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Versatile Energetic Hunter **Vizsla**



Illustrated Standard Committee

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Illustrations

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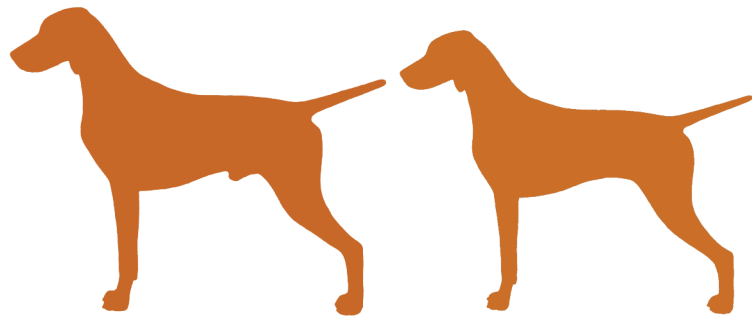
The Committee Approach to this Illustrated Standard

This illustrated standard is the first publishing by the Vizsla Club of America. The Vizsla originated in Hungary with records of the breed dating back to 1357. The Vizsla received American Kennel Club recognition in 1960. Our committee's challenge was to take more than 50 years of opinions and apply them to the written standard for our breed. This illustrated standard should be viewed as the ideal image of the written word. While breeders may prefer slight style variations, they should strive to produce a Vizsla that represents the closest possible example of the written standard.

Respect for the Vizsla VCA Code of Ethics (excerpt)

The Vizsla is a distinctively different canine. It is a superior family dog as well as a true hunting companion, accepting the role of protector and friend and demanding the degree of respect and rank that distinguishes it clearly higher than that of a "dog".

After surviving countless wars and centuries of limited and selective breeding, the Vizsla was re-bred from near extinction and combines the finest in beauty, character and hunting ability with a strong desire to please. He is lightweight and agile, running with effortless grace. Respect for this heritage demands that the breed should never be allowed to become less than the dog that still represents the National Dog of Hungary - a true "walking gentleman's shooting dog." The Vizsla should remain true to type whether in the show ring, field or at home with the family, representing all physical characteristics which have distinguished him for centuries.



Vizsla Standard

General Appearance

That of a medium-sized, short-coated, hunting dog of distinguished appearance and bearing. Robust but rather lightly built, the coat is an attractive shaded golden rust. Originating in Hungary, the Vizsla was bred to work in field, forest and water. Agile and energetic, this is a versatile dog of power, drive and endurance in the field yet a tractable and affectionate companion in the home. It is strongly emphasized that field conditioned coats, as well as brawny or sinewy muscular condition and honorable scars indicating a working and hunting dog are never to be penalized in this dog. The requisite instincts and abilities to maintain a "dual dog" are always to be fostered and appreciated, never deprecated.



Head

Standard

Lean and muscular. Skull moderately wide between the ears with a median line down the forehead. Stop between skull and foreface is moderate.

CLARIFICATION

When viewed from the front, a Vizsla has a strong looking head with a soft, gentle, pleasing expression. A variety of heads are acceptable. The size of the head should be in proportion to the body. The Vizsla head is unique among sporting breeds as it is somewhat of a blunt wedge, but also is defined by chiseled orbital bones and when viewed from the front has only a very slight taper of the muzzle. Small, snipey heads or large, boxy heads are not desirable. There is a visible median line from the occiput to the stop. The back skull is slightly arched; not domed or flat.



Female





Male



Relaxed ear position



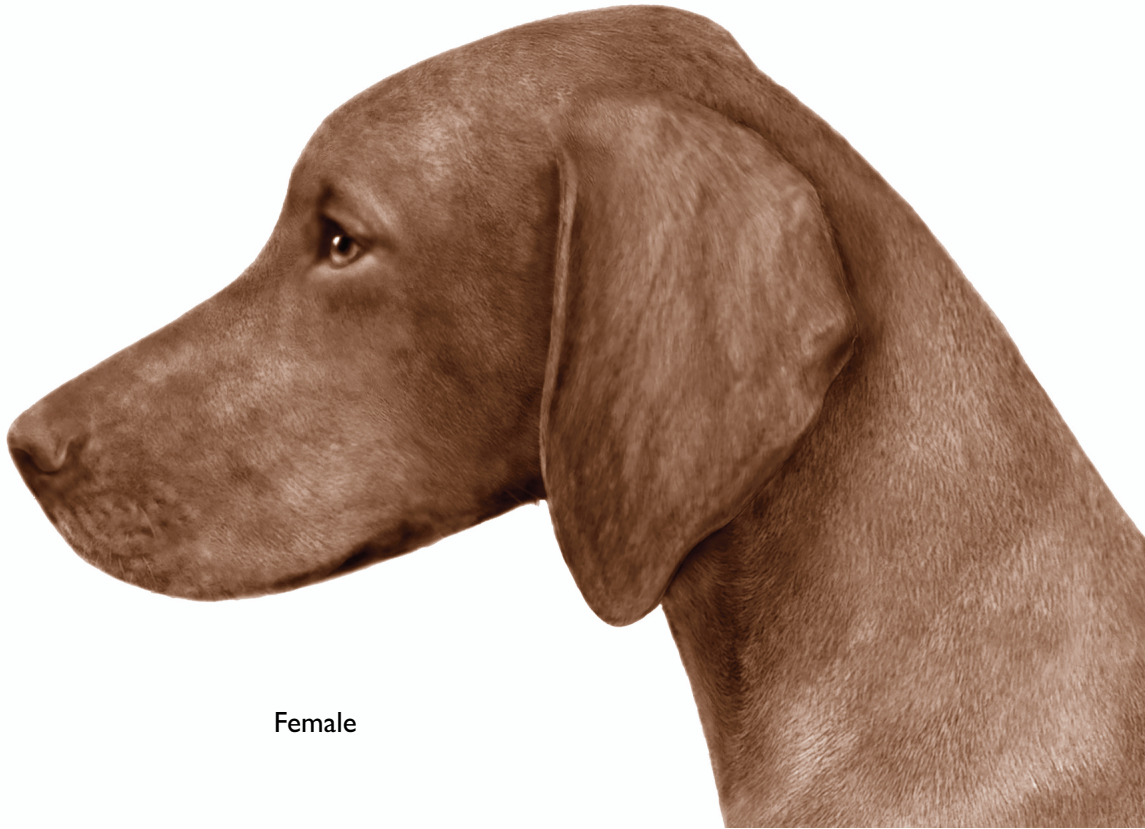
Head

Continued >



Male





Female



Muzzle

Standard

Foreface or muzzle is of equal length or slightly shorter than skull when viewed in profile, should taper gradually from stop to tip of nose. Muzzle square and deep. It should not turn up as in a "dish" face nor should it turn down. Whiskers serve a functional purpose; their removal is permitted but not preferred. Jaws are strong with well-developed white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. Lips cover the jaws completely but are neither loose or pendulous.

CLARIFICATION

The relationship between the length of muzzle and the depth of skull is important. When viewed from the front, the muzzle gently blends into the wedge-shaped head. However, the planes are not perfectly parallel, as the top of the muzzle tapers slightly from the stop to the tip of the nose. The underjaw is powerful, deep and squared off at the bottom when viewed in profile. The jaw at the junction with the neck is clean, not throaty, and ideally devoid of dewlap.

The Vizsla does not have as much lip as other pointing breeds. The lower lip at the corner of the mouth creates a slight "smile" line. There should only be enough lip to cover the lower jaw. Heavy flews are not desirable.

