



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

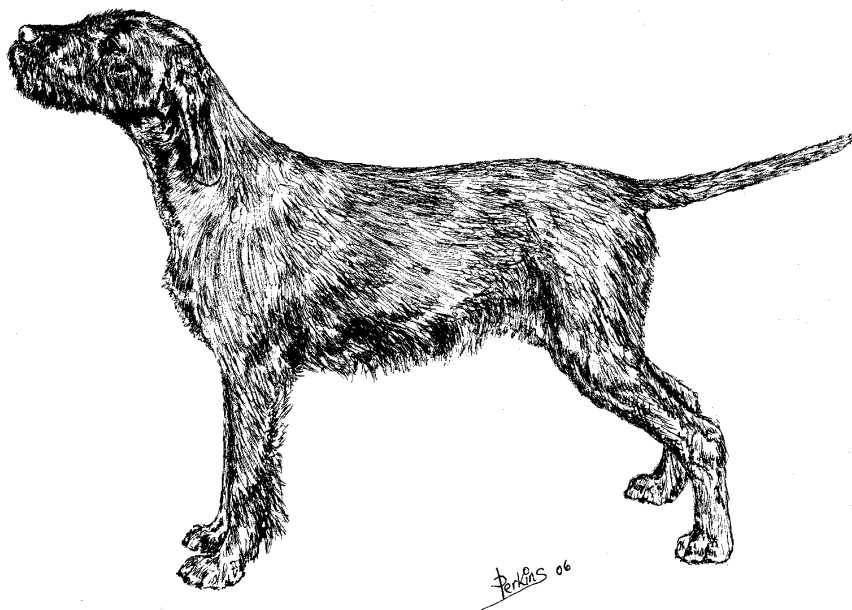
## Extended Breed Standard of **THE HUNGARIAN WIREHAIRD VIZSLA**

Produced by  
Australian National Kennel Council

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## HUNGARIAN WIREHAISED VIZSLA

### HISTORY

The history of the breed originates from the 1930s, when the idea came - mainly from hunters - to breed a dog that has the same excellent features as the shorthaired Vizsla, but which was more resistant to cold weather conditions.

Everybody agreed that the created new breed should be a Hungarian Vizsla with all its features, except for the wiry coat. The work was initiated by Vasas Jozsef in Hejocsaba, who was the owner of the "Csabai" kennels. Soon after, he was joined by Gresznarik Laszlo (de Selle kennels), who had great experience in breeding Hungarian Wirehaired Vizslas, where the ideal coat type was achieved by involving German Wirehaired Pointers.

They mated two Hungarian Vizsla bitches (Zsuzsi and Csibi), which both had a very good pedigree and working ability, with a totally brown German wiry male (Astor von Potat). (Zsuzsi was the daughter of Kittenberg Kalman's male, Szkra, who was known to have longer-haired offspring as well.) After selecting between the progeny of Zsuzsi and Csibi - there were yellow and browns as well - and mating them with each other, Dia de Selle, the first exhibited wirehaired Hungarian Vizsla was born. Dia had the same body as the shorthaired Hungarian Vizsla, but her head was like the Germans.

Her coat was not rough enough and thick enough. But overall, she was a promising beginning for the creation of the breed.

In 1943 Vasas Josef requested the Hungarian Vizsla Section to assist in breeding the HWV. Some were for, some were against, but finally they accepted the request, with the suggestion to show as many specimens in shows and hunting competitions as possible. They also created a non-official pedigree for the Wires. Only after evaluation of these documents could the standard and final approval for the new breed be set.

