

# JUDGING THE WIREHAISED VIZSLA

By Peg Roginski



Photo courtesy of Lies van Essen, Netherlands.

**B**reeders, exhibitors and spectators will not envy the job of the judges when it comes to this breed. This being a fairly rare breed, as a judge, you won't be seeing a large number of them at any one show for a while, and it will be difficult to grasp the standard's definitions regarding the following specific areas.

When judging the Wirehaired Vizsla, the thought that they are a Vizsla with a wire coat needs to be the farthest thing from your mind. Just as the German Shorthair Pointer and a German Wirehaired Pointer are two distinct breeds, so are the Vizsla and the Wirehaired Vizsla.

The Wirehaired Vizsla originated back in the 1930's from a combination of breeds. They lost momentum, like so many European breeds during the war, but have made a strong comeback overseas.

The Wirehaired Vizsla was bred as an all-purpose hunting companion; their coats need to withstand the harsh terrain and the icy waters for hunting all fur and feather. We have seen in this breed that a correct coat, or just the wire coat without any undercoat may not develop until the dog is closer to 3-4 years old. While what looks like a good harsh coat with a lot of undercoat can in a few years have the undercoat grow longer and hide the wire coat. This is a challenge for both breeders and judges.

I am starting with the coat as it is what makes this breed unique from the Vizsla and the German Wirehaired Pointer, the two original breeds used in the formation of the Wirehaired Vizsla. Because there were a few other breeds used to bring in the versatility of the Wirehaired Vizsla, different coat textures and colors were also introduced into the gene pool. It is not uncommon to get the range of a pin coat to full wooly coats in the same litter.

The Wirehaired Vizsla is to be self-colored just as the Vizsla but exhibit the hard, close laying wire coat coupled with a dense undercoat just as the German Wirehaired Pointers. One of the main differences in the coat from the German Wirehaired



“Winnie” Photo courtesy of Ed Felker.

Pointers is that the coat on the underbelly and legs are to be shorter, softer and thinner than the body coat. Also the beard and brows are not as pronounced, the beard being approximately 1 inch in length. This breed is also to be shown with minimal stripping, as close to its natural coat, never clipped! Lacking undercoat or coat brushes on the back of the front legs is to be penalized, as is any deviation in coat texture or excessive length. The ideal coat length is approximately 1 inch.

The color of the coat can be varying shades of golden rust; my first thought of this line in the standard was, what does

this mean? But after looking at the coats on some dogs I understand the golden part. When looking at the wire coat, one hair consists of two colors, thus giving it the “golden” hue. The shades vary from golden rust to a honey gold. The ears may be slightly darker in color than the coat on the body, otherwise the coat color is uniform. Red, brown or yellow colors are faulty. This being a self-colored breed, the eyes, eye-rims, lips, nose and toenails should blend with the color of the coat. Yellow eyes are a serious fault. Disqualifications include partially or completely black nose, white extending above the toes

or white anywhere else on the dog except the fore chest or throat, which can only be 2 inches or less in any direction.

Now let’s examine the rest of the dog. If my counting skills are up to par, then the words “medium” or “moderate” are in the standard fifteen times. So to say that the Wirehaired Vizsla is a dog with no exaggerations would be the short story. The breed is of medium size with overall symmetry and balance. The ideal height of adults for males is 23-25 inches and females 21.5-23 inches. A disqualification for size on males is over 26 inches or under 22 and for females over 24 inches or under

**“...SHADES VARY FROM GOLDEN RUST TO A HONEY GOLD.”**



# VIZCAYA

WIREHAired VIZSLAS



## UKC CH/BIMISC VIZCAYA'S WIRED FOR SOUND CM JH

(UKC CH Thorn Hills Hun x ARBA BIS/ UKC CH/Int'l CH Vizland's Vizcaya Remy Red CM)



# 'Bailey'

Bred by: Nancy Edmunds  
Owned by: Lee & Barbara Ross and Nancy Edmunds

BEST OF BREED  
at the Eukanuba Nat'l Ch. Show in the inaugural year for the WV 2011

BEST OF OPPOSITE  
at the at the Eukanuba Nat'l Ch. Show in 2012

## UKC CH/BIMISC VIZCAYA'S WIRE REM SHADES CM JH

(UKC CH Thorn Hills Hun x ARBA BIS/ UKC CH/Int'l CH Vizland's Vizcaya Remy Red CM)



