

VCOI September
Membership Meeting
Will be held
Wed. September 14th
6:30—8:30 PM
at Villa Pizza & Pub
2496 N Randall Road
Elgin, IL

American Field Registered Event
Midwest Vizsla Futurity 2011 Winner
Burr Oak's Red Neck Cowgirl "Casey"
Owner: Jim Gingrich Breeder Ray Cooper



Does your breeding have what it takes?

Nomination forms and rules available at www.vizslafuturity.com



www.vizslclubofillinois.org

The Vizsla Club of Illinois, Inc.

September 2011

BULLETIN

A bimonthly newsletter for the members and friends of the VCOI

There's a New Sheriff in Town...

CH MIRA'S PEACEMAKER

When Colisha Schallock mentioned she was breeding her female Cayenne to frozen Sport, I immediately told her that I wanted a male. I have not regretted that decision once. Colt's gentle demeanor, stunning good looks, high level of trainability, and fun-loving personality have been noticed and appreciated by everyone who has spent any amount of time with him.

Sheila Stahr handled him to all majors, 5 Best of Breed and 3 Best Opposite Sex wins, and I handled him to a sixth Best of Breed over specials. Colt finished strong with a 4-point major win during a specialty weekend.

However well he does in competition, I am always most pleased with his ability to just hang out and be my "couch dog" because at the end of the day, the reason I own these guys is not to rack up the blue (or purple & gold!) ribbons, but because I actually enjoy spending time with them.

Michel Berner | Mira Vizslas



Hips: VZ-31802F25M-VPI Elbows: VZ-F1-1213M25-VPI CERF: VZ898/2010-28 Thyroid: VZ-T115/9-29M-VPI DNA: V570446 CHIC: 68734



The vizsla club of illinois, inc
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Edgerton, WI 53534

Place
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Here

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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 Shelly Kliefoth at skliefoth@yahoo.com
Next available cover is November 2012. Obviously we have many very talented members!! As soon as your dog completes the title, please let me know if you would like a cover.
**Please let us know if your dog receives a National title as we would like to feature your accomplishments in the Bulletin.
Upcoming covers reserved for: Chadwell (11/11), Williams (1/12), Wegler (3/12), Fitsimmons (5/12), Albin (7/12), Busch (9/12)

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, will require a price quote before printing
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 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 a \$50 fee. 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. Digital photos are preferred.

New Champion “JUST SPIKE”



Linda’s new boy, Just Spike, has proved to be a winner in the show ring. In the 6 to 9 months class he managed to earn FIVE Best of Breed wins, one 5 point major win, and a Sporting Group 2nd place. He was also Best in Puppy Sweepstakes, and Best of Opposite the next day in Puppy Sweepstakes. In the 9 to 12 months class he earned a few more Best of Winners to finish his conformation title with three major wins at barely 10 months old. Spike is a wonderful family dog (Granddaughter Lisa adores him), and we are looking forward to more fun in the show ring and earning his Junior Hunter title soon. His dam is Ch. Storms Path of Destruction who was BOB at Westminster in 2009. His sire is frozen semen from Ch. Vizion’s Blue Buoy, CDX, TDI. “Blue” was out of our Hall of Fame dog DC/AFC Askim, MH, NSTRCh. Thanks to Erin Gimbut and Julie Sjullie for breeding such a wonderful dog and thanks to Teresa Gimbut who insisted I needed this dog when I wasn’t even looking.

Submitted by proud owner Linda Busch

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319-270-7616(cl) Cedar Point, IA 52213
kojac@fmtcs.com

To 05/11

President's Message

As I sit here and type this the weather is finally getting cooler after our really hot summer. The dogs are loving being outside again, and the county fair is in progress. School starts in a week, fall is finally upon us. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and are getting ready for fall and winter sports with their dogs. I really want to personally thank those who put together our Specialty Show and Double Bubble this past July. Both events were amazing and well received. There is alot going on in the club this fall including hunt tests and field trials. Please check dates in this newsletter or on the website and join us when you can. Thank you for volunteering when available, it helps the club run along smoothly.

Good Days and Happy Tails to you!
Sincerely,
Pam Spurgeon
VCOI President



Brags Page



From Michel Bernet: Zen - Mira's Peacemaker - picked up another 2 points by going Winners Bitch from the 12-18 class at the Anoka County Kennel Club show June 24 under judge Dana Cline. She was handled by breeder/owner Michel Berner

From Mary Haines: Midnight Sky Morning Call "Rooster" took first place his class at the VCOI Sweepstakes at the Kishwaukee Kennel Club in Belvidere, IL on July 16, 2011 and was handled by Mary.



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MIAKODA VIZSLAS

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Puppies (1 male, 1 female) born July 5, 2011

Ready for Homes Aug 30, 2011

Male available.