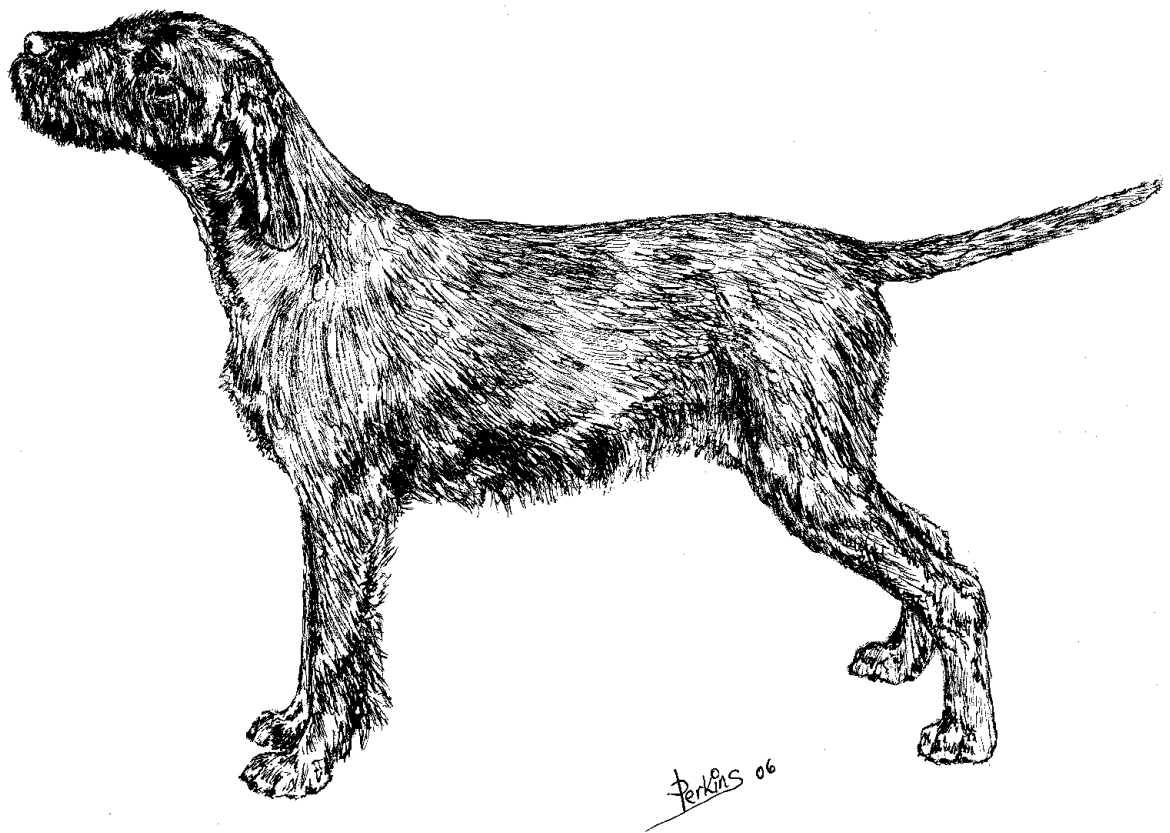
The breeding aim was defined as follows; the HWV should preserve all inner and outer features of the shorthaired HV, preserve the ancestral yellow colour, and the hair should be rough and wiry. The three-generation breeding resulted in specimens that had the same features as the SHVs and had wiry hair. From the German Wirehaired Pointer ancestors they inherited stronger, thicker bones and longer, thicker hair.

After the difficulties at the beginning, more and more dogs were registered in this way. In 1944 already 60 wires had been registered. Most of them lived and worked in North Hungary in the area of Csallóköz and Felvidék. The success of the breeding efforts was also proved by the increased interest abroad: in Austria the Harasha kennel (Baron Bornernissza's ownership) and the Povazia kennel (Kolomana Slimika) were the pioneers.

World War 11 caused great harm in dog breeding as well as in everything else. The Csabai kennel became state owned, but the leader remained Vasas Jozsef, who even in those days brought the breed closer to perfection. Other kennels should be mentioned as well, such as the Botond kennel in Kokeny Gabor's ownership, the Oroska kennel in Meszaros Sandor's ownership, and the further operating kennels abroad, the Povazia, de Selle and Haraska. According to certain sources, in these lines, Irish Setters were involved as well.

Finally the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla was acknowledged by the FCI in 1966 as an independent Hungarian breed and was registered under No. 239.