When evaluating the bite during the oral exam for the conformation ring, it is preferred that the handler show the bite by lifting the lips at the front of the muzzle so that the scissors bite may be verified.

Whiskers are vital to performance in the field.

Nose

Standard

Nostrils slightly open. Nose self-colored. Any other color is faulty. A partially or completely black nose is a disqualification. Freckles due to aging or sun exposure are not to be faulted.

CLARIFICATION

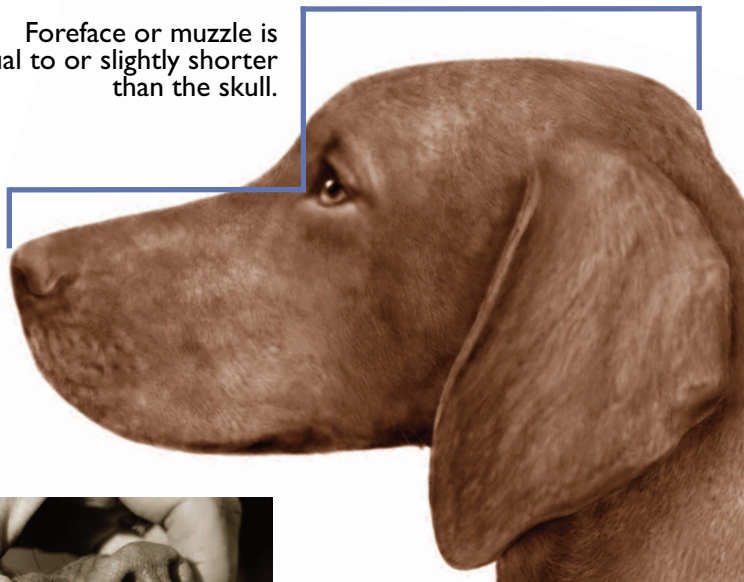
The nose color blends with the coat so that a darker dog should have a darker nose and a lighter dog can have a lighter nose. It is a brownish-red or brownish-pink color, not quite liver or dark brown and never black. Noses that are chapped, freckled or discolored from sun, field work or age are not to be penalized.





Muzzle is square and deep and blends gently into a wedge-shaped head.

Foreface or muzzle is equal to or slightly shorter than the skull.



Scissors bite.

Jaws are strong and well-developed to help in retrieving game.



Ears

Standard

Ears, thin, silky and proportionately long, with rounded-leather ends, set fairly low and hanging close to cheeks.

CLARIFICATION

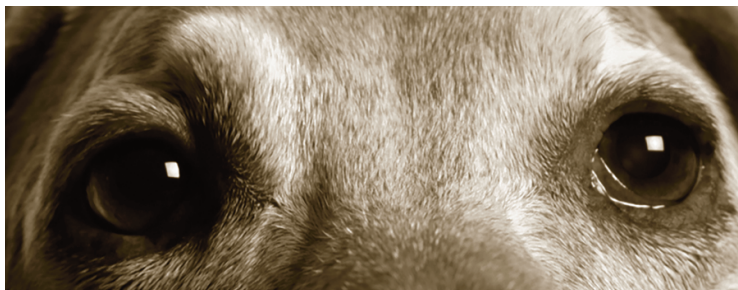
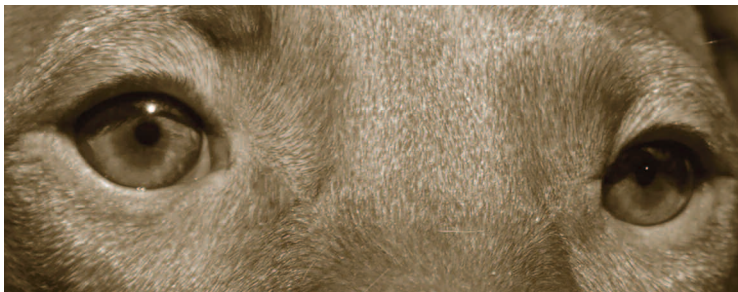
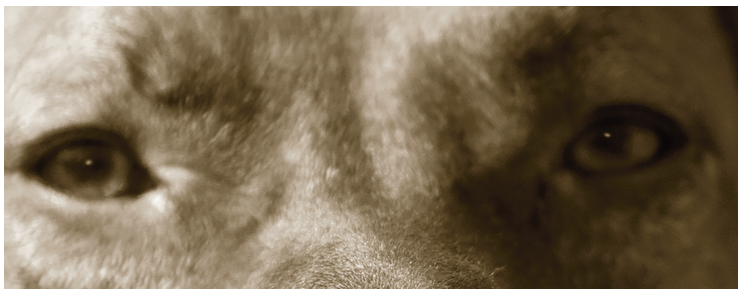
The Vizsla ear is triangular with a rounded tip and should, at a minimum, reach to the corner of the mouth, but should not reach the nose. The ears hang close to the cheek and frame the face. The Vizsla displays a variety of expressions ranging from alert to relaxed through the carriage of the ears. They are fairly low set in comparison to the other shorthaired continental pointers, but are not to be set as low as some hound and spaniel breeds. Vizslas may have small skin tags located at the top front edge of the ear called Futaki horns.



Ears are set lower than other pointers, but not as low as some hound breeds.

Futaki horns





Eye shapes can vary, but always have distinct corners.

Eyes

Standard

Eyes medium in size and depth of setting, their surrounding tissue covering the whites. Color of the iris should blend with the color of the coat. Yellow or any other color is faulty. Prominent pop eyes are faulty. Lower eyelids should neither turn in nor out since both conditions allow seeds and dust to irritate the eye.

CLARIFICATION

The expression of the eyes ranges from alert and eager to warm and friendly. The shape may vary, but all eyes should have distinct corners at both the tear duct and the outside edge. The skin surrounding the eyes should fit cleanly and tightly around the globe for maximum protection. Iris color can range from amber to a golden-brown caramel to blend with the coat. Younger dogs may have a lighter eye color. However, eye color at any age should never distract from the dog's pleasing expression.



