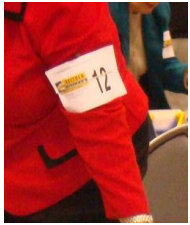


Basics of Showing your Vizsla –

Get your dog ready: Bathe your dog well and make sure he is clean, including the inside of his ears. Trim his nails well, and use a dremmel to smooth the rough edges. Clean his teeth with a dental instrument if he has plaque build-up. Use a show lead only, placed up around the top of his neck, behind the ears. Keep the lead there while you are in the ring.



Before going in the ring: Women, tie your hair back or keep it out of your face.



Wear comfortable closed-toed and rubber-bottomed shoes. Wear comfortable, but stylish clothing, business casual, with pockets. Men, wear suits or sports jackets with dress shirt and tie. Collect your numbered arm band from the ring steward well before you show, and place it on your upper left arm. Know what class your dog is in and be near the ring gate to hear the steward call your class and number. Have plenty of bait that you know your dog likes in your pockets for use in the ring.

Wait your turn: Watch the judge's procedure so that you are prepared when you enter the ring. Take note of whether bait is allowed.

Enter the ring: Take note of where your dog's number falls in the order of your class, in the catalog located at ringside. The ring steward will call your class and number (usually in catalog order) and indicate where you should set up your dog. Always hold the lead in your left hand when your dog is in motion, walking, or moving. Place your dog on the mat with his head pointing to the right. Leave a comfortable space between you and the dog in front of you.

Stack your dog's front: Calmly take your dog's head in your right hand. Drop the lead on the non-judges side of the dog. Never let go of your dog's head when stacking and during the exam. Start by dropping the lead on the right side of your dog, keeping it out of your way and out of the judge's sight as much as possible. Some prefer placing it around their neck. Place his front legs by holding his head with one hand and placing the leg with the other. Always place his front legs by his elbow, never by the lower leg or foot. Then switch hands and place the other front leg. The front feet of the dog should be perpendicular to the floor, and underneath the dog's shoulders. Many newbies tend to place the front legs too far forward. The front feet should be approximately 3 to 4 inches apart, depending on the size of the dog and the width of his chest.



Stack your dog's rear: Continue to hold the head of your dog with your right hand. While standing over your dog, stack his rear legs with your left hand. Always handle the rear legs from underneath the knee, or over-hand by the hock, never by the foot. The hock should be perpendicular to the floor. The hind feet's distance should be approximately one paw's width outside the front feet. Once all four feet have been placed correctly and your dog is calm and not moving, slowly run your hand from the rear leg up to the tail and hold his tail out and a bit up, or at 10:00. Do not hold the tail by the tip, as it is difficult for the judge to see where your dog's tail ends. Hold the tail a couple inches from the tip. Once your dog is ready for the

judge, look up and find her. This will indicate that you are ready for your dog to be judged. Make sure the dog is stacked well so she can see his entire frame. Some handlers like to stand with their dogs and some will kneel down. It does not matter to most judges, so do what is most comfortable for you and your dog. If you stand, put your feet close together, not spread in an awkward position.



Move Your Dog: Some judges skip the initial stacking and want the class to go around the ring first. Be sure to listen to her instructions, as she may ask you to run a complete circle, or more or less of it. And, if you are the first handler in line, turn to the handler behind you to ask if they are ready. If they say "yes," then start moving, if they are struggling with their lead, or say "wait a second," wait until they are ready, but not more than a few seconds. Remember to hold the lead in your left hand only with the dog on your left side. When moving, keep the dog on the center of the mat as much as possible and try to keep a loose lead on your dog. Keep one eye on your dog to make sure he is not acting silly or pacing (where both legs on one side of the dog is moving in unison) and one eye on where you are going. Once you have completed your first go-around, and yours is the first dog in line, immediately begin stacking your dog for the judge's exam. If you fall behind the first dog, you and your dog can relax for a moment, but be prepared to stack your dog when the dog in front of you starts moving again.



The Judge's Exam: Some judges walk straight to your dog, so be mindful to stack your dog quickly, but calmly. If your judge does walk to you before you get the rear stacked, leave it and present your dog's head. While she is examining the head, you might have an opportunity to stack his rear. If your judge prefers to stand in the middle of the ring to take in your dog's profile, stack him and hold his collar or head with your right hand, and his tail with your left. If the judge walks toward your dog's head from the front, drop the tail and present the dog's head to her. As she is going over your dog's head, keep your hands and fingers out of her way, by holding only the collar. Keep your head away so you do not distract her from the sight of your dog. Most judges will open your dog's mouth to see its bite, however, if your judge asks to see the bite, lift the top lip while lowering the bottom lip to expose the full front bite, while keeping your head out of her way.