Unfortunately the wirehaired population is much below the shorthaired ones. Most of them are owned by hunters, who don't really care about breeding, thus a lot of species remain unregistered.



- **UTILISATION**

*A versatile gundog that must be able to work in the field, forest and water, having the following typical qualities: an excellent nose, firmness on the point, excellent retrieves and determination to remain on the scent even when swimming, which he manifestly enjoys. He copes with difficult terrain as well as extreme weather conditions. As he is intended to be an efficient hunting dog, gun and game shyness, unwillingness to point and retrieve, as well as a dislike of water are undesirable. Because of his easy going nature and his adaptability, he can easily be kept as a companion dog in the house.*

- **BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

*The Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla was created by crossbreeding the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla with the German Wirehaired Pointer during the 1930s. His breed characteristics are identical with those of the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla.*

- **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

*A lively, russet gold hunting dog of dry and lean but more robust construction compared to the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla. His appearance embodies his qualities as a multi-purpose pointing dog, endurance, working ability and an easily satisfied nature.*

*Important proportions:*

*The body length slightly exceeds the height at the withers.*

*The depth of the brisket is slightly less than half the height at the withers.*

*The muzzle is slightly shorter than half the length of the head.*

Above all, this dog should be medium sized, moderate in all respects and elegant, with no hint of coarseness but should be well muscled. Students of the breed should carefully note the distinction made in the standard between this breed and the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla that is the Wirehaired is of “a more robust construction”.



Fig.1 – Outstanding 10 months old Bitch.

## ● CHARACTERISTICS

***His breed characteristics are identical with those of the Hungarian Short-Haired Vizsla.***

The characteristics mentioned under utilisation above, are not capable of being assessed in the showing. However, it should be remembered that this is a breed bred to work in all conditions as a utility gundog, and therefore should have both the body and the temperament to work all day in the field.

## ● TEMPERAMENT

***An affectionate and intelligent dog, self-confident, easily trained, which cannot bear rough treatment. He keeps contact with his handler, is passionate in his quest, is stubborn, has a good nose and is staunch on the point.***

The words “fearless” and “demonstratively affectionate”, certainly describe this breed. Vizslas are very busy dogs and want to be involved with everything the owner is doing. This is the characteristic, which makes the breed so appealing to many, but also so wearing for others.

Whilst the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla has all the characteristics of the Shorthaired Vizsla, it is a more placid dog willing to sit of its own accord at the owner’s feet. The energy, enthusiasm and keenness to work is still there along with the desire to be involved in everything the owner is doing. The Vizsla in the ring should never look timid, wary, or aggressive with dog or human. It should never have tail between legs, nor back away from a judge.

## ● HEAD

***Skull: The skull is moderately wide and slightly domed. A slightly pronounced groove runs from the moderately developed occiput towards the stop. The superciliary ridges are moderately developed. The stop is moderate.***

***Nose: Broad and well developed with nostrils as wide as possible. The colour of the nose harmonises in a dark shading with the coat colour.***

***Muzzle: Blunt, not pointed, with powerful jaws, strongly muscled. The bridge of the nose is straight.***

***Lips: Tightly fitting with no pendulous flews.***

***Cheeks: Strong and well muscled.***

The correct Vizsla head should be noble, aristocratic, lean and moderate. There should be no excesses, no hint of houndiness. If there is coarseness or houndiness in the head, it will generally follow through to a coarser, heavier body than required.

The skin should fit snugly with chiselling under the eyes. The median line should be slight, but clearly seen from almost the back of the skull down the forehead to the moderate stop. The eye arches, together with the eyebrows, may make the stop appear more prominent than it is.

The muzzle should be straight and well squared at the end. Lips should not be pendulous, neither should they be too tight. The muzzle should be slightly shorter than the skull.

Nose should be well developed and broad, with wide nostrils - remember this breed is a hunting dog, which should have excellent scenting powers.

The muzzle with beard should give a strong look to the head and it may be necessary, depending on the amount of coat, to check for the real shape of the head.