Neck and Body

Standard

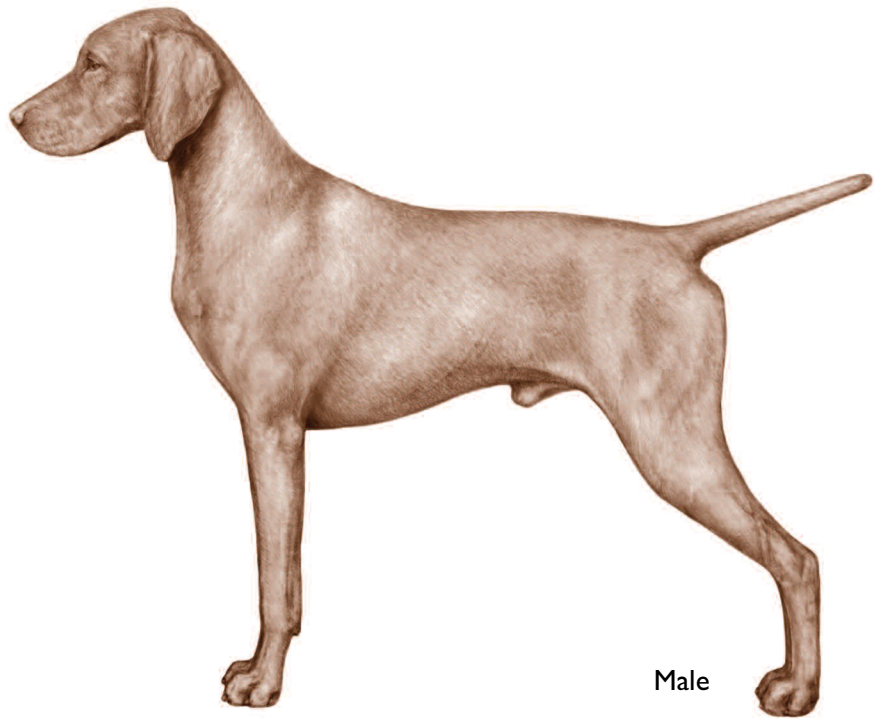
Neck strong, smooth and muscular, moderately long, arched and devoid of dewlap, broadening nicely into shoulders which are moderately laid back. This is mandatory to maintain balance with the moderately angulated hindquarters. Body is strong and well proportioned. Withers high. While the Vizsla may appear square, when measured from point of breastbone to point of buttocks and from the highest point over the shoulder blades to the ground, the Vizsla is slightly longer than tall. A proper proportion of leg length to body length is essential to the desired overall balance of the Vizsla. The Vizsla should not appear long and low or tall and leggy. Backline firm with a slight rise over a short and well-muscled loin. Croup is gently rounded to the set on of the tail and is not steep, sunken or flat. When moving at a trot, a properly built Vizsla maintains a steady, level backline. Chest moderately broad and deep reaching down to the elbows. Ribs well-sprung and carried well back; underline exhibiting a slight tuck-up beneath the loin. Tail set just below the level of the croup, thicker at the root and docked one-third off. Ideally, it should reach to the back of the stifle joint and when moving it should be carried at or near the horizontal, not vertically or curled over the back, nor between the legs. A docked tail is preferred.

CLARIFICATION

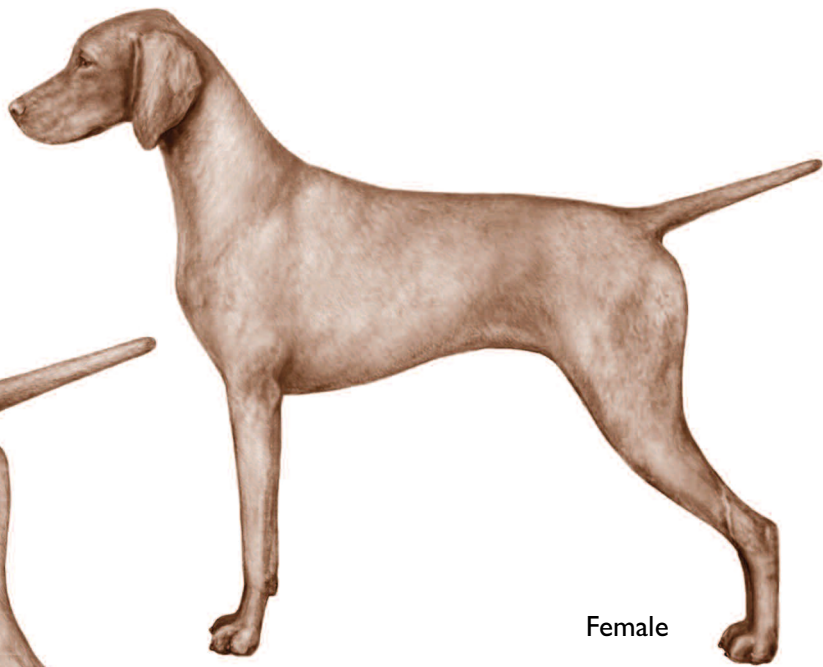
In profile, the lovely sweeping line from the neck over the loin through the gently rounded croup and finishing with a proper tail set and carriage is one of the loveliest features of the Vizsla. The moderately angled front is in balance with the moderately angulated rear. The chest reaches to the elbow. The ribcage is long, and the loin is short. The Vizsla topline and tail set are hallmarks of the breed. There are five primary components of the topline. First, a slight prominence of the scapula and accompanying layer of muscle is the highest point of the backline. Second, this high point blends smoothly into a level back. Third, there is a muscular fullness and slight rounding over the short loin, starting just after the last rib and concluding at the crest of the pelvis. Fourth, this all rounds gently into the croup, which is never steep or flat. Lastly, the tail is set approximately a thumb's thickness below the level of the croup. When the dog moves, there may be a slight curve to the tail, but it is never sickle tailed.

The neck should be long enough to allow the dog to pick up birds and strong enough to carry game. The neck is clean and blends smoothly without disruption into moderately laid-back shoulders.





