We will vote for 1989 officers at this meeting.

FROM: Sue Boggs
10708 Smith Rd.
Pecatonica, IL. 61063



TO:
Ms. Iris Pechota
15721 Fairfield
Lombard, IL. 60148