Sire: DC AFC Rebel Rouser N Lindens Cyote SH VC

DC AFC Rebel Rouser ET HOF x Rebel Rouser Sacajawea

OFA# VZ-4750G25M-T DNA#V52519

<http://www.lindensvizslas.com/studkye.htm>

Kye sired 9 litters to produce:

3 DC, 1NAFC, 1NFC, 5FC, 4AFC, 4CH, 1MH, 2SH, 3 VC and numerous JHs

Dam: Remek's Daughter of the Moon JH

DC AFC Triad's Dry Martini CD MH ROM x CH Snow Ridge Chief's Spirit Moon JH

OFA# VZ-10010E26F-PI DNA# V336746 CHIC#36467

Miakoda Vizslas – Kimberly Barker

valpo1281@aol.com (847) 902-9036



Photo by: Pat Behles

National Titles for Club Member



Left. FC/AFC Saginaw Diamond Dan "Danny". Danny Won the 2011 NVA NATIONAL VIZSLA ASSOCIATION NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP this spring in Grovespring, Mo. In 2009 Danny won the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP there also.

On my lap. Saginaw Redneck Cowboy "Tex". Tex won the 2011 NVA NATIONAL DERBY CLASSIC this spring at Grovespring, Mo. He also won the same NATIONAL DERBY CLASSIC IN 2010, running as a 9 month old puppy.

After suffering a serious shoulder injury in 2009, Danny went through extensive rehab work under the direction of UW Madison's Vet School. We did not think he could compete at a national level again however after a year and a half lay up and rehab he again put down a great one hour performance this spring in Missouri.

Tex is just an exceptional young bird dog displaying lots of natural ability combined with style and brains. His track record as a juvenile speaks for itself and we have high hopes that his debut as a broke shooting dog will start out equally good this fall.

Both of these dogs have had a lot of personal work and attention to the game of field trialing from me but thanks goes to several friends and professionals who have had a hand in the development of these great bird dogs. Thanks to Brian Gingrich for his work with Tex as a starting puppy, thanks to Ray Dohse who introduced Tex to wild birds and big country in North Dakota and for his work with Tex in Georgia this past winter, and thanks to nationally known Pointer professional Luke Eisenhart who is putting polish and class into Tex's portfolio this summer. Danny is a special dog who has enjoyed the winners circle many times but without some of the work (polish) Randy Boggs did with him a couple of years ago he would not have been able to win two American Field National Championships. And a special thanks to the folks who breed Tex and Danny ... Mr. Ray Cooper from Longview, Texas and Mr. Barry Peterson from Brandt, Michigan respectively.

These two animals are our pals. They hang out in the house when we're not on the road, they have great personalities, they are put together well, are special athletes, look nice and have lots of bird dog in their DNA. What more could anyone hope for??? We are fortunate to have them run under the Saginaw banner.

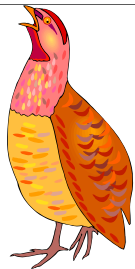
Mark & Rhonda Johnson

Mark Your Quick View...

September Membership Meeting ~ September 14th

Wednesday September 14th from 6:30-8:30 PM

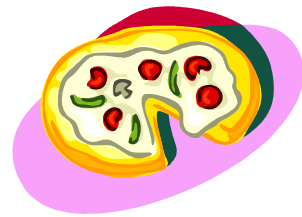
See Details page for more info.



Chukkar Shoot ~ Sept. 17 & 18

Des Plaines Wildlife Area, Joliet, IL.

See Details page for more info.



September Field Trial ~ Sept. 23, 24, 25

Pyramid State Park, Denmark Unit, Pickneyville, IL

See Details page for more info.



National Hunting & Fishing Days ~ Sept. 24 & 25

Silver Springs State Park, Yorkville, IL.

See Details page for more info.



October Field Trial ~ Oct. 29 & 30

Ottawa Field Trial Grounds, Eagle, WI.

See Details page for more info.



November Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday Nov. 15

Cabela's in Hoffman Estates

See Details page for more info.



2011 Awards Banquet & Holiday Party ~ Jan. 14, 2012

Details coming soon.



One Last Vizsla

Submitted by: Kathy Harmer

In 1986 I bred my wonderful bitch B.C. to the then Top Show Dog Ch. Penlee's Cutter from Florida. I had a very nice litter and great hopes for all the puppies. Three actually became show champions. Like all breeders I wanted all of them to have good homes.