Male

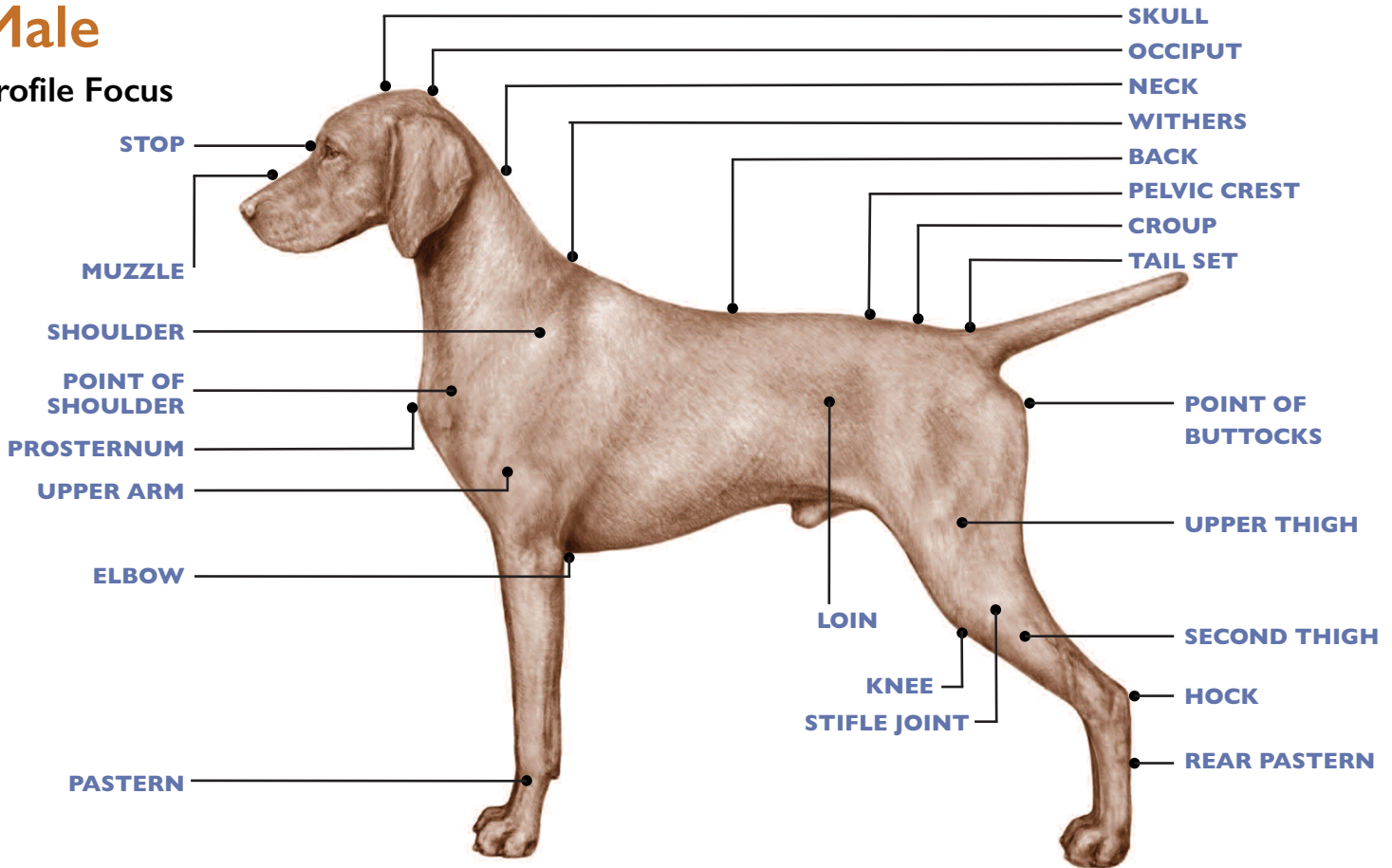


Female



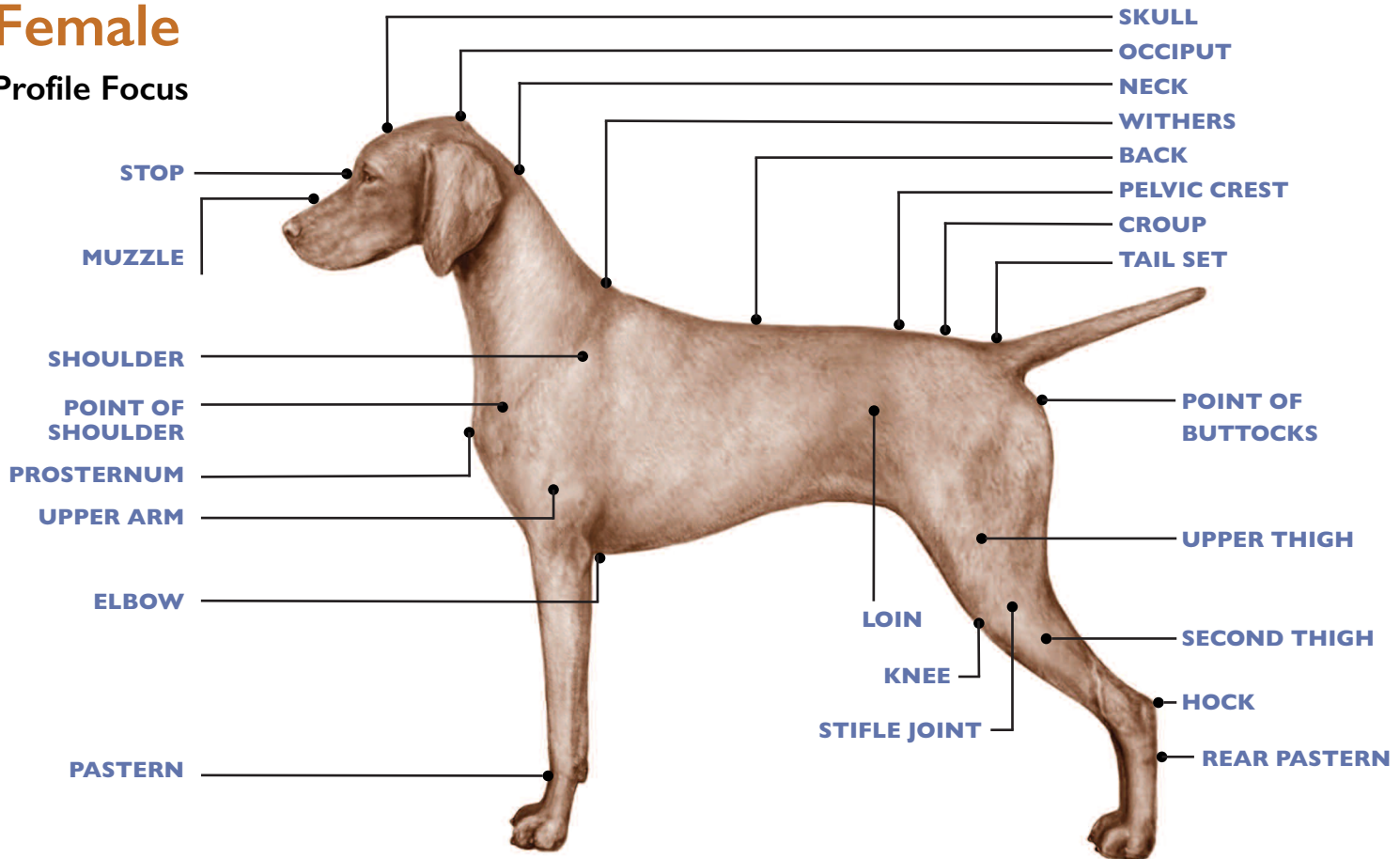
Male

Profile Focus



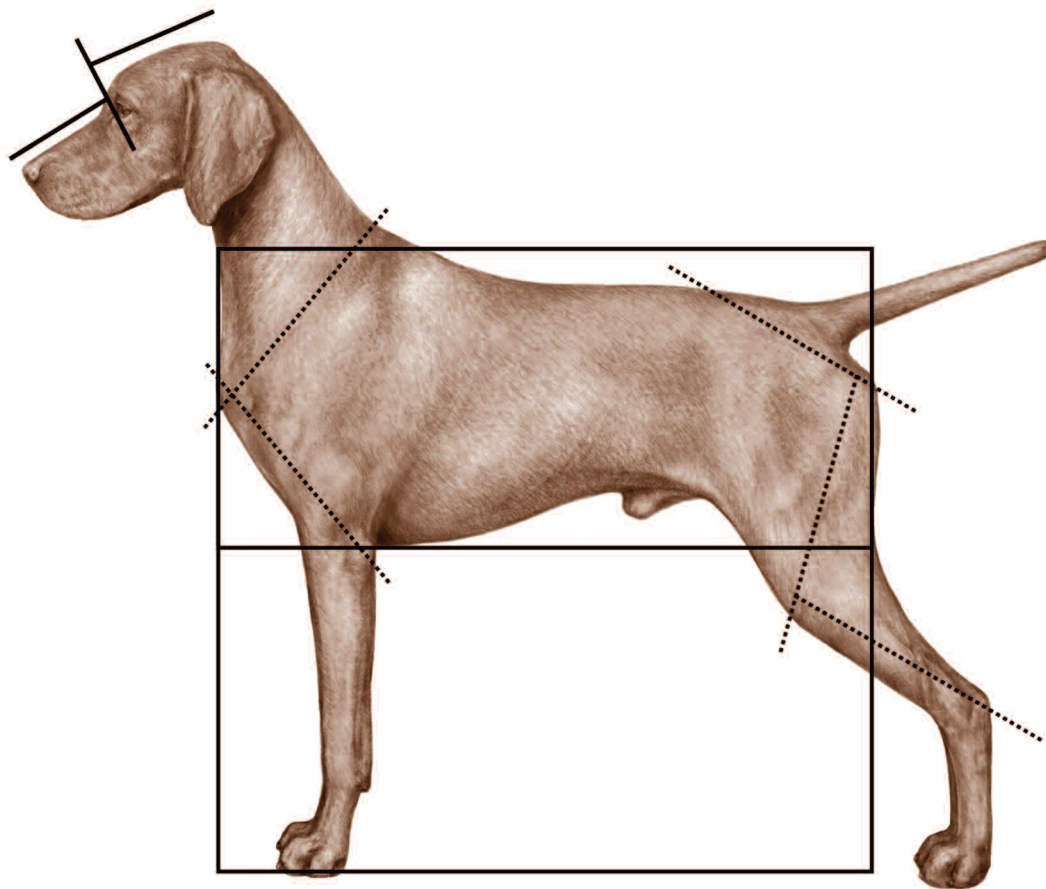
Female

Profile Focus



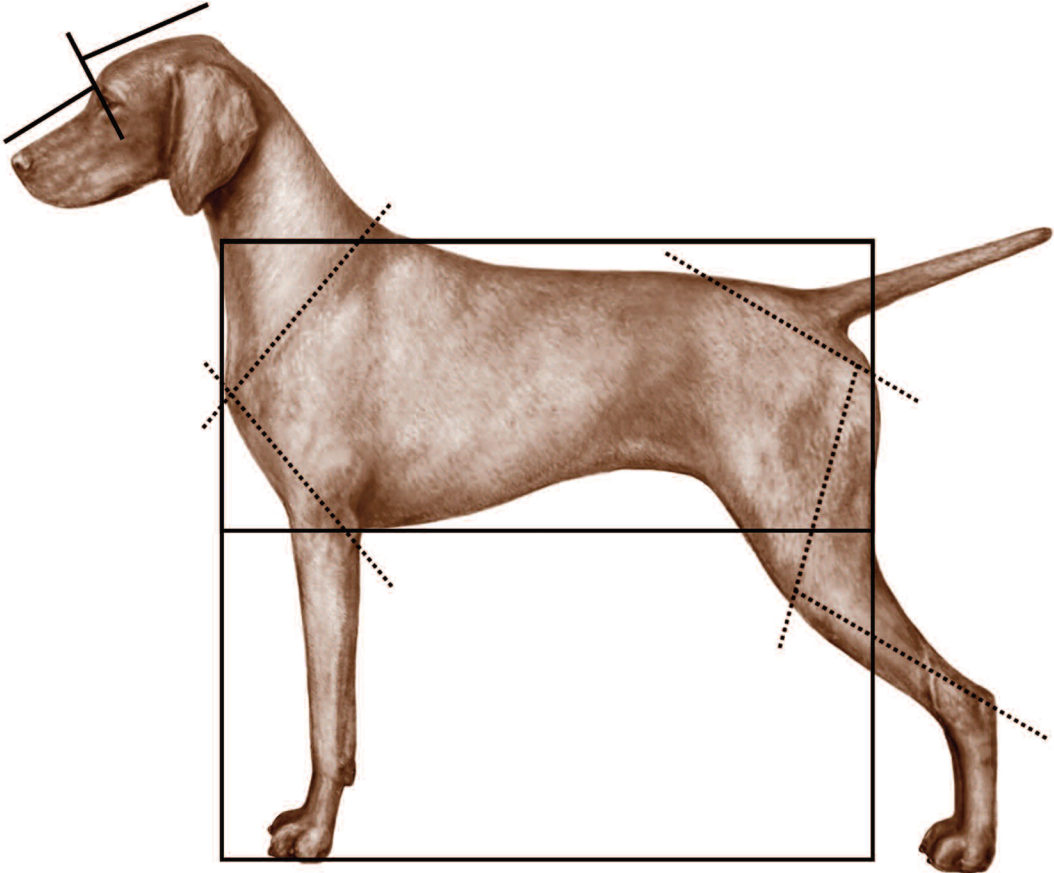
Male

Proportions



Female

Proportions



Forequarters

Standard

Shoulder blades proportionately long and wide sloping moderately back and fairly close at the top. Upper arm is about equal in length to the shoulder blade in order to allow for good extension. Forelegs straight and muscular with elbows close.

CLARIFICATION

The angle formed between the withers, the point of the shoulder, and the point of the elbow is moderate.

The shoulder blade and upper arm are approximately equal in length allowing the elbow to be placed under the shoulder blade.

From the front, the chest should have width and be oval in shape. There should be enough chest for good lung capacity but not so much as to hinder movement. The elbows fit close to the body. The elbow and foreleg turn neither in nor out.