Once the judge starts going down the dog's neck, you are to be ready to hold his head with your hand. This will assure the judge that you have control of the dog and that you will hold him steady for the exam. Some judges will make a move to actually hand you the dog's head. At the same time that you are holding his head, move to the front/side of the dog to get out of the judge's way, so she has space to go over your dog's body.

Your judge will then ask you to go "down & back." To prepare your dog for this, you may make a 'courtesy turn' to the right of the judge to get your dog facing the right way and centered on the mat. Move your dog down the diagonal mat at a comfortable trot, keeping your dog on the center of the mat. When you get to the far corner of your "down," turn your dog around, while keeping him at the same speed and gait coming back towards the judge. Make sure your dog is not pacing, and if he is, you may start



him over. Bring him "back" to her in the center of the mat. It is very important that your dog go "down & back" in as straight a line as possible, as here she is judging his "single tracking."



When approaching the judge, have a small piece of bait handy. Stop about 6 feet in front of the judge, slightly turning him so that she sees his profile, and show the bait to your dog to get his attention. Hopefully he will stay in place and "throw" his ears to show he is alert. Try to "free-stack" (stacking without you touching him) as well as you can. The judge will look at his natural stack



and his animation. She will then ask you to move your dog around the ring again to the end of the line. The gait should be a bit quicker than that of your down & back. The judge will then examine the remaining dogs in the class. While you are waiting for the others to be examined, bait and free-stack your dog. You never know when the judge will glance up to take another look. Once the last dog has been examined, prepare to move forward and stack your dog again.

Judge's decision: Once the judge has examined all dogs in the class, she may ask the class to move around the ring together once more. Be sure to ask the person behind you if they are ready. At this time, the judge may ask to place dogs in a different order in the ring. Watch for her instructions and do not hesitate to move, especially if she is moving you up front! Move around the ring as before, but watch your judge closely. The judge will likely point to the winner at this time. If she does not, be prepared to stack your dog again, once you are back at your spot. She may walk down the line, usually looking at heads and animation. It is best to bait your dog so that he throws his ears and looks alert. This will help her decide her placements. Be sure to not obscure the judge's vision with your arm or bait. Once placements are called, stand near the steward's table in that order, your arm band number to her, while she records her decisions. Regardless of your placement, accept your ribbon gracefully, smile when the judge hands you the ribbon, and tell her "thank you." Keep a healthy attitude, win or lose. If you receive 2nd place, stay close to the gate and be prepared to come back in after Winners, for a possible Reserve to the Winner.



Winners class: If you do win your class, or get 2nd in your class, stay close to the gate for the Winners class, in which points are given. If your dog wins the Open class, remain in the ring and go to the front of the line. The first place winners of the other classes will be called back into the ring in the original order of classes. Be sure you listen to the steward calling your number and that you are in the right spot. The judge's ring procedure may be the same as earlier, but most will not examine your dog again. You will likely be asked to go around together or individually. Many judges will move you around one at a time, so pay attention. Judges may take their time deciding, asking you to do a lot of moving and stacking, or they may make their decision very quickly, so be prepared. It is exciting to win, but if you do not, be sure to congratulate the winner.



Facts you should know - Showing dogs is a great sport where the thrill of competition is combined with the joy of seeing beautiful dogs. Dog shows and conformation events are intended to evaluate the dog's overall appearance and structure for future breeding stock. Shows can have up to over 3,000 dogs entered. All Breed shows can include all of the registered breeds recognized by the AKC. Specialty shows are restricted to dogs of a specific breed. For example, the Vizsla Club of America Specialty is for featuring Vizslas only. Dogs must be at least 6 months old to compete in AKC dog shows. Spayed and neutered dogs are not permitted to participate in All-Breed shows, but can compete in Specialties and all other AKC events.

Judges examine the dogs and give awards/points, for how closely each dog represents the judge's image of the perfect dog described in that breed's official standard, the [AKC Vizsla Standard](#), awarding a first through fourth ribbon in each class. Males and females are judged separately within their respective breed in the classes. Only the best male, Winners Dog, and the best female, Winners Bitch, are awarded points, after which they compete with the Champions of record for the Best of Breed. That dog goes to a Group placement hopefully, and then on to the Best in Show! It takes 15 points, including two majors (a win of 3, 4 or 5 points) for a dog to achieve its AKC Championship.