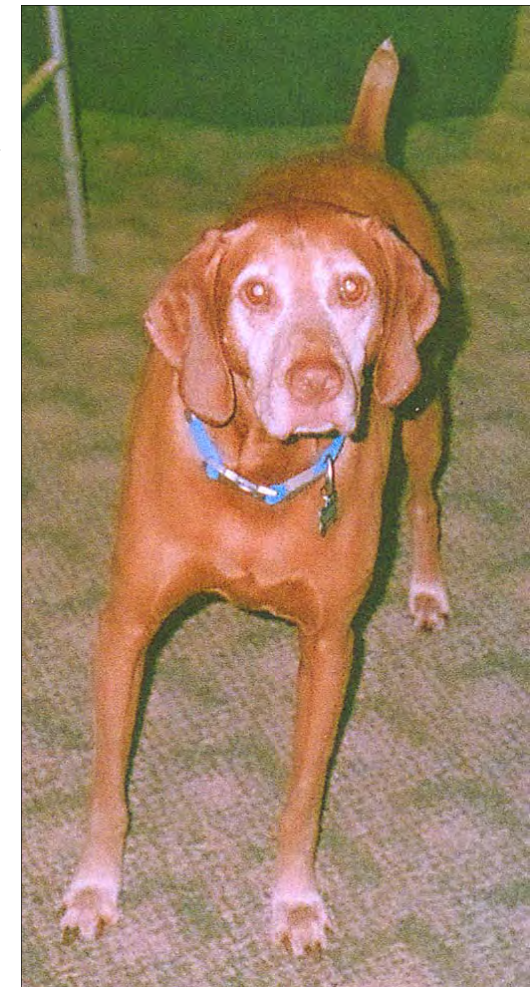
I received a phone call from a very nice lady named Marilyn Sheilds. She and her husband; Willard were looking for a male Vizsla. They had just lost their old boy at the age of 18. After talking with them I decided it would be a nice home for one of my pups. They lived on a farm down state in a small town named Foosland. We kept in touch every year with Christmas cards and Marilyn would always tell me how great Victor was. Six years later I received a phone call letting me know that Victor had gotten sick and died. Their vet had a German Shorthair that needed a home so they were going to give that a try. That lucky dog got a very nice home and lived a long, happy life. About a year and a half ago I received another call from Marilyn sayin it was time again for another wonderful Vizsla. Unfortunately, they were now both eighty years old and didn't want a puppy. They asked what I could do for them. I told them that I would ask around and see if there were any rescue dogs looking for a home. I started wondering what how I was going to make this work. I talked to a few people that had dogs but they were either too old or had some issue that made them not appropriate for people who were older. Then I finally talked to Linda Busch and she knew of someone that had a Vizsla in her home; even though she ran a Doberman rescue. He had belonged to a man who didn't have time for him anymore and wanted to place him. So I took a chance and told Marilyn and Willard about Charlie. They quickly made arrangements to go see him and maybe take him home. Of course, Charlie was a hit so off to Foosland he went to live at their farm. He had to make a few adjustments because Marilyn had a couple of cats and many grandchildren that he had never had to deal with before. Charlie learned to live in his new environment and had a wonderful new home. Willard was still working and some times away from the home so Charlie became Marilyn's protector.

About a month ago I received a letter with a newspaper clipping about Marilyn, she had had a stroke and passed away. At the bottom of the obituary printout was a note from Willard that read:

"Charlie had his head on her and did not move until her heart stopped. He then stretched out and laid beside her. We will miss her but she will not suffer anymore. Thanks for everything. Willard"

So Marilyn got her one last Vizsla and Charlie had Marilyn.

Just another reason the Rescue is so important.



Call to Order @ 7:30pm

Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve meeting minutes from May meeting; Motion mad by Greg Wegler, 2nd by Jim Gingrich. PASSED.

Specialty – July 16-17 (Kathy Harmer) – There were 68 dogs at the specialty today. This is the largest specialty that VCOI has had in some-time. Breeder Judge: Diane Shearer. Sharon Barr’s dog took breed CH Derby’s Frontier Justice JH. Kathy Engelsman’s dog took BOS: CH Jnek Spice Of Life and RWB: Jnek’s Landslide.

Double Bubble (Michele Princer)- There is a Chinese auction, so buy your tickets. Gundog Supply sent certificates. Starts 10 am tomorrow. There is a coloring contest for kids, pick a picture that will be made into cards used by the club. New event this year Vizslas Got Talent. CGC test, we need extra help for the CGC test.

Nominating Committee – Chair: Linda Busch. We need several other people to make up the committee. Contact Pam Spurgeon if you are interested in being on the nominating committee.

VCA Rescue needs help. Contact Pam Spurgeon or Julie Sullie.

Board has bought VCOI stickers. They are being sold at \$3 each.

May Field Trial (Michele Princer) Made \$68.35. There were 6 judges for the weekend. Ran 91 dogs, 2 courses at new ground, we have not used before in Paw Paw, IL. Great job everyone!