The pasterns have a very gentle slope to allow for proper shock absorption.



Hindquarters

Standard

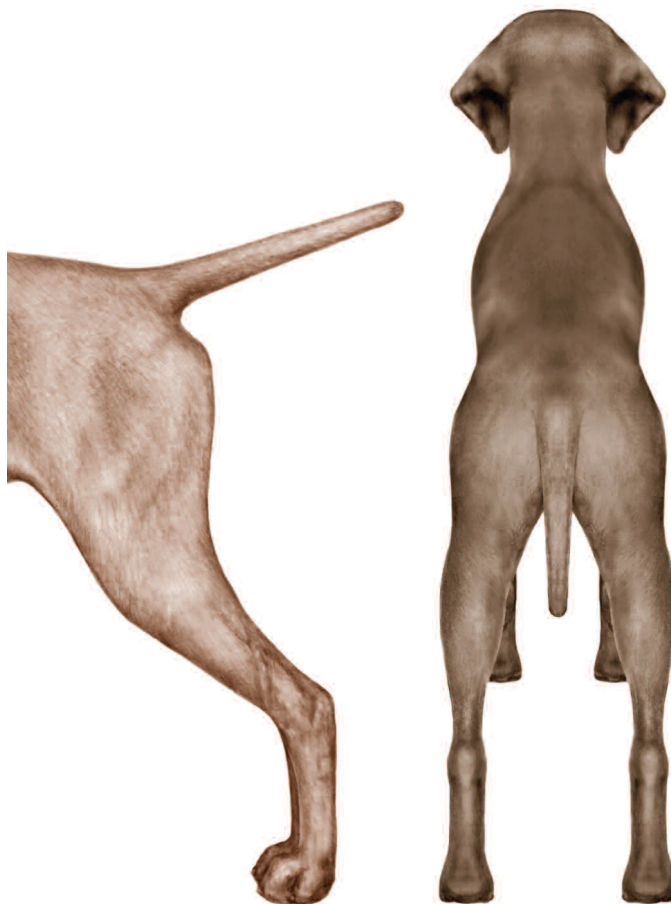
Hind legs have well developed thighs with moderately angulated stifles and hocks in balance with the moderately laid-back shoulders. They must be straight as viewed from behind. Too much angulation at the hocks is as faulty as too little. The hocks are let down and parallel to each other.

CLARIFICATION

The angles of the hindquarters are in balance with the angles of the front.

The rear angle is formed between the pelvic crest, the point of the buttocks, and the knee.

Both the upper and lower thigh are well-muscled and of similar length. The well let down hock is strong, vertical to the ground with a short rear pastern. A plumb line drawn from the point of the buttocks to the ground passes in front of the rear foot.