This breed can have an excess of skin when very young. Youngsters right up until one year of age can have wrinkles, not unlike a Basenji, when they are puzzled or trying to see something in the distance. When fully grown, their skin fits them and the wrinkles should not be evident in an adult dog.



Fig.2 – Beautiful Head and Expression

## • EYES

***Slightly oval, of medium size, well fitting eyelids. Intelligent and lively expression. The brown eye colour harmonising with the coat colour, as dark as possible preferred.***

The eye should give the impression of a good-natured dog, lively and interested. The eye should be slightly oval with the eyelids tight fitting. This is an important point in a gundog. Dust, grass, seeds, any type of foreign matter should be kept out and looseness of eyelid should not be tolerated.

Colour can be a difficult part of the eye to assess. The finished colour should be a shade darker than the coat, but puppies will generally have a lighter eye colour, which can take months or even a few years to darken. When assessing young stock, look for a darker edge to the iris. If it is there, the eye will normally darken. A clear yellow eye is a definite worry. The eye should blend with the head. If the eyes stand out, there is something amiss, either colour or shape.

- **EARS**

***Set on at medium height, a little backwards, hanging closely to the cheeks, ending in a rounded V shape. Slightly shorter than those of the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla.***

The ears of the Vizsla can vary greatly depending upon the attitude. When bored, they can appear to hang quite low, but if alerted, the same ears can be lifted and turned rather like elephant ears and then appear to be set much higher. However, they should never stand out from the head, but hang close to the cheeks whether relaxed or alert. When alert, they should blend with the skull when viewed from any direction. The Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla ears are required to reach to the corner of the mouth when brought forward (around 75% of the length of the head). The Wirehaired standard requires the ears to be slightly shorter than this. The Wirehaired has smooth ears similar to the Shorthaired.

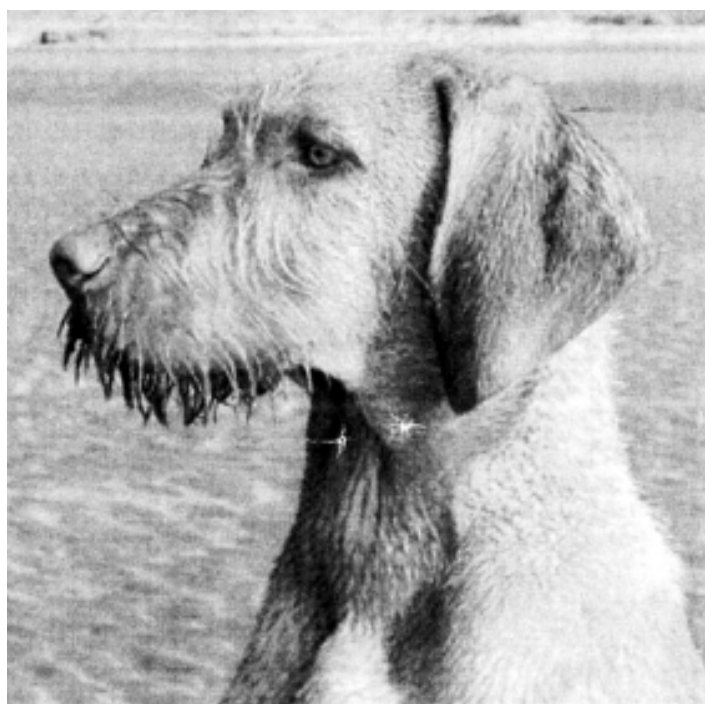


Fig.3 – showing correct length of ears

- **MOUTH**

***Powerful jaws with a perfect, regular and complete scissors bite, the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws; with 42 healthy teeth according to the dentition formula.***

Bad mouths are not common in this breed and should not be tolerated.





Fig.4 – demonstrating correct eye placement



Fig.5- demonstrates correct stop and eye shape

## - **NECK**

***Of medium length, harmonising with the overall appearance. The nape very muscular and slightly arched. Tightly fitting skin at the throat.***

This Standard does not call for a long neck. It should be long and strong enough to allow the dog to collect and carry game. Short, thick stuffy necks do not go with lean, fine boned frames with sloping shoulders. The neck must also broaden into the shoulders if it is to flow into high withers. There should be no loose skin hanging under the neck. This can sometimes be found under the throat in heavy set dogs with a tendency to houndiness.



