

## A. Member Conduct Guidelines

### I. Overview

As members, our conduct should be exemplary, keeping in mind that we are always representing our breed, our club, and our sport with our every action. We should strive to put the well-being of the breed and the club before our differences of opinion with others. Members should promote, but at the same time, protect the Vizsla breeds by being honest with inquirers as to the positives and negatives of owning a Vizsla.

Vizsla Canada members who breed Vizslas (Smooth or Wire-Haired) are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed and select breeding stock with the principal intention of preserving and maintaining the breed for future generations through the judicious selection of breeding stock. The Vizsla breeds were developed as a versatile gun dog with sound temperament that must be able to work in the field, forest, and water, having the following typical qualities: an excellent nose, high desire to hunt, firmness on the point, excellent retrieves, and determination to remain on the scent even when swimming.

Breeders are encouraged to carefully and selectively breed Vizslas that possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, natural hunting ability, and personality that are characterized in the standard of the breed, and to do all possible to advance and promote these qualities.

Breeders must follow the [Code of Practice for CKC Member Breeders](#).

### II. Record Keeping

Breeders must be familiar with, and follow the requirements as stated in the [CKC Bylaws](#). Keep accurate records and retain those records for the minimum required time period, seven (7) years. These records will at a minimum include:

- a. Full particulars of every dog in their possession by reason of ownership, lease, or agreement.
- b. Full particulars of every dog the person imported to Canada including date of purchase and date of importation.
- c. Full particulars of every dog the person sold or otherwise disposed of including date of sale and name and full address of the person to whom the dog was sold or otherwise disposed of.
- d. Full particulars of every dog to which their dog was mated including the name and full address of the owner and dates of mating, stud service contracts, pedigrees, all litters produced, and all dogs/puppies sold.

### III. Advertising

Advertising of dogs/puppies will be factual and honest, both in substance and implication. Breeders will refrain from encouraging buyers regarding the breeding potential of a dog/puppy. Breeding purebred Vizslas involves certain responsibilities and is not to be taken lightly.

#### IV. Sales

- a. All litters and all dogs in each litter shall be registered with the CKC. Litter registrations shall be forwarded to CKC as soon as is reasonably possible after the birth of the dogs. Upon the sale of each dog from any litter, breeders shall transfer ownership and register each dog in the name of the owner(s), in accordance with stated CKC requirements, at no additional cost to the buyer.
- b. No breeder shall sell or donate dogs for the purpose of their being auctioned, raffled or to pet stores.
- c. Puppies must be at least 7 weeks old prior to being released to their new homes. Puppies must be guaranteed healthy when they leave the breeder's care. Buyers should be encouraged to have their veterinarian inspect the puppy within 72 hours of taking possession of the puppy.
- d. Breeders must be highly selective in the sales of their puppies and dogs concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. Breeders will do their best to ensure the Vizsla is the best fit for the buyer's environment and lifestyle.
- e. Breeders must sell all intact dogs that will not be used for breeding purposes, on a non-breeding agreement or co-ownership with the breeder. The non-breeding agreement may be lifted if the dog is proven to be breed worthy, at no cost to the buyer above the cost charged by CKC. Dogs that will subsequently be registered outside of Canada do not require a non-breeding agreement.
- f. Breeders must supply assistance and support to their buyers for the entire life of the dog. Details on feeding, care, vaccinations, and pedigrees are provided to buyers prior to or at pick up. Breeders will undertake breeding with a lasting commitment to the dogs produced. The breeder will help the buyer in every reasonable way for the life of the dog. In the event the buyer must give up the dog, the breeder will take the dog back and be responsible for placing the dog in another suitable home.
- g. Breeders must provide a signed written sales agreement and nonbreeding agreement (if applicable) to the buyer at pick up time. The sales agreement must include a reasonable written guarantee that protects the dog, the purchaser, and the seller.

#### V. Exhibitor/ Breeder Relations

Exhibiting dogs is a sport, and Vizsla Canada Members are expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities. As an exhibitor, Vizsla Canada members will refrain from unnecessary criticism of other people's dogs. As a matter of ethics, Vizsla Canada Breeders help educate the general public as well as to assist the novice breeders.

#### VI. Breeders Residing outside of Canada

Breeders located outside of Canada should follow the Code of Practice for breeders for their country's governing kennel club. Every reasonable effort should be made to parallel as closely as possible the spirit of the Code of Ethics as it applies to dogs residing in Canada.