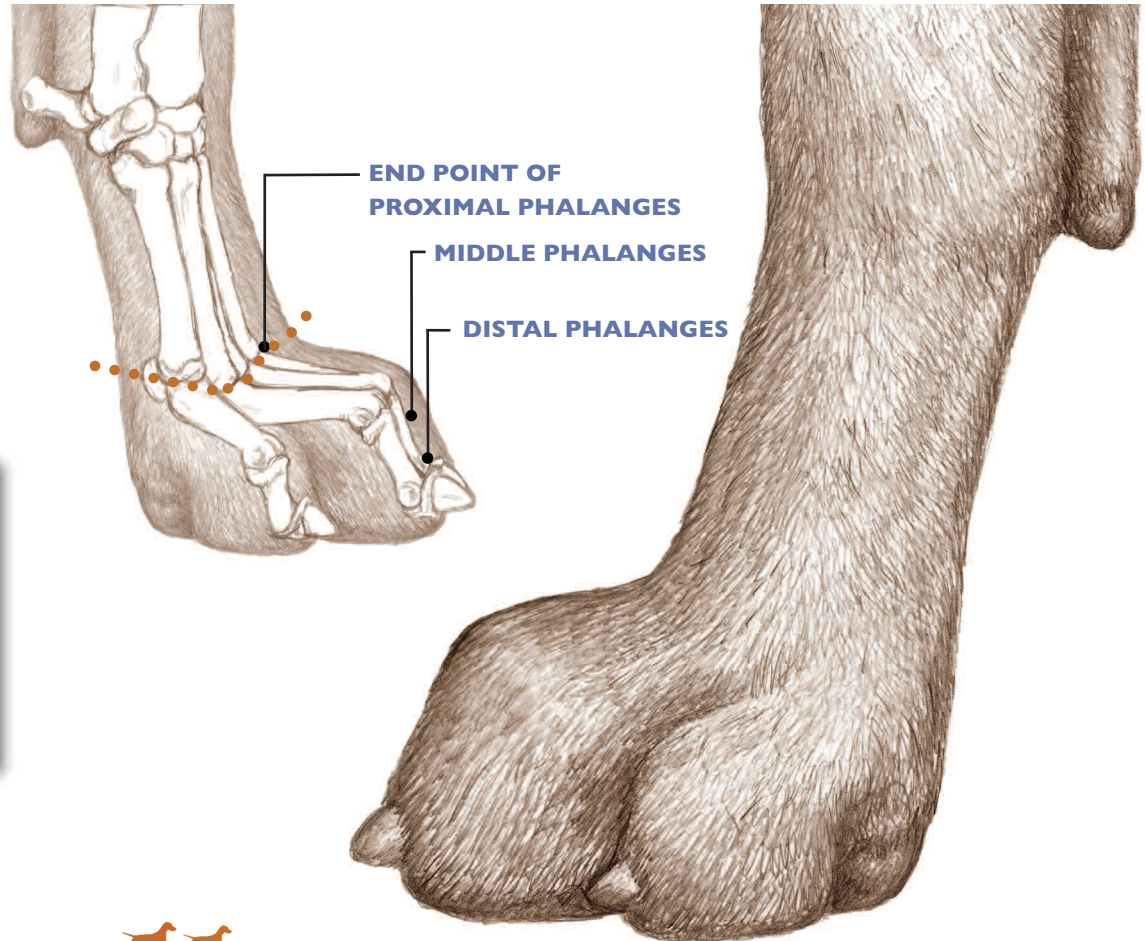
Feet

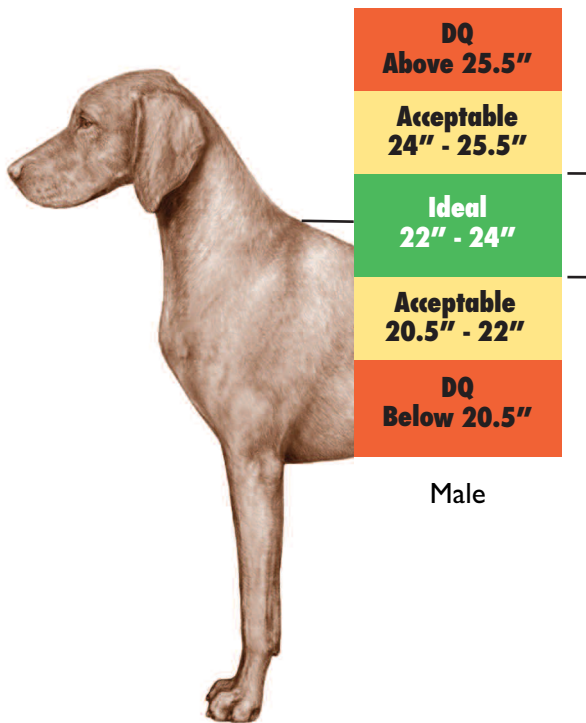
Standard

Feet cat-like, round and compact with toes close. Nails brown and short. Pads thick and tough. The removal of dewclaws, if any, on front and rear feet is strongly recommended in order to avoid injury when running in the field.

CLARIFICATION

The feet are strong and tight and the nails blend with the coat color. White outside the allowable area (above proximal phalanges of toe) is a disqualification.



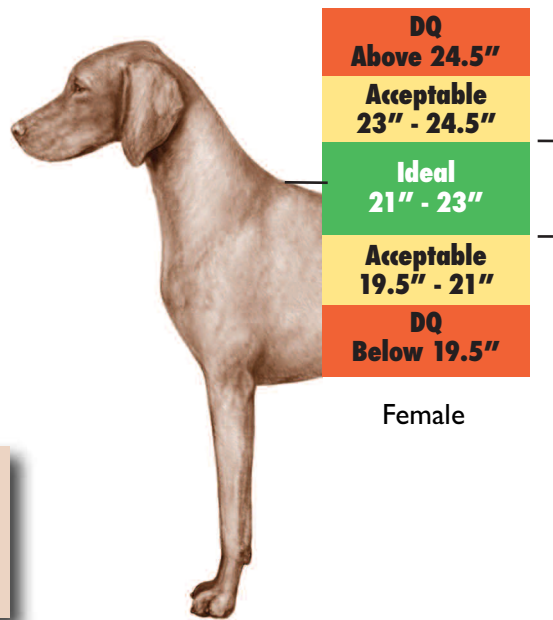


Male

Size

Standard

The ideal male is 22 to 24 inches at the highest point over the shoulder blades. The ideal female is 21 to 23 inches. Because the Vizsla is meant to be a medium-sized hunter, any dog measuring more than 1 1/2 inches over or under these limits must be disqualified.



Female

CLARIFICATION

Any deviation from the ideal size (above or below) should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.



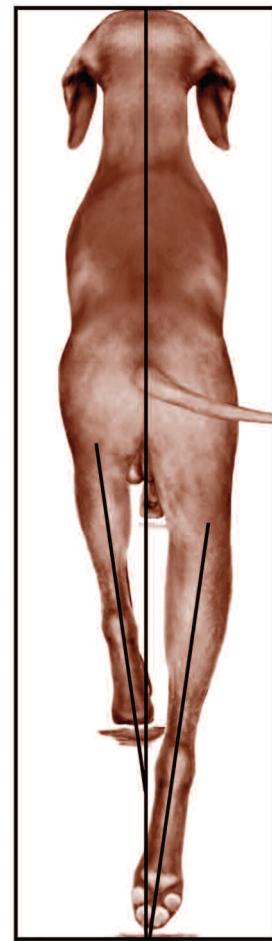
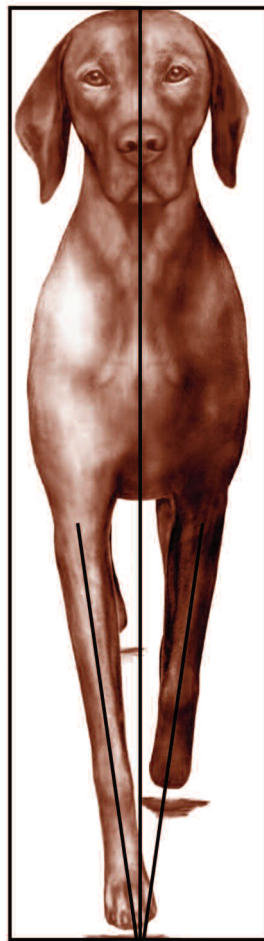
Gait