Fig. 6 – Correct head planes.

## ● FOREQUARTERS

***Viewed from the front, straight and parallel. Viewed from the side, legs vertical and placed well under the body. Good bone, well muscled.***

***Shoulders: Long, sloping and flat, well attached shoulder blade. Elastic when moving. Strong, dry muscles. Well angulated between the shoulder blade and upper arm.***

***Upper Arm: As long as possible, well muscled.***

***Elbows: Close to the body, however not tied in, turning neither in nor out. Well angulated between upper arm and forearm.***

***Forearm: Long, straight, sufficiently muscled. Bones strong, but not coarse.***

***Pastern Joint: Dry and sinewy.***

***Pastern: Short, only very slightly sloping.***

To have a strong, muscular but elegant neck, the dog must have shoulders well laid. The upper arm needs to balance with the shoulder blade to bring the elbow back under the body. The pasterns need to be strong as well as short, and not so upright that they have no give in them to absorb shock when the foot hits the ground. This does not mean that they should be slack or sloping.



Fig.7 – shows correct type of front

## ● **BODY**

***Chest: Deep and broad with well-developed, well-muscled and moderately arched forechest with the sternum extending as well back as possible. The sternum and the elbows should be at the same level. Last ribs moderately arched. Ribs carried well back.***

***Withers: Pronounced and muscular.***

***Back: Solid, well muscled, taut and straight. The vertebral spines should be hidden by the muscles.***

***Loin: Short, broad, tight, muscular, straight or slightly arched. The loin is well attached.***

***Underline: Elegant, tight, arching towards the rear, slightly tucked up.***

***Croup: Broad and of sufficient length, not cut off short, sloping slightly to the tail. Well muscled.***

The withers should be quite obvious in this breed, as should the prosternum. Both should also be obvious at any age. If not clearly defined as a youngster, they will never be there. Depth of chest on the other hand can be there as a baby, disappear during rapid growth and reappear as the youngster stops growing upwards and begins to fill out. Baby puppies may often have a skirt or flank, which also disappears as they grow. As they lose this excess skin, they may also appear to have too much tuck-up. This also can disappear as they stop growing and mature to end with only a slight tuck up.

The chest should be deep i.e., down to the elbows and long with moderately arched ribs. The ribs should extend well back. The working dog needs plenty of ribcage with space for heart and lungs if it is to do a day's work.

There should be a very slight slope in the croup to allow for the slightly low set tail. There should though be no sign of a goose-rump. There should also be a waist.

If the shoulder placement with high withers is correct, the topline from the top of the neck to the tip of the tail will be a smooth elegant line. If incorrect, this line will be broken.



Fig.8 - correct body proportions.

## ● HINDQUARTERS

***Viewed from behind, straight and parallel. Good angulations. Strong bone.***

***Upper thigh: Long and muscular. Good angulation between the pelvis and upper thigh.***

***Stifle: Well angulated.***

***Lower thigh: Long, muscular and sinewy. Its length is almost equal to that of the upper thigh. Good angulation between the lower thigh and the metatarsus.***

***Hock joint: Strong, dry and sinewy, rather well let down.***

***Metatarsus: Vertical, short and strong.***

The well angulated hind legs, well muscled and with hocks well let down will provide the power and the drive over long periods for working. The hindquarters, especially the second thigh, should be well and firmly muscled. This muscle should be visible. Touch will also give the assessor the degree of firmness of the muscle.



- **FEET**

***Slightly oval, with well knit, sufficiently arched, strong toes. Strong brown nails. Tough, resistant, slate grey pads. The feet are parallel when standing or moving.***

Good feet are a must in gundogs that are expected to do a day's work over rough terrain. The toes should be tight, well arched and have thick pads to cope with any ground cover. Flat feet with open, spread toes are unacceptable. The nails should also be short, but not too short, so that they can be used in climbing banks and to keep footing in slippery, wet ground. Feet should be covered in soft, longer hair.

