



BULLETIN



A Blast from the Past

By Rick Forner



CH Hunt'm Up Twelve Gauge JH "Gauge"
January 27, 2012

Our second Vizsla, Gauge, took us into the show ring testing his conformation skills, and Connie's, where we ultimately produced our very first Champion when Gauge was 3 years old. Along the journey we were mentored by Cathy Gallagher, Cheryl Peterson, and Lindy Sander; we could not have done it without the guidance of these three people, and many more.

As we travelled to various shows in different states, we met amazing people, amazing dogs, amazing and not so amazing motels/hotels and enjoyed many road trips as a family.

Conformation takes patience, fortitude, a detailed spreadsheet of judges who are impressed with the conformation of your dog (this was my job) and time – but the reward is well worth it.

2021 VCOI Officers

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If you are interested in serving as part of the leadership for this club, please contact a Director.

President's Message

By Bill Elliott

Happy, cold Winter!!!

As we move forward with the new year, there are a few details I would like to address in this message.

As you can see from the calendar herein, the February Walking Field Trial will be canceled due to the unsafe and excessive snow-covered grounds at the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area. We anticipate rescheduling this so watch for announcements.

Going into March you will see a busy month for the VCOI:

The Awards Banquet on March 6, 2021 (details in the Mark Your Calendars part of this newsletter)

and

Futurity and Field Trial is still moving forward on March 25 – 28, 2021.

I am happy to announce that VCOI was approved for the use of ATV's and/or golf carts for judges at the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area! It is my hope that this will open a window for more interest in judging.

Currently, we are still moving forward on the Specialty Show in Belvidere, with more details to follow.

Stay warm, well and safe.

ADVERTISE HERE!

Advertising rates per issue: half page \$10.00; quarter page \$5.00; business card \$2.50. Ads are limited to one half page per family per issue. Editor may limit advertising due to space limitations. Ads CANNOT be run until payment is received. 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 certificates must be sent with the ad.

Mark Your Calendars

- February 20 – 21, 2021 Field Trial, **CANCELLED**
- **March 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., VCOI Annual Awards' Banquet**

Fraternal Order of Eagles, 325 Raymond Street, Gilberts, Illinois

Please bring a dessert or side to pass. The main course will be provided by the Club.

This year we will have a Guest Speaker to entertain the group.

- March 25 – 28, 2021 Futurity and Field Trial
- April 17 – April 18, 2021 Hunt Test
- July 2021 Specialty Show, pending
- July 2021 Double Bubble, pending

If you have any events to announce please contact Connie Forner at 815-770-0584.

TEACH YOUR PUPPY THESE 5 BASIC COMMANDS

Found at www.akc.org/expert-advice/training
(Thank you, Cathy Gallagher, for the suggestion)

1. Getting Started

To start off on the right foot (and paw!) with your pup, he'll need to know what you expect from him. This will make him feel secure in his ability to meet the goals laid out for him going forward.

The foundation of training should be based on positive reinforcement. Positive reinforcement is the process of giving a dog (or person!) a reward to encourage the behavior you want, like getting a paycheck for going to work. The idea is not to bribe the behavior but to train it using something your dog values. Avoid using punishment such as leash corrections or yelling. Punishment can cause a dog to become confused and unsure about what is being asked of him. It is important to remember that we can't expect dogs to know what they don't know – just like you wouldn't expect a 2-year-old child to know how to tie his shoes. Patience will go a long way in helping your new puppy learn how to behave.

Reinforcement can be anything your dog likes. Most people use small pieces of a “high value” food for [training treats](#) — something special — such as dried liver or even just their kibble. Lavish praise or the chance to play with a favorite toy can also be used as a reward. Dogs must be taught to like praise. If you give the dog a treat while saying “Good dog!” in a happy voice, he will learn that praise is a good thing and can be a reward. Some dogs also enjoy petting. Food is often the most convenient way to reinforce behavior.