Field Trial – Sept 2011 (Greg Wegler) – Field trial will be Sept 23-25th at Pyramid Park in Pickneyville, IL. These are the grounds were the VCA National Field Trial will be held in November 2011. Entries open August 15th. We are in the process of securing judges for the event.

Chukar Shoot – Sept 2011 (Dennis Nowak) We will have gunners for this event. There will be a broke and non-broke division. Event is a work in progress. I will be sending out an email on the VCOI List with more details about this event. We need 20 dogs to make this event work. You will have 20 minutes in the field, 6 shells and 3 chukars. Event will be timed, birds must be retrieved. This is the first time we are offering this type of event.

October Field Trial – We have secured judges. Application will be going out to AKC and American Field soon.

Hunt Test Labor Day weekend at Des Plaines.

March meeting there was a motion for a trailer to carry club contents. Problem with having a trailer is logistics, club members are spread out. Board is going to get yard signs –VCOI Event In Progress- SLOW dogs running in this Event-.

Next meeting is Sept 14th at Village Pizza in Elgin, IL. November meeting will be at Cabela’s and Toni’s will cater.

January Banquet- George Haines will be doing the awards plaques. People have the opportunity to up grade their plaque, if they wish to do so.

Motion: Provide upgrade to awards plaque for anyone, who requests it. PASSED.

30th Happy Birthday to Brian Johnson.

Thank you to Linda, Shelly, Michelle for all the work they have done on the Double Bubble and Kathy Engelsman for her work on putting together the Specialty Show(s)/

Visitors: Sharon Grieves & Tami Babcock (Shelly’s Mom & cousin), Becky & Alex (new members).

We need a new date for Double Bubble that does not conflict with Specialty shows. Different weekend, there is concern about getting birds. Motion: Form a committee to find different weekend for the Double Bubble. Motion by Jim Gingrich, 2nded by Andy Weyer. Committee: Jim Gingrich, Andy Weyer and Michelle Princer.

Brags – Andy Weyer: Ozzie got CH, GCH and OGD field trial placement being owner handled. Oz will be on cover of the VOCI Bulletin. Linda Busch: Just Spike won Best in Sweeps at the Specialty. Greg Wegler: Kayla and Penny finished their FC titles. Jim Gingrich- kennel is empty all dogs have gone to ND!

Treasurer’s Report: There is \$11,701.33 in bank account.

Sunday Aug 7th there is an AKC field trial/ Hunt test seminar at Gander Mountain in Joliet, IL.

July 30, 2011 – VCA Board Meeting by O’Hare Airport.

Meeting Closes at 8 pm. Seconded by Mike Dalby.

Calendars!

Detailed View...

Membership Meeting- The meeting will be held at Village Pizza & Pub, 2496 N Randall Rd. Elgin, IL. There is an all you can eat Pizza & Pop for \$11.50. Please RSVP with Pam at pamsurgeon@ymail.com by Sept. 7th

Chukkar Shoot-The VCOI is trying something new this year. Since the Field trial is moved to a new location and date we have an open weekend at Desplaines Wildlife Area. Come out and try something new with your dog. We will be having our first ever chukkar shoot. We will have two divisions, broke and non broke. Both divisions will have the same concept. The event will have 20 minutes to get 3 birds, up to six shells and get 3 retrieves. The person with the best time, least amount of shells and 3 qualifying retrieves will win. In the non broke division we will offer to those that don't want to shoot a gunner to walk with you and your dog. The entry fee is 50.00 per run. We will have the event on Sept 17th and 18th,2011.We will start around 8:00 am. We will not have a concessionaire due to not knowing the turn out. So bring what you will need for the day. You must be a VCOI member to enter the event. Please go to Website for entry form. Anyone interested in helping with this event please contact Dennis Nowak at 815-439-0720 for more info. Entries must be received by Sept14th.Entries will be taken by e-mail. All money will be collected the morning of the event. You will be liable for payment if entries are sent and not show up unless approved by Wens Sept 14th.There will be prizes for 1st & 2nd place in each division.

September Field Trial—The event will be at Pyramid State Park, Denmark Unit, Pickneyville, IL
Contact Brian Gingrich for more information.

The VCOI is having a both at the National Hunting and Fishing Days. Which is located in Yorkville on the Fox River. The event takes place on the last weekend of September which is the 24th &25th 2011. It is the same weekend as the fall trial this year. We will be having 2-3 demonstrations a day. We share them with the GSPCI and I must say that the V's are showing up those shorthairs. Anyone interested in coming out you are welcome. Bring the dog out and we can put them on free pheasants. This is a great place to socialize young dogs and bring the kids. The event is 100% free. There is usually around 20,000 to 30,000 people that come out to this weekend. So if you can come out let me know so I can set up the demonstrations. Contact the Nowak's at 815-439-0720

October Field Trial—The event will be held at the Ottawa Field Trial Grounds in Eagle, WI.