- **TAIL**

***Set on at medium height, strong at the base, then tapering. In countries where tail docking is not prohibited by law, the tail may be shortened by one quarter to avoid hunting hazards. If tail docking is prohibited, the tail reaches down to the hock joint and is carried straight or slightly sabre like. On the move, it is raised up to the horizontal. The tail is well furnished with dense coat.***

The tail should not come straight off the topline, but be set a little lower.

The tail is a barometer of the temperament. Whilst the standard calls for a tail to be carried horizontally, and tails are frequently horizontal at home, in the showing they tend to be higher. Being with others of the same breed can change the Vizsla dramatically. The head and tail can both come up especially in males! This does not mean that a gay tail is acceptable, but that the tail set as well as tail carriage should be considered. When the dog is inactive and relaxed, the tail will hang naturally downwards.

- **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

***The typical gait is an animated, light footed trot, elegant and far reaching, with much drive and corresponding reach. Not an exhausting gallop when working in the field. The back is firm and the topline remains level. Pacing is undesirable.***

The Vizsla should have an effortless, smooth, ground-covering trot. It should be full of energy, yet losing none of the elegance viewed on the stack. There should be plenty of reach and drive. Short, busy steps are not correct. Neither is the lifting of the front feet. Coming and going, the dog should move straight with no sign of elbows. Distance between legs will decrease as the dog picks up speed as this breed does tend to single track.

This does not mean that the hind legs should be close the moment the dog begins to move, but rather that, as speed increases; the legs converge under the dog for balance. In profile, the dog should show reach and drive, keeping a firm, level topline. Good upright carriage does not mean that the dog holds its head high on the move, as the head must come forward if the dog is to reach with the forelegs. The Vizsla should however move with proud and noble carriage.

- **SKIN**

***Tightly fitting, without folds. The skin is well pigmented.***

The pigmentation of the skin and that it is tight fitting, without folds, should always be checked.

- **COAT**

***Wiry, close lying, strong, dense and not glossy. Length of outer coat 2-3 cms; dense, water repellent undercoat. The outline of the body must not be hidden by the longer coat. By its hardness and density, it should provide as much protection as possible against weather conditions and injuries. The lower parts of the legs as well as the undersides of the chest and belly should be covered with shorter, softer and slightly thinner hair. The coat on the head and on the ears is shorter and, at the same time, a little darker, however not soft and dense.***

***Pronounced eyebrows accentuate the stop. These and a strong, not too long (2-3 cms) as harsh as possible beard, on both sides of the muzzle, underline the determined expression. On both sides of the neck the coat forms V-shaped brushes.***

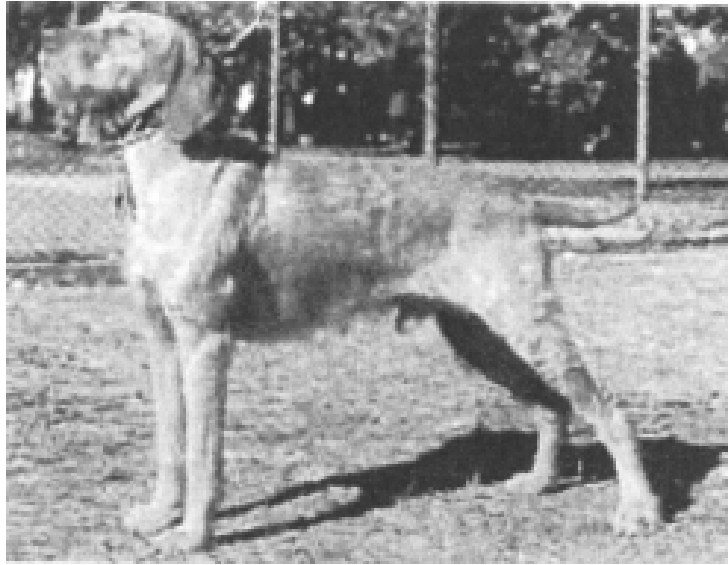
The coat of the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla is not profuse or long but it is definitely wiry and thicker than the shorthaired. It is only the ears that are short and smooth. On the body the coat is slightly longer with none of the sleekness of the smooth-haired. At the back of the legs and on the feet the hair is longer and softer. The tail is covered with dense, thick coat.