# 'OAKLEY'



Owned and Bred by: Nancy Edmunds



BEST OF OPPOSITE  
to her litter brother at the Eukanuba Nat'l Ch. Show in the inaugural year for the WV, 2011

Photo © Cathy

**NANCY EDMUNDS**

404-867-0313 | <http://VizcayaVizslas.com> | [NancyEdmunds@VizcayaVizslas.com](mailto:NancyEdmunds@VizcayaVizslas.com) | Winder, Georgia, US

# 'NALI'

**BIMisc Vizcaya's Time After Time**

*Owned by: Nancy Edmunds*



# 'THOR'

**BIMisc Vizcaya's Time of the Season CM**

*Owned by: Doug & Joni Carithers  
and Nancy Edmunds*



# 'PJ'

**BIMisc Vizcaya's Jammie Time  
at Obies CM**

*Owned by: Peggy O'Brien & Nancy Edmunds*



*(UKC CH BIMISC VIZCAYA'S WIRED FOR SOUND CM JH X  
UKC CH BIMISC PALOWNIA'S SANIBEL SALLY CM)*

*Bred by: Beth Strickland, Rachael Murphy & Nancy Edmunds*



Photo courtesy of Laszlo Otvos.



Photo courtesy of Peg Roginski.



Photo courtesy of Doug Wall.



Task in the water. Photo courtesy of Kathy Lormis.

20.5. The body length from breastbone to point of hip should be slightly longer than height to the withers. There should be sufficient bone and substance for a hunting dog that goes through all kinds of terrain but still light enough to hunt all day.

The Wirehaired Vizsla's well-proportioned head exhibits medium size, slightly oval eyes with tight rims. Ears are set at a medium height with moderate length ending in a V shape. The skull is well muscled, moderate in length and slightly domed with a moderate stop that has a slight groove from stop to occiput. The muzzle is blunt, slightly shorter than half the length

of the head and parallel to skull. The nose is such an important part of a hunting breed so this should be wide with open nostrils. The bite should be scissor with an under or overshot bite being a disqualification, as is having more than two missing teeth.

This head of moderation should fit well with their body of many moderations. The slightly arched, medium length neck should be in balance with the head and body. The moderately broad chest should be deep, well-muscled and set at the elbows. The moderately sprung ribs should be carried well back to a moderate tuck up. The topline is straight, well-muscled, fall-

ing into a slightly rounded, well-muscled croup, which is moderate in length. The tail is set just below the level of the croup and should be thick at the base. A docked tail should be docked by one-quarter of its length, and a natural tail should reach to the hock joint. Both tails should be carried level or slightly saber-like.

Now, when it comes to the forequarters and hindquarters of the standard, moderate is not the wording used. Well angulated is the term for the shoulders and stifle for a good reason. If a dog is to hunt hard on land and water they need to have enough angulation so that their limbs can extend freely.

# KONZA VADASZ

"IMPORTING THE FUTURE"



## "FITZKO"

UKC CH THORN HILL'S HUN

*Thorn Hill's Eke x  
Kecel Hatsagi Manyá*

- UKC Champion
- UKC BOB, 3x
- UKC Group 1
- b. 6-24-03; NAVHDA NA Prize 1;  
AKCFSS #SR52886001; CHIC#  
42162; Hips: OFA# WVZ-16G34M-PI;  
PennHIP DI: L.28/R.28; Eyes: CERF#  
WVZ-107-75

Bred by: Sandor Arany, Canada



## "ISHAN"

QUODIAN'S ISHAN

*Furdahazi Athos x  
Zenith Des Champs  
Des Dunes*

- b. 1-22-02; AKC FSS#  
SR52866301; CHIC#42159  
Hips: OFA# WVZ-12G49M-  
PI; PennHIP DI: L.28/R.28;  
Eyes: CERF# WVZ-109

Bred by: Lies van Essen,  
Netherlands



## "PAJTAS"

QUODIAN'S PAJTAS

*Betyar Z Malaakocskaj x  
Furdahazi Gabci*

- b. 1-30-05 AKC FSS # SR52866101  
NAVHDA NA Prize II CHIC  
#42163 Hips: OFA # WVZ-22F24M-  
PI Elbows: WVZ-EL4M24-PI Eyes:  
CERF # WVZ-104

Bred by: Lies van Essen,  
Netherlands



## "BETYAR"

QUODIAN BETYAR, CM

*Keszegerparti Drotos Cimbí x  
Quodian's Panache*

- He won Best in Open Show,  
at the WVCA National/Open Show  
for FSS & Misc breeds in Atlanta, GA,  
10/21/11. Special thanks to judge  
Marjorie Martorella!

