TBVC RESCUE NEWSLETTER

September Newsletter

September 10, 2026

Issue 2 • For the Vizslas We Love, for the People Who Love Them

Nicole's Corner

By: Nicole Dussault/St. Maurice, TBVC Rescue Executive Director

Dear Subscribers,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter! We are thrilled by the positive response to our inaugural issue and welcome all our new subscribers from the website. We aim to cover a wide range of topics to support Vizsla owners, so please email us if you have specific subjects you would like featured in future editions.

Website Update

Our website received a makeover in June and is now much easier to navigate. Thank you to the rescue families who have shared updates, pictures, and stories for our "Fun Stuff" page. If you haven't shared your updates yet, please send them our way!

Partnership with Fi Tracking Collars and Nano Microchips

We are excited to announce our new partnership with Fi collars and Nano microchip. Since July, all of our rescue dogs receive a free Fi tracking collar during their foster-to-adopt period. Fi has also generously included six free months of service once the dog is officially adopted, after which you can choose to continue or cancel the subscription.

In addition to tracking your dog if they get lost, the collar monitors daily steps and behaviors — such as rest, activity, barking, eating, drinking, licking, and scratching. This data can be incredibly helpful for your veterinarian. Furthermore, Fi is providing free Nano microchips for any rescue dogs entering our care without one.

If you have already adopted from us and would like a Fi collar, please email us to receive the same six-month free perk: tbvcrescue@gmail.com

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

We want to recognize our incredible volunteers. This vital, behind-the-scenes work goes far beyond social media posts and happy pictures. It involves the essential coordination and dedication from our four zone coordinators, the extensive driving from our transport crew, the thorough home assessments by our inspection team, and the shelter evaluations to bring new dogs into our care. Your dedication to the breed is vital to our mission. We are always looking for more support, so please contact us if you would like to join our volunteer list.

> ***Happy reading!***

Remembering the Smile and Dedication of Stephanie Daugherty

The Tampa Bay Vizsla Club Rescue has lost a wonderful person and dedicated volunteer. Stephanie Daugherty passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 12th. Stephanie was a member of the Tampa Bay Vizsla Club for over 40 years and served as a hunt test judge.

Many of our rescue families will remember Stephanie greeting them at our club fun day weekend in Lake Wales, where she was always ready to introduce newcomers and their red dogs to birds, sharing her passion with everyone.

Whenever our rescue coordinators reached out to Stephanie for dog evaluations, home inspections, or transport help, she was always willing to assist.

> ***She will be greatly missed.***

Veterinarian's Corner

By: Dr. Daniel Neger, D.V.M., TBVC Board Member

The Importance of Yearly Wellness Exams

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increasing number of dogs entering the TBVC Rescue program with veterinary records that are two or even three years old. This is a growing concern because annual wellness exams are one of the most important investments you can make in your pet's health.

A yearly wellness exam should be as routine as your own annual physical. Our pets cannot tell us when they don't feel well, and many illnesses develop quietly without obvious signs until they have progressed.

A comprehensive wellness exam typically includes:

- A complete physical examination
- Updating recommended vaccinations
- Heartworm testing and prevention
- Fecal testing for intestinal parasites
- Bloodwork and, when appropriate, a urinalysis

These routine screenings allow veterinarians to detect diseases and medical conditions early, when treatment is often simpler, less expensive, and more successful.

Preventive care is equally important. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Keeping your pet current on vaccinations, heartworm prevention, and parasite control can prevent serious diseases that are not only life-threatening but also very costly to treat.

Annual wellness visits also provide invaluable peace of mind. Knowing your pet is healthy, protected, and free of developing medical issues allows you to enjoy more happy, healthy years together.

A Real-Life Example

A dog came in for its annual wellness screening before a routine dental cleaning. As part of the pre-anesthetic workup, bloodwork revealed mildly elevated liver enzymes compared to the previous year's results. Although it was still safe to proceed with the dental procedure, an abdominal X-ray was recommended as a precaution.

That X-ray unexpectedly revealed a mass on the spleen. The dog was showing no signs of illness and appeared perfectly healthy. Surgery was performed to remove the spleen, and the mass was submitted for testing. Whether benign or malignant, the mass could have ruptured or begun bleeding internally, creating a life-threatening emergency. Because it was discovered during routine screening, the dog received treatment before a crisis occurred.