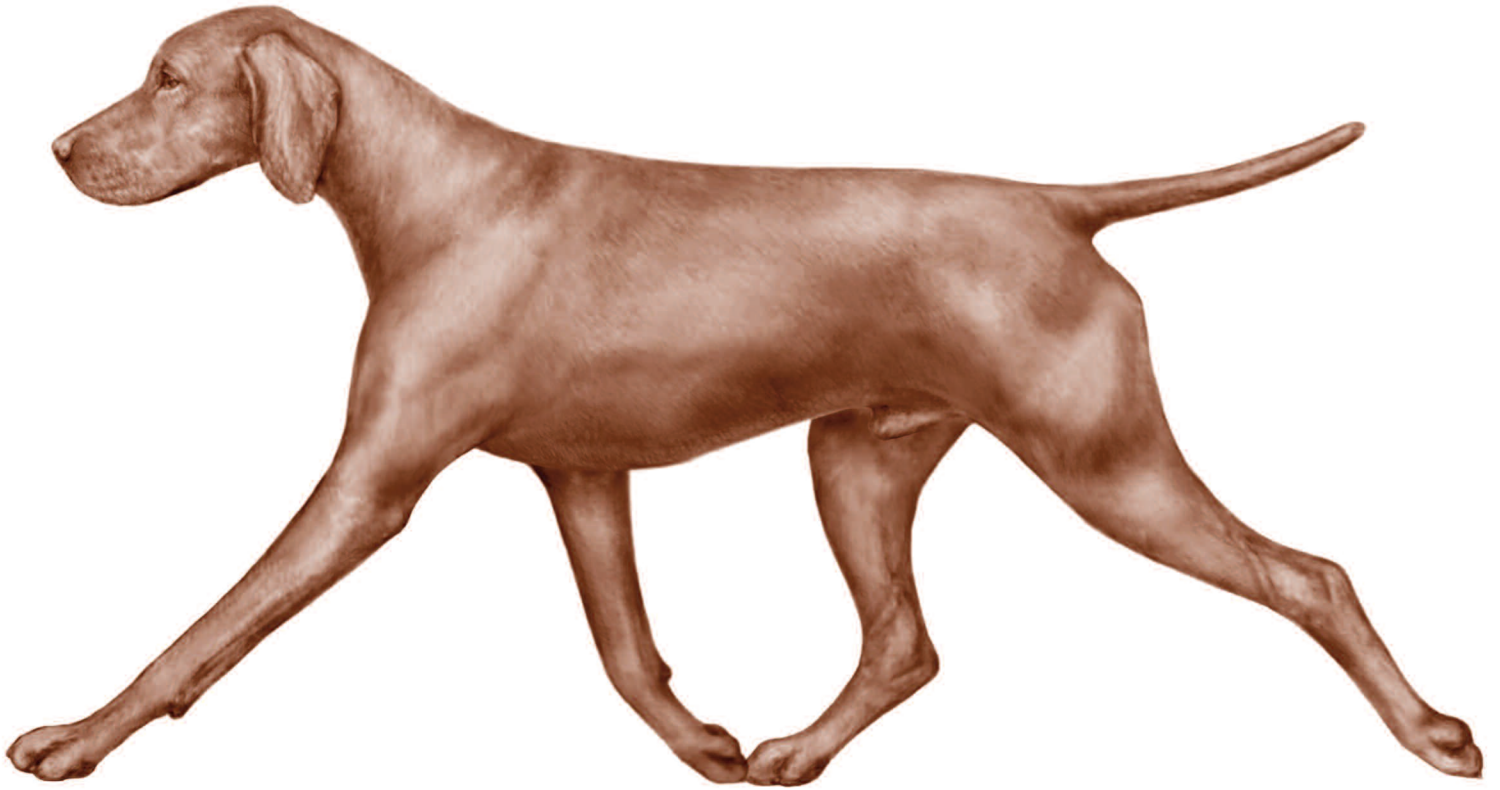
Standard

Far reaching, light footed, graceful and smooth. When moving at a fast trot, a properly built dog single tracks.

CLARIFICATION

The Vizsla gait appears athletic and effortless. It is a far reaching, efficient gait that is balanced front to rear with no wasted motion. Proper gait should present a visual impression of fluid movement, covering ground with minimal steps and minimal effort. When moving at a trot, a properly built Vizsla maintains a steady, level backline. There should not be an appearance of a roaching or dipping topline. As the speed of the trot increases, the Vizsla converges to single tracking.

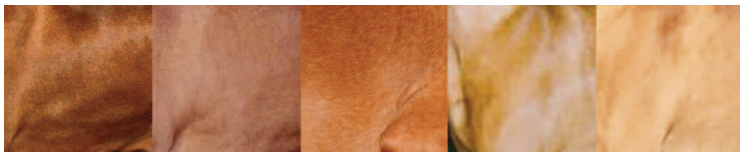




Color

Standard

Golden rust in varying shades. Lighter shadings over the sides of the neck and shoulders giving the appearance of a "saddle" are common. Solid dark mahogany and pale yellow are faulty. White on the forechest, preferably as small as possible, and white on the toes are permissible. Solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest is a disqualification. When viewing the dog from the front, white markings on the forechest must be confined to an area from the top of the sternum to a point between the elbows when the dog is standing naturally. White extending on the shoulders or neck is a disqualification. White due to aging or scarring must not be faulted. The Vizsla is self-colored, with the color of the eyes, eye-rims, lips, nose, toenails and pads of feet blending with the color of the coat.



The breed has a range of golden rust colors.

CLARIFICATION

While white is acceptable within the approved areas, less white is the preference when all other attributes are equal. To determine if the dog has an allowable amount of white, the dog is to be viewed while standing in a natural "stacked" position with all four feet on the ground. To find the lowest position of allowable white on the chest area, imagine placing a ruler under the dog at the back side of the front legs, touching both elbows. White is allowed on the chest in the area extending down to the ruler and up to the top of the sternum and is confined to the area between the points of the shoulders. When looking at the feet, it is allowable to see white on any portion of the toes (distal, middle or proximal phalanges) which extend to the joint above the web space. White due to aging typically starts on the chin, muzzle and toes. White due to aging or scarring is never faulted.

Coat

Standard

Short, smooth, dense and close-lying, without woolly undercoat. A distinctly long coat is a disqualification.

CLARIFICATION

Vizslas are a single coated breed. A disqualifying coat is long, straight, silky, resembling that of a setter.





Aging gray and freckles are never penalized.



Saddle shading is common.

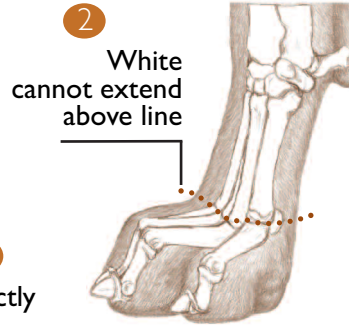
Disqualifications

Standard

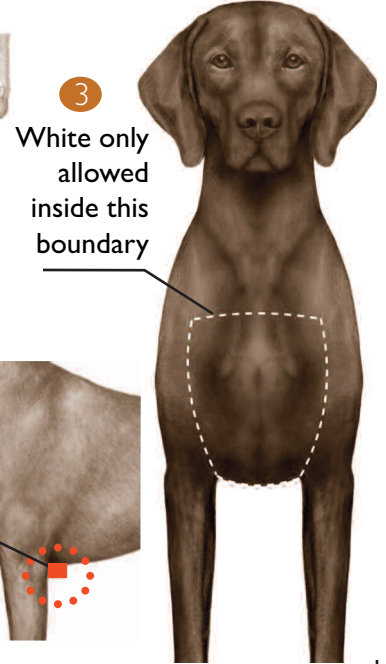
1. Partially or completely black nose.
2. Solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest.
3. White extending on the shoulders or neck.
4. A distinctly long coat.
5. Any male over 25 ½ inches or under 20 ½ inches and any female over 24 ½ inches or under 19 ½ inches at the highest point over the shoulder blades.