[Puppies](#) can begin very simple training starting as soon as they come home, usually around 8 weeks old. Always keep [training sessions brief](#) — just 5 to 10 minutes — and always end on a positive note. If your puppy is having trouble learning a new behavior, end the session by reviewing something he already knows and give him plenty of praise and a big reward for his success. If your puppy gets bored or frustrated, it will ultimately be counterproductive to learning.

2. How To Teach A Dog To Come

You'll want to begin training a recall (come when called) in a quiet area and indoors. Sit with your puppy and say his name or the word “come.” Each time you say “come/name,” give your puppy a treat. He doesn't have to do anything yet! Just repeat the word and give a treat. Easy!

Next, drop a treat on the floor near you. As soon as your puppy finishes the treat on the ground, say his name again. When he looks up, give him another treat. Repeat this a couple of times until you can begin tossing the treat a little further away, and he can turn around to face you when you say his name. Avoid repeating your puppy's name; saying it too often when he doesn't respond makes it easier for him to ignore it. Instead, move closer to your puppy and go back to a step where he can be successful at responding to his name the first time.

Once your puppy can turn around to face you, begin adding movement and making the game more fun! Toss a treat on the ground and take a few quick steps away while calling your puppy's name. They should run after you because chase is fun! When they catch you, give them a lot of praise, treats or play

with a tug toy. Coming to you should be fun! Continue building on these games with longer distances and in other locations. When training outside (always in a safe, enclosed area), it may be helpful to keep your puppy on a long leash at first.

When your puppy comes to you, don't reach out and grab him. This can be confusing or frightening for some dogs. If your puppy is timid, kneel and face them sideways and offer him treats as you reach for the collar. Never call your dog to punish! This will only teach him that you are unpredictable, and it is a good idea to avoid you. Always reward your dog heavily for responding to his or her name, even if they have been up to mischief!

3. How To Teach a Dog Loose Leash Walking

In competition obedience training, "heel" means the dog is walking on your left side with his head even with your knee while you hold the leash loosely. Puppy training can be a little more relaxed with the goal being that they walk politely on a loose leash without pulling. Some trainers prefer to say "let's go" or "forward" instead of "heel" when they train this easy way of walking together.

Whatever cue you choose, be consistent and always use the same word. Whether your puppy walks on your left side or your right side is completely up to you. But be consistent about where you want them, so they don't get confused and learn to zig zag in front of you.

First, make sure your puppy is comfortable wearing a leash. This can feel strange at first, and some puppies may bite the leash. Give your puppy treats as you put the leash on each time. Then, stand next to your puppy with the leash in a loose loop and give him several treats in a row for standing or sitting next to your leg. Take one step forward and encourage him to follow by giving another treat as he catches up.

Continue giving treats to your puppy at the level of your knee or hip as you walk forward. When he runs in front of you, simply turn the opposite direction, call him to you, and reward him in place. Then continue. Gradually begin giving treats further apart (from every step to every other step, every third step, and so on).

Eventually your dog will walk happily at your side whenever he's on his leash. Allow your dog plenty of time to sniff and "smell the roses" on your walks. When they've had their sniffing time, give the cue "Let's Go!" in a happy voice and reward them for coming back into position and walking with you.

4. How To Teach a Dog To Sit

There are two different methods for showing your puppy what "sit" means.

The first method is called capturing. Stand in front of your puppy holding some of his dog food or treats. Wait for him to sit – say "yes" and give him a treat. Then step backwards or sideways to encourage him to stand and wait for him to sit. Give another treat as soon as they sit. After a few repetitions, you can begin saying "sit" right as he begins to sit.

The next option is called luring. Get down in front of your puppy, holding a treat as a lure. Put the treat right in front of the pup's nose, then slowly lift the food above his head. He will probably sit as he lifts his head to nibble at the treat. Allow him to eat the treat when his bottom touches the ground. Repeat

one or two times with the food lure, then remove the food and use just your empty hand but continue to reward the puppy after he sits. Once he understands the hand signal to sit, you can begin saying “sit” right before you give the hand signal.