- b. 2-12-2008; AKC# SR52866501;  
NAVHDA# WV-000516; Hips: OFA#  
WVZ-60G25M-VPI; Eyes: CERF# WVZ-  
131; CHIC #89033

Bred by: Lies van Essen, Netherlands

## ISHAN'S DAUGHTER

UJJ URO1 UCH VIZCAYA'S HUNDRED DEGREES  
IN THE SHADE CD RE JH ITD CL-1R

*Quodian's Ishan x UKC CH/BIMisc Vizcaya's Wire Rem Shades*

MBIMisc winner with Rally titles in UKC and AKC as well as UKC Championship and junior dock jumping title and AKC JH. ITD is Intermediate Trick Dog through the "Do More with Your Dog" registry and CL-1R CPE is the "Canine Performance Events" agility registry of Level 1-Standard. She is a wonderful example of our dogs' versatility. Hips and Elbows: OFA cleared; CM JH (CHIC # 45156)

Owned by: Belinda Perry & Jeff Gowan | Compass Wirehaired Vizslas  
Bred by: Nancy Edmunds, Vizcaya Vizslas | Photo by: Sara Renee

## "TYNDALL"



## FITZKO'S DAUGHTER

UKC CH KONZA VADASZ HUNTER COUNTY

*Thorn Hill's Hun x Vizland's Tip-Toe Tulip*

- Foundation bitch for Bird Mountain  
Wirehaired Vizslas In CO
- Dam of their first litter which earned the  
prestigious NAVHDA Natural Ability Breeder's  
Award (only the second time awarded for a  
Wirehaired Vizsla litter)

- b. 6-17-2006; OFA Good (Hips); OFA  
Normal (elbows); CERF Normal 2012  
Cardiac (Normal)

Bred by: Deb & Doug Wall,  
Konza Vadasz | Photo by: Alan Crouch

*Quodian's Pajtas sired the NAVHDA NA Breeder's  
Award litter with "Ada" bred by Bryan & Amanda  
Johnson, BIRD MTN*

## "ADA"



## BETYAR'S SON

KONZA VADASZ  
LUCKY SASQUATCH,  
CM NA OAJ CGC

*Quodian Betyar x Anna VD Zuidvliet  
(imported from the Netherlands)*

- Yeti is the very first Wirehaired Vizsla  
to earn an agility title in AKC.

Owned by: Krista Voytilla & Alan Crouch

## "YETI"



Thank you Lies van Essen, of Quodian's Wirehaired Vizslas in the Netherlands for her mentorship, and for entrusting her wonderful dogs to us.

Deb & Doug Wall | Konza Vadasz Wirehaired Vizslas  
Kansas | [www.wirehairedvizsla.us](http://www.wirehairedvizsla.us)

*In loving memory of*

# GRCH SERAPHIM KALEIDOSCOPE KRIS, TAN

*His love of the hunt, and Houdini abilities, freed everyone from the yard-  
he didn't make it back home.*

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Top Winning UKC Hungarian Wirehaired  
Vizsla as of 2012 | #2 HWV 2009  
#1 HWV 2010, 2011 and 2012 | Best  
of Breed Top Ten Invitational 2012  
Best in Specialty UHWVA 2010  
and 2011 | 9 RBIMBS | 8 BIMBS

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First Reserve Best in Show win  
at 14 months of age



Owned and bred by:  
Seraphim Kennels  
[seraphimwirehairedvizslas.com](http://seraphimwirehairedvizslas.com)

*In our hearts forever*

TOP PRODUCING WIREHAired VIZSLA IN THE USA AS OF 2012

# UKC-AKC and NAVHDA Vizland's Miles Standish

*Fram Od Smutne Ricky x Pine Tree's Viz Hello Dolly*

Breeder: **Amy Holland**

Owners: **Peg Roginski | Bill Stone**

[www.seraphimwirehairedvizslas.com](http://www.seraphimwirehairedvizslas.com)