This is a perfect example of how annual wellness exams can save lives.

For young and middle-aged pets, I recommend a wellness examination at least once a year. Senior pets often benefit from examinations every six months, as health changes can occur much more rapidly with age.

I also strongly recommend purchasing pet insurance as soon as you bring your pet home. Diagnostic testing, emergency care, surgeries, and treatments can be very expensive. Many insurance plans cover a significant portion of these costs, and premiums are generally lower when pets are enrolled while they are young and healthy. In addition, many policies do not cover pre-existing conditions, making early enrollment even more beneficial.

I have always insured my own pets and have found it incredibly reassuring to know that if a major illness or accident occurs, I can focus on making the best medical decisions without the added burden of overwhelming financial concerns.

Training Corner

By: Lisa Durham, Dog Trainer, TBVC Member

Before You Start to Train Your Vizsla

On the first night of class, I always ask my students, "how often do you train your dog?" Answers range from once a day for 30 minutes, to several times a day for 5-10 minutes. Those are not the correct responses. You are actually training your dog every minute of every day that you are with your dog. They are learning about us, and what they can and cannot do, all the time. So you have to be careful about what you are training them to do even when it isn't intentional.

Rule #1: Training Goes Both Ways

Vizslas are highly intelligent dogs, and they are just as good at training humans (probably better!) as we are at training them. For instance, you're scrolling on your phone and Star comes over and puts her favorite ball in your lap. You think, aww, she's sharing her ball and wants me to throw it for her. But Star is thinking, you, human! Throw it, NOW! You absentmindedly throw it, and Star believes her demanding (yes, she was demanding) resulted in you doing her bidding. Or you're talking on the phone, and she comes over and thrusts her head under your hand. You think, sweet girl, do you want some pets? But Star was thinking, you, human! Pet me, NOW! In both of those scenarios, you should say sternly, no! You go lie down! It will seem like their feelings are hurt, but they know they were being rude, and they're just disappointed that you didn't behave. Then, when they move on and settle, go over to them and pet them, or throw the toy and engage in some fun. Then they are learning that you ARE fun, but they can't tell you what to do.

Other than letting them out when they have to go, you should never let your dog tell you what to do. No demand petting or throwing the toy. Don't let them stand in your way when you're walking down the hall. Absolutely don't let them bark at you

when you're making their dinner too slowly. Even if those behaviors don't really bother you, a dog simply learns that their "demanding" behavior gets them what they want. Does this mean you shouldn't play with your dog? Pet your dog? Absolutely not! You should play and pet a lot — just never when they "demand" it.

If you DO want to train your dog to do things: sit, stay, come, etc. or even competition level skills, it is unfair to the dog to give them the idea that they're the boss at home, but then turn around and expect them to listen to you in the ring. Don't get me wrong, my dogs are spoiled. They sleep in the bed and get lots of attention, but they don't get to be the boss. So when we're training, they love the attention and treats, and they're not confused as to why I "suddenly" think I can ask them to do things. Dogs that rule the roost are legitimately confused when the human stops being their minion and starts asking for behaviors. That confusion can create anxiety, and they may learn to dislike formal training.

Rule #2: Cookie Management

When you are training formally, be aware of when and where you give them the treat. For instance, you ask them to "down," they do, then you exclaim, "good dog!" They jump up, and you give them the treat. Two things are wrong in this example. The first is that the dog actually got the treat for jumping up, not for lying down. If you're working on down, you must give them the treat between their paws on the floor. Dogs think that whatever they were doing at the time the treat goes in their mouth is the behavior that won them the prize. So you want them to be lying down when they get the reward for lying down, and you want them to be sitting when they get the reward for your asking them to sit. The second mistake was that the dog released himself from the down. Whenever you train a positional command (down, sit, stand, stay), you must expect the dog to maintain that position until you release them. Otherwise they are always releasing themselves. So come up with a release word (free, break, etc.) and use it after a positional command to let them change positions. So the sequence would be: Star, down! Put a cookie between her paws. Stand up. Perhaps put another cookie between her paws if you're working on duration. Stand up. Then say your release word. If the dog doesn't release on the word, encourage them to so they understand the concept. Say brightly, free! Clap your hands and then randomly offer a cookie for releasing. The above isn't intended to describe how to train a down or a sit, just the proper way of reinforcing with a reward.