Never physically put your puppy into the sitting position; this can be confusing or upsetting to some dogs.

Training commands for 3 and 4 will be displayed in the next quarterly newsletter. Stay tuned!

WHAT CLUBS HAVE LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC

By Cheryl Peterson

Happy New Year 2021 and I do hope that from the event standpoint we can get back to business with our dogs.

We have all learned to live differently the past 12 months with no end in sight. In order to run events, Clubs have been forced to learn to run them differently as they follow state mandates, social distancing, etc. Before the pandemic, agility trials would run one course at a time and run dogs until all size groups finished before changing the course and repeating the running sequence. Needless to say, it meant a long day starting at 8 am with the master/excellent classes and finishing around 1:30 or 2 p.m., then setting up the open and novice classes courses.

One positive item that emerged from the pandemic is the changes clubs have made. In order to adhere to mandates, Clubs experimented by changing the running order. Clubs found out that running one size group of dogs in master/excellent classes helped them not only to meet state mandates but allows for better efficiency. In the past the large dog dogs started at 8 and finished around 12 as they had to wait for the smaller dogs to run before their second run. But running back-to-back, now they are done by 10 am and can leave. Another helpful tool is an app that can be put on your phone, so you know exactly who is running, absent and where they are in the trial. Clubs provide the app sign-on information so even from your home, you can see how the trial is running. So far there are a lot of positives of the new running order and the apps and exhibitors really seem to favor it. The only negative part is that you don't get to see your friends in other divisions running their dogs.

I recently attended an obedience trial (yes, we did qualify for a CD leg and 4th place with Flame) and they ran the event similar to agility with some minor tweaks in order to meet state mandates. To meet the requirement, those people allowed in the building are those that were four out from their competition in their ring. This allows the handler/dog team a few minutes to warm up, watch a couple teams competing and then stepping into the ring. Once they are done, the dog can stay crated in the building while the handler goes back their car to wait further judging. Clubs also used was an obedience app that, as in agility, told us where judging stood and what team was in the ring. The trial seemed to run very smoothly.

Unfortunately, the public is not able to attend these events. This is a major drawback to getting people interested in dog sports. Perhaps there are other ways that will allow clubs to advertise these sports and enable the public to view them. Maybe zoom-type? Perhaps this in an area that AKC can rebroadcast a portion of the championships (obedience, agility, conformation separately) on prime tv channels and perhaps having field and other events available. But one step at a time.

VCOI General Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021

(Zoom Call)

Number of attendees: 11

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Nowak reported that there is \$10,381. in the bank account, and \$125. In PayPal. Dennis is preparing documentation to send to the State for the club's Annual Report due in March.

In addition, we renewed our membership to Friends of Des Plaines.

Secretary Report: Susan Gervais reported that the judging panels for the following events was accepted by AKC:

Field Trial Event #2021167602, Saturday, February 20, 2021

Field Trial Event #2021167611, Thursday March 25, 2021

Hunt Test Event #2021167605, Saturday, April 24, 2021

Hunt Test Event #2021167606, Sunday, April 25, 2021

February Field Trial: Brad Lapoudre reported that he has received two premiums.

Hunt Test: Brad Lapoudre reported that AKC changed the date on the Hunt Test to the 17th and 18th of April. This may be the last Hunt Test that we will work in conjunction with the Weimaraner Club as they may be disbanding.

Golf Carts for use at Hunt Test at Des Plaines: Dennis Nowak has been in contact with the superintendents at Des Plaines. The superintendents from Des Plaines informed Dennis that they need to reach out to the state biologists for their permission. We are awaiting to hear back from the state. We were told that it will most likely not be approved by the Spring. In the event we do not receive approval prior to the April Hunt Test, we will most likely cancel the Hunt Test. Brad will continue to move forward with setting up the Hunt Test in the meantime in the event we receive approval.