Produced: **UKC GRCH-4 | UKC CH-5**

**UKC TAN-3 | UKC UNJ -1**

**RN- 1 | TDI-1 | NAVHDA NA-6**





The fronts and rears need to be in balance so that they are not trying to get out of the way of the other. And the back needs to be level and firm to ensure stability. As the standard states, "movement is powerful yet graceful with far reaching drive enabling the breed to hunt in all elements and cover any terrain encountered by the walking hunter." The feet are cat like but slightly oval. Pasterns are short and slightly sloping and front dewclaws are preferably removed but natural dewclaws are not to be penalized. Rear dewclaws are a disqualification.

When approaching the Wirehaired Vizsla the expression should show their confidence, intelligence and sensitivity. They were bred to be a guardian of their homes as well as to bring home the meat. So aloofness is something you may encounter while judging this breed. But while at home they are very affectionate and loyal companions.

As of now, the Wirehaired Vizsla is getting a good start here in the United States. With the team work of dedicated breeders and judges that understand the purpose of the breed, I feel that this versatile, loyal hunting dog has a good future. ■

*For the valued collaboration in writing this article, I would like to thank the chairperson of the Public Education Committee, Deb Wall, members of the Judges Education Committee Mark Goodwein and Nancy Edmunds and the Chairperson of the Judges Education Committee, Amanda Johnson, whom you can email with question, comments or information on our next judges education presentation at [birdmtn1@gmail.com](mailto:birdmtn1@gmail.com).*



"Dora's first pheasant" Photo courtesy of Stephen Foster.



Photo courtesy of Lies van Essen, Netherlands.



# IVAN



UKC CH ZOLDMALI  
IVAN TAN, CGC, NA  
PRIZE III

*Ivan, an import, is AKC-FSS, UKC,  
FCI and NAVHDA registered.*

*Owned by Carolyn DeFiore of  
Vidor Wirehaired Vizslas*

# TASK

INT CH ZOLDMALI TUCSOK

*He is an import and is registered AKC-FSS, CKC, IABCA, FCI, UKC and NAVHDA.  
He is just starting his show career.*



**Look for us on Facebook!**

*Carolyn DeFiore | Vidor Wirehaired Vizslas | Michigan | [www.wirehairedvizslas.com](http://www.wirehairedvizslas.com)  
Roy and Kathy Lormis | Loroka Wirehaired Vizslas | [lorokawirehairs@yahoo.com](mailto:lorokawirehairs@yahoo.com) | 314-800-7528*

*Also residing at Loroka*  
**ZOLDMALI PENNA (imported) &  
VIDOR'S LOROKA HANNAH**

# GETTING TO KNOW THE WIREHAIRED VIZSLA

## (GOT DRÓTSZŐRŰ MAGYAR VIZSLA?)

By Deb Wall

**W**hat kind of dog is that?

"A Wire-haired Vizsla," we reply.

Reactions range from "A what?" to "Oh, I've heard of those but have never seen one." The owners of any rare breed of dog get used to hearing the same questions from people meeting our dogs for the first time. Those of us who have Wirehaired Vizslas are no exception. But, no matter how often we are asked, we never get tired of telling people about our dogs. They are not just dogs, after all. They are members of our families, a special breed in many ways.

The first thing people notice about the Wirehaired Vizsla is its striking appearance and lively intelligent expression. It is uniformly self-colored in shades of golden rust, with nose, eyes and eye rims, and toenails all harmonious with the coat. The color described in Hungarian translates as "bread crust." It is the ideal color to blend with and disappear in a field of golden russet autumn grass and bushes. Their bright russet eyes (not brown, not yellow, but the same hue as the coat, ideally a shade or two darker) shine with intelligence and intuitiveness, and are accentuated by bushy eyebrows. A small beard and moustaches complete the facial furnishings.

It is not just their appearance that makes Wirehaired Vizslas so special. Versatility is one of the breed's hallmarks. Multi-talented, it is the ultimate jack of all trades.