It should be noted that the standard under eliminating faults includes long coats. The outer coat should be 2-3 cms; this must not be so long that it hides the outline of the body.

It is the head of the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla that attracts most people, with the eyebrows and beard giving a soft expression to the head. The eyebrows and beard are not long, 2-3 cms at most, but dense and harsh and can also help create a very determined expression once the gleam in the eye switches to hunting, rather than being a best friend.

The coat in general adds to the appearance of a strongly built working dog and should never be so long as to hide the body. From a fair distance the body of a wirehaired could be mistaken for a shorthaired Vizsla.

It should be remembered that the whole make up of the coat is to provide protection against adverse conditions, both weather and terrain.



- **COLOUR**

***Various shades of russet gold and dark sandy gold (semmelgelb). The leathers may be a little darker, otherwise uniform in colour. Red, brownish, light yellow or lightened colour shadings are undesirable. A little white patch on the chest or at the throat, not more than 5 cms in diameter, as well as white markings on the toes, are not considered faulty. The colour of the lips and of the eye rims corresponds to the colour of the nose.***

The Vizsla colour is unique. This breed can vary from light to dark, but should always have a golden-red tinge.

Youngsters can take some time for the colour to come through and should not be penalised for a pale coat. In fact, the coat can become paler, even up to ten months of age, before finally changing to the adult colour. In these cases the colour can be seen on the lower legs.

Very small areas of white on the chest are permissible, over 5 cms is a disqualification. Sometimes there can be white on the toes (just around the nails) but this should not extend onto the foot. Roaning on the chest occurs in this breed, but the number of white hairs does not predominate and the roaning can scarcely be noticed. As with the eyes, if the amount of white is noticeable, it is probably too much.

- **SIZE/WEIGHT**

***Height at withers***

***Dogs                      58-64 cms***

***Bitches                 54-60 cms***

***It is ineffective to increase the height at the withers. A medium size should be aimed at. Overall balance and symmetry are much more important than the mere measurable size.***

It should be carefully noted that a medium size dog should be the aim. A dog free from exaggeration, with overall balance and symmetry should be the goal of both judge and breeder.

## ● **FAULTS**

*Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportions to its degree.*

## ● **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

*Aggressive or overly shy.*

*Strong deviation from sexual characteristics.*

*Atypical head.*

*Spotted (butterfly) nose.*

*Pendulous or dribbling flews.*

*Under or overshot mouth. Wry mouth, including all intermediate forms.*

*One or more missing incisors and/or canine and/or premolars 2-4 and/or molars 1-2; more than two missing PM1; the M3 are disregarded. Not visible teeth are assessed as missing ones.*

*Supernumerary teeth not in line with the others.*

*Cleft palate, harelip.*

*Light yellow eyes. Very loose eyelids; ectropion, entropion. Distichiasis (double row of eyelashes).*

*Pronounced dewlap.*

*Dewclaws.*

*Very faulty movement.*

*Thin coat, lacking undercoat. Long, soft, silky, shaggy, crinkled or woolly coat.*

*Lacking brushes on the legs.*

*Dark brown or pale yellow colour. Particoloured, not uniformly coloured.*

*White chest patch larger than 5 cms.*

*White feet.*

*Lacking pigmentation either on the skin or on the lips and eyerims.*

*Any type of weakness in temperament.*

*Deviation of more than 2 cms from the above mentioned heights at withers.*

*Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.*

***N.B. Male animals must have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.***

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The History of the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla from Zoldmali Kennels –Hungary.

Fig. 1 & 2. With the kind permission of Donna & Bill Holman, Silvanus Kennels, Wrightington, Lancashire England.

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