> ***Learning how to recognize who's training who, and how to reinforce and reward desired behaviors is the foundation for all further training. Have fun, and happy training!***

Breeder's Corner

Zannian vizslas

🐾 *By: Sue Towne, TBVC Breeder for 23 Years and TBVC Rescue Zone 1 Coordinator*

The Importance of Crate Training

True story; I used to do obedience and behavioral consultations. A couple who had an older dog, several years old, contacted me because their dog was urinating and defecating in their home – it was not housetrained. The lady told me that if this problem could not be corrected, they were going to get rid of their dog (to a shelter). I explained that the most effective way to address this problem was with crate training and with an older dog, they would have to be even more consistent than with a puppy. This person's response: "Oh my, I could never put my dog in a crate – that would be cruel!" So, these folks did not hire me and I have to assume they got rid of their dog. The question is, did they not realize that "getting rid of their dog" was what was cruel, not crate training?

Some people have a distorted understanding of crate training. That is where we start as educators with our rescues and those of us as breeders. In my opinion, crate training is their ticket to freedom! The crate symbolizes their "home" – their safe place. Dogs are den animals by nature, and introducing the crate in a positive way gives your puppy/dog a place that is calm, predictable, safe and entirely theirs. Why? If you have a puppy, they need rest periods, just like human babies. Traveling in a vehicle, keeps them safe – a loose puppy/dog puts them in danger if you have to slam on the brakes or are in an accident, they will go flying. Traveling to visit family, friends or have to stay in a motel, etc. – this is their home away from home and you don't have to worry about them panicking in a strange place and being destructive. Retreat from a noisy, chaotic household – loud kids or adults, kids running, they need respite from this overstimulation. Safe – a crate keeps them safe from the environment – not eating or chewing something that can harm or kill them. Trust me, I know – I can recall at least two puppies in my Puppy Kindergarten classes that had emergency surgery due to blockages from eating something that they should not have. The crate needs to be their sanctuary, not used as a punishment.

How do you acclimate your puppy/dog to the crate? First, the crate for a puppy or older dog, should be big enough to allow the puppy/dog to stand up, turn around and lay down. Many crates come with a partition to allow the puppy to grow into the space. If the space is too large, they may learn to potty in one end and sleep in the other, which is of course, opposite of the goal.

There are numerous resources on the internet. A globally renowned trainer, Susan Garrett, has a program called "Crate Games" designed to teach puppies/dogs to love their crate, build self-control and view the crate as a rewarding place rather than a cage. Instead of forcing a dog inside, the method uses short, fun game-based repetitions to develop motivation and emotional stability. As stated, there are numerous positive-oriented resources to help you train your puppy/dog through this process.

Some of the consistent protocols are:

- Introduce the crate with zero pressure – put in common area with the door open and let them explore. Put some high value treats near the door and then just inside and then in the back. Let curiosity do the work. Keeping treats around and in the crate helps them associate that the crate space is a safe area where good things appear.
- Now, practice building duration slowly. Lure your puppy/dog in with a treat, give a consistent cue, like kennel, crate, bed, etc. Praise for going in. Do this repeatedly. Do not use any verbal praise when they come out – only when going in. Once you feel that they are associating this as a positive experience, close the door for a short period of time (count to 10 to start), then open the door. Keep practicing for longer duration. Reward calm behavior through the door, then let them out before any whining, crying or restless behavior starts.
- Once your puppy/dog is relaxed in the crate with you present, start leaving the room briefly. Come back before they get anxious but gradually extend the time you are out of sight.
- At night, I always have the crate in my bedroom so that I am there to reassure them.
- Make it a place they enjoy being – put a T-shirt that smells like you in there, put a frozen Kong in there, etc. so the crate becomes a place your puppy/dog actively chooses, not just tolerates.

The process from there is that from the crate, they are taken outside, usually to a specific area that has the smells of past pottying. If they do not potty, they come back in and go back to their crate and try again after a small period of time.

You extend their crate den to a room in your home – SUPERVISED. Once they respect this space, you gradually extend it to more rooms in your home until they respect your whole home as their den.

Mistakes to Avoid:

- Don't use the crate as punishment – all your progress will unravel. Only put them in their crate when you are calm, never in anger.
- Don't move too fast – skipping steps can create a dog who panics in their crate – trust the process.
- Do not let them out if they whine or cry – or they learn that this gets them out. Wait until they are quiet and then let them out.
- Do not leave them in the crate for extended periods of time. With adult dogs you are pushing it with 4 – 5 hours in the crate. Puppies need to be left out more frequently.