1 Black nose



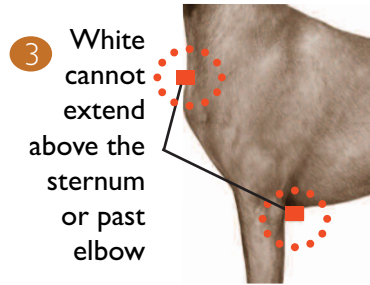
2 White cannot extend above line



3 White only allowed inside this boundary

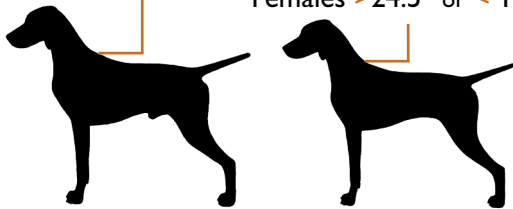


4 Distinctly long coat



3 White cannot extend above the sternum or past elbow

5
 Males > 25.5" or < 20.5"
 Females > 24.5" or < 19.5"



Temperament

Standard

A natural hunter endowed with a good nose and above average ability to take training. Lively, gentle-mannered, demonstrably affectionate and sensitive though fearless with a well-developed protective instinct. Shyness, timidity or nervousness should be penalized.



CLARIFICATION

Aggression towards people is out of character for a Vizsla. Unstable, skittish or nervous behavior should not be rewarded as the Vizsla should be a bold and fearless dog.

Standard

The foregoing describes the ideal Vizsla. Any deviation from this ideal must be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Deviations that impact performance and function should be considered more serious than those that affect only appearance.



Conclusion

The hallmarks of the multipurpose Vizsla are the glistening golden rust color along with the gentle curves of its silhouette.



Complete Standard

Approved January 13, 2009 / Effective April 1, 2009

General Appearance

That of a medium-sized, short-coated, hunting dog of distinguished appearance and bearing. Robust but rather lightly built, the coat is an attractive shaded golden rust. Originating in Hungary, the Vizsla was bred to work in field, forest and water. Agile and energetic, this is a versatile dog of power, drive and endurance in the field yet a tractable and affectionate companion in the home. It is strongly emphasized that field conditioned coats, as well as brawny or sinewy muscular condition and honorable scars indicating a working and hunting dog are never to be penalized in this dog. The requisite instincts and abilities to maintain a "dual dog" are always to be fostered and appreciated, never depreciated.

Head

Lean and muscular. Skull moderately wide between the ears with a median line down the forehead. Stop between skull and forehead is moderate. Foreface or muzzle is of equal length or slightly shorter than skull when viewed in profile, should taper gradually from stop to tip of nose. Muzzle square and deep. It should not turn up as in a "dish" face nor should it turn down. Whiskers serve a functional purpose; their removal is permitted but not preferred. Nostrils slightly open. Nose self-colored. Any other color is faulty. A partially or completely black nose is a disqualification. Freckles due to aging or sun exposure are not to be faulted. Ears, thin, silky and proportionately long, with rounded-leather ends, set fairly low and hanging close to cheeks. Jaws are strong with well-developed white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. Eyes medium in size and depth of

setting, their surrounding tissue covering the whites. Color of the iris should blend with the color of the coat. Yellow or any other color is faulty. Prominent pop eyes are faulty. Lower eyelids should neither turn in nor out since both conditions allow seeds and dust to irritate the eye. Lips cover the jaws completely but are neither loose nor pendulous.

Neck and Body

Neck strong, smooth and muscular, moderately long, arched and devoid of dewlap, broadening nicely into shoulders which are moderately laid back. This is mandatory to maintain balance with the moderately angulated hindquarters. Body is strong and well proportioned. Withers high. While the Vizsla may appear square, when measured from point of breastbone to point of buttocks and from the highest point over the shoulder blades to the ground, the Vizsla is slightly longer than tall. A proper proportion of leg length to body length is essential to the desired overall balance of the Vizsla. The Vizsla should not appear long and low or tall and leggy. Backline firm with a slight rise over a short and well-muscled loin. The croup is gently rounded to the set on of the tail and is not steep, sunken or flat. When moving at a trot, a properly built Vizsla maintains a steady, level backline. Chest moderately broad and deep reaching down to the elbows. Ribs well-sprung and carried well back; underline exhibiting a slight tuck-up beneath the loin. Tail set just below the level of the croup, thicker at the root and docked one-third off. Ideally, it should reach to the back of the stifle joint and when moving it should be carried at or near the horizontal, not vertically or curled over the back, nor between the legs. A docked tail is preferred.

Forequarters

Shoulder blades proportionately long and wide sloping moderately back and fairly close at the top. Upper arm is about equal in length to the shoulder blade in order to allow for good extension. Forelegs straight and muscular with elbows close. Feet cat-like, round and compact with toes close. Nails brown and short. Pads thick and tough. The removal of dewclaws, if any, on front and rear feet, is strongly recommended, in order to avoid injury when running in the field.

Hindquarters

Hind legs have well developed thighs with moderately angulated stifles and hocks in balance with the moderately laid-back shoulders. They must be straight as viewed from behind. Too much angulation at the hocks is as faulty as too little. The hocks are let down and parallel to each other.

Coat

Short, smooth, dense and close-lying, without woolly undercoat. A distinctly long coat is a disqualification.

Color

Golden rust in varying shades. Lighter shadings over the sides of the neck and shoulders giving the appearance of a "saddle" are common. Solid dark mahogany and pale yellow are faulty. White on the fore chest, preferably as small as possible, and white on the toes are permissible. Solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the fore chest is a disqualification. When viewing the dog from the front, white markings on the fore chest must be confined to an area from the top of the sternum to a point between the elbows when the dog is standing naturally. White extending on the shoulders or neck is a disqualification. White

due to aging or scarring must not be faulted. The Vizsla is self-colored, with the color of the eyes, eye-rims, lips, nose, toenails and pads of feet blending with the color of the coat.

Gait

Far reaching, light footed, graceful and smooth. When moving at a fast trot, a properly built dog single tracks.

Size

The ideal male is 22 to 24 inches at the highest point over the shoulder blades. The ideal female is 21 to 23 inches. Because the Vizsla is meant to be a medium-sized hunter, any dog measuring more than 1 1/2 inches over or under these limits must be disqualified.

Temperament

A natural hunter endowed with a good nose and above-average ability to take training. Lively, gentle-mannered, demonstrably affectionate and sensitive though fearless with a well-developed protective instinct. Shyness, timidity or nervousness should be penalized.

The foregoing describes the ideal Vizsla. Any deviation from this ideal must be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Deviations that impact performance and function should be considered more serious than those that affect only appearance.

Disqualifications

Partially or completely black nose. Solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the fore chest. White extending on the shoulders or neck. A distinctly long coat. Any male over 25 1/2 inches, or under 20 1/2 inches and any female over 24 1/2 inches or under 19 1/2 inches at the highest point over the shoulder blades.



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