This event is for Vizslas only.
Bill or Melissa Stapleton for more information.

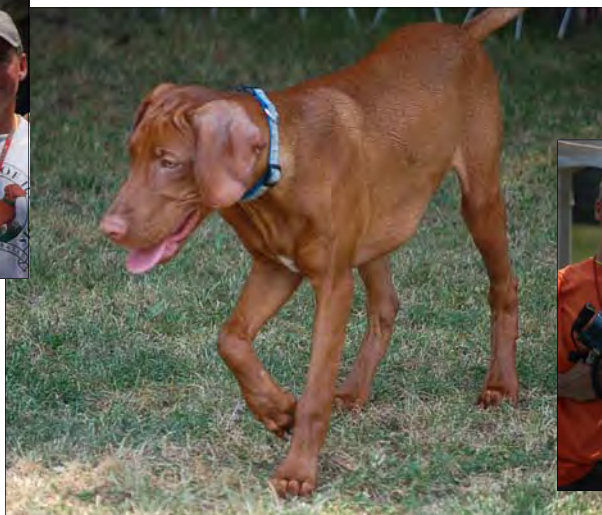
November Membership Meeting—Cabela's in Hoffman Estates—6:30 PM Dinner (catered by Michele Princer) \$10 per person for dinner. Cabela's will be giving us coupons and gifts to be given away.
Please RSVP by Nov. 10th to Pam at csvizslas@yahoo.com for head count.

Double 20

The heat really took it's toll on this years Double Bubble. Thanks to the 90+ degree heat attendance was very low. Despite the heat those who attended had a great time and participated in many of our events. Saturday at the Club meeting it was decided that we should change the date of future Double Bubbles. A committee was formed to decide on the best date. Getting away from the July heat should bring up attendance. We are also hoping to see the dog show specialty people back if we are not conflicting.

We have many people to thank for all their hard work at the Bubble. There are a group of club members how are always there to help with setup, take down and anything else that needs to be done. Huge thanks to Dennis & Patti Nowak, their nephew; Ray, George & Mary Haines, Rob & Beth Struthers, Brian Johnson, Chad & Nancy Chadwell, Jeremy & Joanne Weber, Chad Morcsh, Greg & Sharon Wegler, Pam Spurgeon, Eric Kliefoth & Jaden Johnson. Special thanks to all our judges who sat and sweat on horses for us; for the Tyro Classic Chad Morsch & Greg Hedian and for the Powder Puff Chad Chadwell & Greg Wegler. We had a special guest judge for the Wing & String... Mike Dalby with his lovely assistant Karen did a great job filling in. We have to thank Rodney Albin for bringing the birds and for running the planting contest once again. Thanks to Brad Lepoudrea for running the Tyro Classic on Saturday. Thanks to Shelley Gabriel for running the calendar contest. We had many incredible pictures entered this year! Of course we are all so grateful every year to Mike & Michelle Miklas for bringing the tent that we all escape the sun under. Thanks to Jeff Parise for being our official Master of Ceremonies. Once again Rick Mitchell and his crew ran a very popular and professional locate & point. Always a crowd favorite. Special thanks to Sharon Grieves (AKC judge) and Tami Babcock for the confirmation seminar and For the CGC testing. And of course the biggest thanks of all go to Jim & Linda Busch for allowing all of us to invade their world for a weekend of fun on the farm!!

Your 2011 DB Committee: Michelle Princer, Shelly Kliefoth, & Linda Busch



2011 Midwest Vizsla Futurity

The 29th running of the Midwest Vizsla Futurity ("MVF") was held on March 4, 2011, at the Des Plaines Wildlife Conservation Area near Joliet, IL. The MVF regularly attracts the best and brightest derby dogs that the Vizsla breed has to offer, and this year did not disappoint. A number of the top Vizsla derbies in the country were on hand to vie for top honors and take home the coveted "Double Lane" trophy. Many of the dogs in this year's field had puppy and/or derby wins under their belt, several having placed and won at the National level. The MVF lived up to its name yet again, drawing entries from throughout the Midwest, and even attracted participants from as far away as Arizona.

Breeders nominated a total of twenty-two litters for this year's Futurity. Thirteen hopefuls were re-nominated, entered, drawn and brought to the line to compete for a total prize purse worth in excess of \$2,000. This year's Futurity again enjoyed a large gallery of spectators, excited to bear witness to the future of our breed. Those in attendance were treated to a number of noteworthy performances. The judges definitely had their work cut out for them.