> ***Hope this information is helpful, not only for puppies but older dogs.***

Good Luck to Our Rescue, Toby!

Please join us in wishing good luck to our rescue dog, Toby, who has been invited to represent the Vizsla breed at the AKC Fast CAT Invitational! This prestigious event will take place from September 18 to 21 in Branson, Missouri.

Toby is currently the number one fastest Vizsla in the country and holds the number two lifetime standing, sitting at just 0.25 seconds away from the top spot. As usual, Toby and his team are loading up the RV for the trip to Missouri.

> ***Good luck, Team Toby! We will all be cheering you on from Florida.***

Vizsla Coffee Company Winners

VIZSLA

COFFEE CO.

Congratulations to the wonderful Vizslas that won the Dog of the Month Vizsla Coffee Company contest! Don't forget to buy your treats!

August Winners

Jack • Lizzy • Nyla • Riva • Ruby • Whiskey • Zeke

September Winners

Captain Morgan & Tallister • Clumsy • Finley • Hawkeye • Mookie & Allie • Toby

Please follow our Facebook page for details on how to enter the contest each month.

News from Tampa Bay Vizsla Club

By: Tracie Carlson, TBVC Director, Hospitality, Breeder Referral, Volunteers

Tampa Bay Vizsla Club

TBVC RESCUE NEWSLETTER • ISSUE 2

Fall Means Game On

KICKING OFF VIZSLA SEASON

It's always Vizsla season, but fall brings some of the best ways to get involved — from first birds and field fun to hunt tests, mentorship, and community.

ON THE CALENDAR

OCT. 30

Mid Florida Brittany Club Field Fun Friday

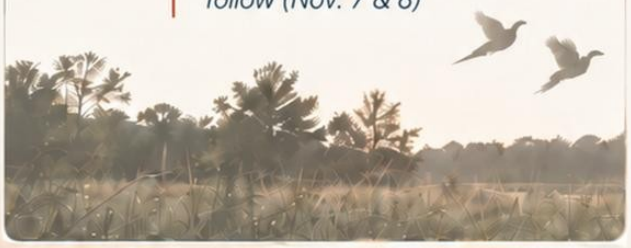
GMHT, LAKE WALES

AKC Hunt tests follow (10/31 & 11/1)

NOV. 6

TBVC Friday Field Day + Hunting Dog Stakes

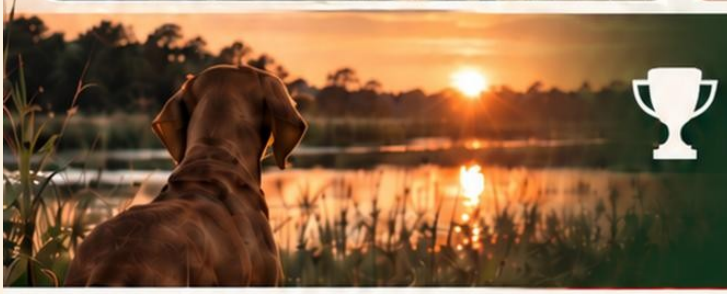
Double Double Hunt Tests follow (Nov. 7 & 8)



CHOOSE YOUR PLAY

- **Field Fun Days** = training for every level.
- **First Bird** = wowza instinct moment.
- **Junior Hunt** = natural ability, no special training, fun and beginner-friendly.
- **Buddy allowed** in Junior Hunt.
- **Senior & Master** = build teamwork and confidence.
- **AKC Double Double Hunt Tests** = Four tests in one weekend. Junior, Senior & Master
- **Hunting Dog Stakes** = For 'tweener' pups working up. Season trophy for one lucky Vizsla.

Our experienced mentors are there to guide you every step of the way.



VIZSLA BOWL FINALE

TBVC Fun Day • April 3–4, 2027

Field, conformation, rally, obedience, scent work, AKC CGC test, dinner + raffle for Rescue and the Club, and the beloved rescue parade.

Plug in. Meet your people. We would love to have you.

TAMPA BAY VIZSLA CLUB

FOR THE VIZSLAS WE LOVE. FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM.

TBVC Rescue Board of Directors

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