Specialty Show: Bill Elliott reported that we are in the process of trying to return the Specialty Show back to Belvidere, Illinois Fairgrounds for the same dates we have had in the past.

March Field Trial: The March Field Trail will be held at Jim Edgar Panther Creek from March 25 – 28, 2021. We need volunteers. Dennis Nowak was questioning a \$160. expenditure for American Field. Bill Elliott said this was to join American Field.

It was reported that Chad Chadwell is the Chairman and Rodney Albin is the Secretary.

Pet Expo: Cathy Gallagher reported that we have no information to report on the Pet Expo other than it will not be held in March 2021.

Awards' Banquet: The Awards' Banquet was postponed until March 6, 2021. The Club will supply the main course and attendees are to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will have a raffle and white elephant game. Bring a gift if you would like to participate in the white elephant game.

Ed McHale is working on getting a speaker for the Banquet, someone from Pheasants Forever or someone from the Water Conservancy organization.

We will also vote on our Officers and Board Members at this Banquet.

Calendars: Dennis Nowak was wondering if we can add something on Constant Contact or on the website that the calendars are available and that shipping is additional.

Also, the post mentions that they pay on PayPal, but this has not been set up on PayPal.

Ed McHale will reach out to Michelle Princer with these concerns.

Bulletin: A link was sent to access the Bulletin.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Gervais

Taking Care of Business

Bulletin Covers!

If your dog has completed a prefix title (CH, FC, AFC, CT, MACH, OTCH, etc.) and you would like to reserve a cover, please contact Connie Forner.

Please let us know if your dog receives a National title as we would like to feature your accomplishments in the Bulletin.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI or the Board of Directors. The VCOI endorses the efforts of the VCA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs and encourages its members to use only normal breeding stock.

Photos!

All original printed photos submitted to the Bulletin must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photos without return postage will remain the property of the VCOI. An exception to this is the cover photo, which will be returned at the VCOI's expense. Digital photos are preferred.

Membership!

An important component of our club is to grow and maintain a healthy and up-to-date membership.

If you are a current member and need to renew your membership, you can go online at <http://vizslaclubofillinois.org/wp/membership/pay-membership-dues/>. Check your membership expiration date located in the Membership Directory under your address.

If you are applying for a new membership, please complete the Membership Application located online at <http://vizslaclubofillinois.org/wp/membership/membership-application/>.

If mailing in your application and check, direct to:

Ed McHale
VCOI Membership Chairman
2080 Tracey Lane
Algonquin, IL 60102

NOTE: All applicants must be endorsed by two unrelated members in good standing and not of the same household. This endorsement should be signified by obtaining the signatures of these members on the sponsorship lines on the applications.

If you know someone who would be interested in becoming a member of VCOI, please refer them to our VCOI website: www.vizslaclubofillinois.org.

Subscriptions!

To subscribe to the VCOI e-mail list: <http://vizslaclubofillinois.org/wp/membership/>

Brag and Wags!

VCOI wants to hear from you! We highly encourage everyone to submit any articles, photos, brags, etc.

If your dog has an outstanding achievement, please submit the information and photos to Connie Forner at connie_forner@yahoo.com. (Please submit all articles in Word format)

Welcome New Members!

Bulletin Schedule

(Highly impacted by COVID-19 at this time due to a reduction in events)

Winter (January/February/March)

Bulletin to be out first week of February
Last day to submit articles/photos is January 15, 2021

Spring (April/May/June)

Bulletin to be out first week of May
Last day to submit articles/photos is April 15, 2021

Summer (July/August/September)

Bulletin to be out first week of August
Last day to submit articles/photos is July 15, 2021

Fall (October/November/December)

Bulletin to be out first week in November
Last day to submit articles/photos is October 15, 2021