Judges for this year's renewal were Howard Burbach, of Pleasant Hill, MO, and Kent Harter, of Hampshire, IL. Mr. Burbach, our returning judge from last year, is an accomplished GSP field trialer and also a well-respected judge. Mr. Harter, also a successful GSP field trailer with considerable judging experience, was a welcome addition to this year's judging slate. The MVF was honored to have such fine gentlemen sitting in the judging saddle once again. They both were attentive to the dogs, fair and positive in their evaluation of the dogs, and their decisions were well-received by those present.

As with any other event, the MVF would not succeed without the hard work, dedication and gracious support of volunteers and its supporters. MVF Chairman, Mark Spurgeon, and MVF Secretary, Rodney Albin, do a lion's share of the work and must be commended for their dedication to this event. The MVF is run on a limited budget, but somehow Rodney and Mark make it all come together. MVF Webmaster, Michel Berner, has also done a fantastic job maintaining the MVF's website and solidifying the Futurity's online presence. The MVF would also like to thank Nestle-Purina, and specifically Pat Lamantia and Terry Trzcinski, for their continued and generous support of this event. Nestle-Purina awarded Pro Plan Performance Formula product to the MVF's winners and donated hats for participants and spectators alike. Nestle-Purina remains an ardent supporter of field trialing and the MVF appreciates their contribution to our event. We look forward to their continued support in the future, especially next year when we celebrate the MVF's 30th Anniversary. Finally, the MVF must thank the Vizsla Club of Illinois for its support. Although a standalone event, the MVF is run in conjunction with the VCOI's spring field trial, which is held on the weekend following the MVF. The VCOI has very graciously supported this event, sometimes even financially, for nearly two decades. Without their commitment to the Futurity, it likely would no longer exist.

Although not quite as pleasant as the previous two years, this year's MVF was fortunate yet again to enjoy weather conducive to running dogs. The temps were balmy, reaching highs near 60 degrees later in the day. The sky was overcast and threatening, but the day's running was complete before the rain, and later snow, moved into the area. The ride around began shortly after 8:30 a.m. and the first brace cast off at 9:30 a.m.

THE WINNERS

The winner of the 2011 Midwest Vizsla Futurity was Burr Oak's Redneck Cowgirl ("Casey"), owned by James Gingrich of Winnebago, IL, and bred by Ray Cooper of Longview, TX. Casey was handled by Jim's son and professional trainer, Brian Gingrich of Rockford, IL.

The First Runner-up was Saginaw Redneck Cowboy ("Tex"), owner-handled by Mark Johnson of Winnebago, IL. Tex is Casey's littermate brother and bred by Ray Cooper of Longview, Texas.

The Second Runner-up, Kick Em Up Kimber ("Kimber"), was owner handled by Jarrett Bell of O'Fallon, MO, and ran as the bye dog in the third brace of the day. Kimber was bred by Ron Chenoweth of Port Byron, IL.

The Third Runner-up, CK Super Shot Suzie ("Suzie"), bred and owned by Ron Chenoweth of Port Byron, IL, was handled by professional trainer Jerry Jordan of Cedar Point, IA.

Additional info about this year's event, an event photo gallery and synopses of past Futurities can be found at www.vizslafuturity.com. For more information about the Midwest Vizsla Futurity, event rules and/or litter nominations, please visit the MVF's website at www.vizslafuturity.com or contact MVF Secretary, Rodney Albin, 2445 Carter Road, Moscow Mills, MO 63362, (636) 366-9746, rodneyalbin@centurytel.net.



Therapy Vizsla Dogs

By Jodi Kast

Therapy dogs are highly trained dogs that visit individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and many other settings. Studies show that a visit from a therapy dog may reduce stress, anxiety, pain, and blood pressure and increase social interaction and communication. Some basic qualifying requirements are the following: Sit on command, down on command, stay and recall on command, walk loosely on a leash without pulling, get along well with other dogs, able to perform commands without treats. Your dog should also; like people, not be overly vocal, have no food or possession issues, not have separation anxiety issues, be at least one year of age, be current on all vaccinations, and be free of skin problems.

I currently have two working therapy dogs. My eleven year old Vizsla, Spencer has been visiting nursing homes and a children's home for ten years. Cooper, my five year old Vizsla, works at OSF St. Anthony Hospital in Rockford . We were chosen for the original team and have been volunteering there for almost three years. My dogs have touched many hearts through the years. One case in particular, was a woman suffering from terminal cancer. She spent weeks at a time on the cancer unit at the hospital. We visited her every time we worked our shift. We grew to be friends with her and her husband. When she passed, we attended the visitation with other dog/handler teams from OSF that had spent time with her. We stood in the line waiting our turn to offer condolences to her family. When her husband saw us, he hugged me and started to cry and said to everyone in the room, "Visits from these dogs kept my wife alive. She had something to look forward to. I don't think there was a dry eye in the room. People often tell me what a great thing it is we do and I say, "What a great thing it is that we are ALLOWED to do this. T he joys we experience can not be measured.