## B. Breeding Guidelines

Vizsla Canada encourages all breeders to attain Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Certification. For CHIC certification, all results do not need to be normal, but they must all be in the public domain so that responsible breeders can make more informed breeding decisions. The more information stored and accessible in the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) databases, the better off our Vizsla breeds will be.

### I. Dogs selected for breeding should:

- a. Be registered with the CKC, or by a foreign club or organization whose Stud Book or record is recognized by the CKC.
- b. Be of temperament typical of the breed, i.e., stable, friendly, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected or altered from the breed ([Smooth-](#) or [Wire-Haired](#)) standard.
- c. Be of conformation typical of the breed as defined in their breed's standard and Rules of Eligibility (ROE).
- d. Be in overall good health and be physically and mentally mature (which is generally not until two years of age).
- e. Possess OFA numbers and certifications as outlined in the breed-specific recommendations for health testing set out by the [CHIC Certification Program](#) for [Smooth](#) or [Wire-Haired](#) Vizslas. Hip and elbow certifications from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), prior to its discontinuation in 2012, are acceptable, providing the dog was 24 months of age or older at the time of the examination.

### II. Screening Tests for dogs residing in Canada and the United States

- a. [OFA Hip Dysplasia](#) (**REQUIRED** for Smooth and Wire-Haired) – passing screening scores with OFA number from the OFA at 24 months of age or older.
- b. [ACVO Eye Exam](#) (**REQUIRED** for Smooth and Wire-Haired) – OFA Eye Certification examinations are screening exams performed by board certified veterinary ophthalmologists. Normal Results, including those with “breeder option codes,” with certification numbers are required.
- c. [Autoimmune thyroiditis](#) (**REQUIRED** for Smooth) – An OFA number is required. It is recommended that the test be repeated annually up to 8 years of age
- d. [PennHip](#) (**OPTIONAL** but recommended for Smooth and Wire-Haired) PennHip may be used as an alternative to OFA Hip Dysplasia test. Since PennHip results are not automatically published, these results should be recorded in the OFA Database. See [Recording PennHip Scores](#) document from the Vizsla Club of America (VCA) for further information.
- e. [Elbow Dysplasia](#) (**OPTIONAL** but recommended for Smooth and Wire-Haired) – a normal score from OFA at 24 months of age or older with OFA number is required.

- f. [Cardiac Evaluation](#) (**OPTIONAL** but recommended for Smooth and Wire-Haired) – dog is to be examined and classified by a veterinary cardiologist. A normal result along with an OFA number is required.
- g. [Sebaceous Adenitis](#) (**OPTIONAL** for Smooth) - OFA evaluation by an approved dermatopathology lab. The minimum age for registration in the OFA Sebaceous Adenitis database is 12 months.

### III. [Other Considerations](#)

Consideration should also be given to other conditions that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to cancer, epilepsy, von Willebrand's Disease, skin disorders, allergies, longevity, swallowing disorders, and orthopedic disorders such as osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Recognizing that no dog is genetically perfect; that maintaining a rich and diverse gene pool is important for the long-term health of the breed; and that good breeding decisions must balance many factors, it is suggested that breeders give the highest health priority to selection against heritable disorders that significantly decrease quality of life and that have the greatest likelihood for improvement through careful breeding decisions. Screening for the presence of the long hair gene, should be considered to avoid producing dogs with long hair.

### IV. [Frozen Semen](#)

When using frozen semen, the stud must meet the requirements listed in section B subsections I and II, before collection. In the event the stud has deceased prior to 2023, the stud must have passing hip scores at a minimum. The breeder should carefully scrutinize all prodigy of the stud to ensure they are making a sound decision to breed with this dog.

### V. [For dogs residing outside of Canada and the United States](#)

Test results that satisfy the Code of Ethics of the parent Vizsla club of the country in which they reside are acceptable.

Every reasonable effort should be made to parallel as closely as possible the spirit of the Code of Ethics as it applies to dogs residing in Canada and the United States (section B subsections I and II), including recording reports within OFA databases.

## C. [Implementation](#)

Breeders are expected to police themselves in a civil and responsible manner. Any infraction of the Member Conduct Guidelines should be reported, in writing, to the Vizsla Canada Board of Directors. Only when a member continues to deviate from the rules set forth in the Code of Ethics and is not cooperative in rectifying an error, will the situation be presented to the Vizsla Canada Board of Directors for disciplinary actions. Disregard for the Vizsla Canada Member Conduct Guidelines may bar members from advertising in club newsletters, including Breeder Listings.