There are several therapy dog organizations that have qualified individuals to do the temperament testing. Delta society, Therapy Dogs International, and Therapy Dogs, Inc. are a few. During the testing period, your dog will be asked to perform basic obedience commands. T hey will be subjected to loud noises and placed in close contact with moving wheelchairs, walkers, and other handler's and dogs. A food test is given to ensure that your dog will respond to a "leave it" command. Your dog will be separated from you for a timed period. He can not show any signs of anxiety. If you and your dog pass the examination, there is an annual fee for membership in the organization. The AKC has recently determined to recognize these wonderful working canines with a Therapy Dog Title. Spencer and Cooper received their titles in the last month. Therapy dogs around the world along with their "people" volunteer their time to bring a smile to the face of those, young and old, that are in need of some comfort and love. On countless occasions I have listened to a story about a great dog that someone used to have or of one they currently own but have been away from for a time. Our dogs certainly don't replace those beloved friends, but, for a brief time provide the canine companionship these folks are missing. At OSF, we hand out surveys to the patients to receive feedback about the program. One of the questions on the survey is, "Would you choose a medical facility based on whether or not it had a therapy dog program?" You may be surprised that many people answer, Yes!

Our next temperament testing for new dogs at OSF is September 17th. We are always looking for new dogs to join the team. If anyone is interested in trying out they can go to the OSF website or contact Theresa Geraci or Michelle Schrieber at OSF.



Bubble

Wing & String – young dogs under six months

1. Montana
2. Sugar Bear—Kliefoth
3. Paprika—Kort
4. Rogue—Kliefoth

Wing & String – dogs 6 to 12 months

- 1.
2. Rugged—Princer
- 3.
- 4.

Bird Planting contest for kids – Juniors

1. Quinn Lantry
2. Julia Miklas
3. Emma Lantry

Bird Planting contest for kids – Seniors

1. Ray O'Donnell
2. Michael Pawlowski

Tyro – Hunter

1. Hunter - Ian Miklas .40 seconds
2. Milton—Ron Borkus .56 seconds
3. Hunter—Mike Miklas 1.12 minutes
4. Triumph—Mike Dalby 1.16 minutes
5. Bolt—Patti Nowak 1.56 minutes

Field Trial Hunter

- 1/2 Belle—John Looby 2 runs at .40 seconds
3. Juliet—Patti Nowak 1.08 minutes
4. Shandy—Jaden Johnson 1.10 minutes
5. Bolt—Patti Nowak 1.34 minutes

Field Trial—Young Dog

1. Juno—Jeremy Weber .57 seconds
2. Dorothy—Joel Peterson 1.08 seconds
3. Juno—Jeremy Weber 2.38 minutes

Obstacle Course - Junior

1. Gracie—Haines
2. Ash—Haberbush
3. Blaze—John Busch

Obstacle Course – Senior

1. May—Looby
2. Abby—Johnson
3. Bell—Looby

Powder Puff Derby – Seniors (Ladies only)

1. Megan Looby
2. Joanne Weber
3. Susie Burgo

Rubber Ducky Race Winner—Chad Chadwell

Pigeon Plop Winner—Jaden Johnson

CGC Qualifiers:

Ch Mira's Peacemaker (Colt) - Michel Berner

Hunter—Michael Miklas

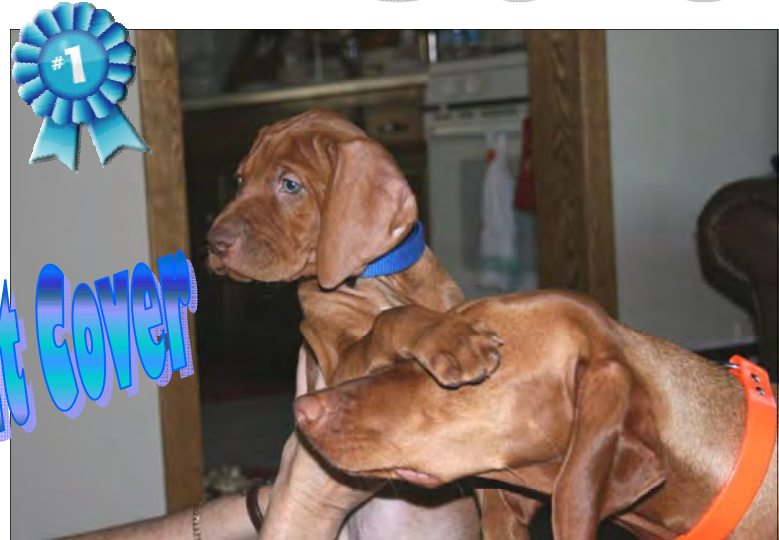
Holida-N-Sunmeadows Carry-On Caylee—Christine Quaid

Rivr Runs Through It—Mike Dalby

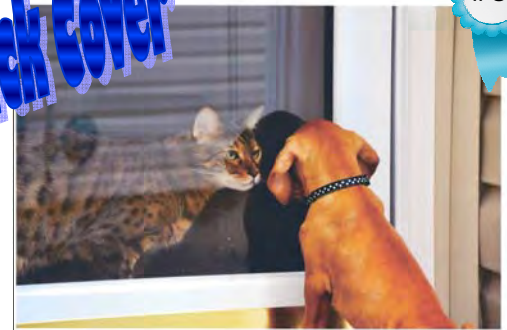
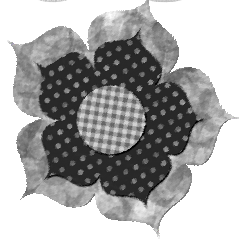
Snmeadows Carry-On Carly—Christine Quaid

Cadens Cut to the Chase—Christine Quaid

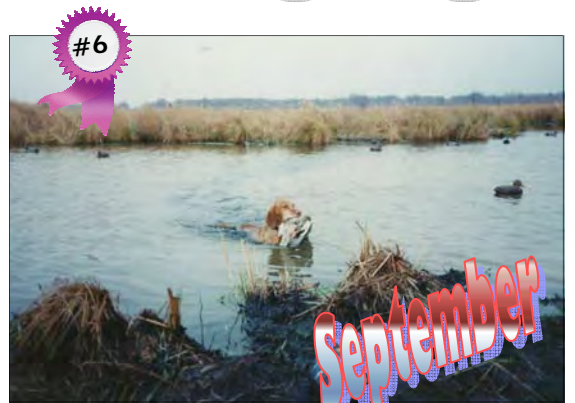
2012 Calendar Contest Winners



Front Cover goes to:
Gracie & Rooster
Owners: George & Mary Haines



Back Cover: **Asta & Archiee pup**
Owners: Rick Mitchell
September: **Mike**
Owners: Andy Weyer



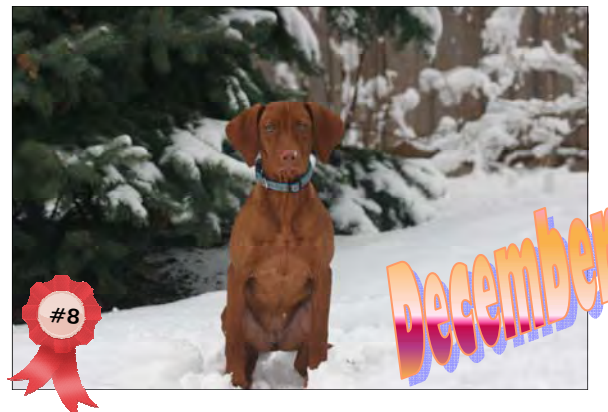
November: **Buckshot**
Owners: Patti & Dennis Nowak
March: **Hannah**
Owners: Kathy Harmer, Sue Barnes, & Cathy Gallagher



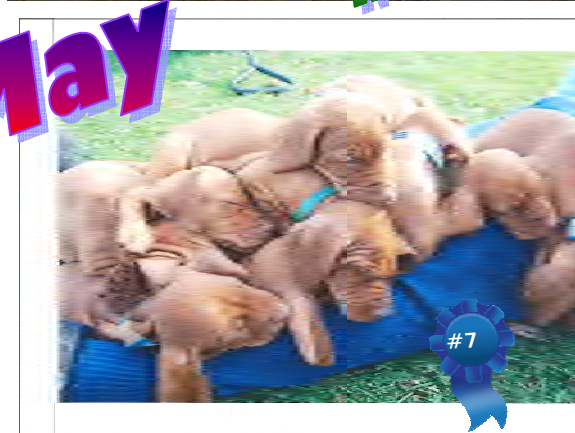
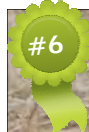
May & July: **Busch Pups**
Owners: Linda & Jim Busch



August: **Milton**
Owners: Donna & Ron Borkus
December: **Cheyenne**
Owner: Sue Burgo



June: **Morgan & Maya**
Owners: Shelley, Jimmy & Jerry Gabriel
February: **Asta & Archiee pup**
Owner: Rick Mitchell



April: **Gracie**
Owners: George & Mary Haines
October: **Danny, Tex & Rita**
Owners: Rhonda & Mark Johnson



January: **Hunter** Owners: Michelle & Mike Miklas