*Originating in Hungary, the Wire-haired Vizsla was developed by hunters and falconers who desired a sturdy, versatile hunting dog able to withstand*

*harsh winters in the field, forest and water. The Wirehaired Vizsla is a distinguished, versatile hunting dog of medium size, bred for substance and a dense wire coat. Balanced in size and proportion, the Wirehaired Vizsla is robust and lean. Movement is powerful yet graceful with far reaching drive enabling the breed to hunt in all elements and cover any terrain encountered by the walking hunter. The breed possesses an excellent nose for hunting and tracking feather and fur on land and in water, as well as a natural point and retrieve. The breed's most distinguishing features are its weather resistant dense wire coat and its facial furnishings, specifically its beard and eyebrows. Natural appearance is essential to breed type, therefore the Wirehaired Vizsla is to be shown with limited stripping and should not be penalized for being shown in working condition: sinewy, well muscled, with honorable scars. The Wirehaired Vizsla is intelligent, loyal, sensitive and biddable, but cannot tolerate harsh handling. Eager to learn, lively yet gentle, they are readily trainable for gun and falcon. The Wirehaired Vizsla is a tractable and affectionate companion in the home.*

*- AKC Standard of the Wirehaired Vizsla*

Once hunting and the sport of falconry were no longer limited to the nobility and a growing middle class was allowed access to the game in fields and forests, families were able to provide meat for the table and relied on the assistance of hunting dogs. While the nobility had kennels full of specialized breeds—pointers and setters, retrievers and hounds, the merchants, farmers and tradesmen of the new middle class had limited resources and they needed one dog, a versatile hunting companion

that could do it all. They walked the fields and forests on foot, searching for game birds, waterfowl, and furred game large and small, assisted by the family dog which would locate, point, flush and retrieve the game to hand. At home, the hunting dog fulfilled the role of pet and companion as well, playing with the children, being alert to the approach of strangers and keeping a watchful eye on the property, and sleeping with family members.

Today, the Wirehaired Vizslas is still the ultimate definition of a versatile hunting dog. Whether a person likes to hunt upland birds, waterfowl or furred game from rabbits to deer, the Wirehaired Vizsla can locate, point and retrieve game on land and in water. It is as proficient hunting with a falconer as it is with someone who uses a shotgun or bow. It can track a bloodtrail to find a wounded deer in the forest or the trail of a person lost in the wilderness. It will hunt down and kill rats and mice in the barn as well as any terrier. Cattails and acres of lily pads won't deter a WV from swimming to find and retrieve ducks or geese.

It is not all just prey drive, there is a softer side to their versatility, too. This the other hallmark of the breed—their attachment to their people. They hunt because we hunt, but they are very biddable, people-oriented and intuitive, making them an outstanding companion for many activities in addition to hunting. They are wonderful therapy dogs and always seem to instinctively know what is needed when they make a therapy visit. They love to learn, and though they can be cautious about new situations and experiences at first, they are quick to catch on. They are almost always at the head of the class from

# Chase

UNJCH GRCH  
Vidor's Chase

*Vizland's Miles Standish x  
Quodijin's Arany*

Our sincerest appreciation  
and thank you to all of the  
judges who have recognized  
Chase's fine type and quality.

*Exclusively Presented by  
his owner Sandy Persyn*



*“We do not call them ‘Velcro’ dogs’ for nothing.*

## **THEY WANT TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THEIR PEOPLE AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS.”**

puppy kindergarten to obedience and do extremely well in Obedience and Rally competitions. Naturally athletic with lots of drive, they can also excel in Agility or Flyball. Their ultra-keen scenting ability makes them a natural for Tracking and Scent Discrimination. They are used for Search and Rescue in Europe and are beginning to make an appearance in SAR here in America. They love the water, are strong swimmers and many take great delight in dock jumping. We even know some Wirehaired Vizslas that are experienced canoeists and kayakers! They are happy doing whatever their families like to do and just being a part of the family. They also love cuddling up and being couch potatoes and sleeping with their people.

The downside of the WV's intelligence and bond with their people is that WV owners must be prepared to make their Wirehaired Vizsla a part of the family and give them plenty to do. It is not a breed that is content just hanging out in the back yard by itself all day, “being a dog” without the attention and interaction with the rest of the family. We do not call them “Velcro” dogs” for nothing. They want to be in the same room with their people and right in the middle of things. Expect to go into the bathroom alone? Better shut the door, and just take it for granted that the dog will be waiting right there when the door is opened. In the field, the Wirehaired Vizsla is a close working, methodical hunter, but not a “boot licker.” It doesn't go running off into the next county, but works about 40-50 yards ahead and always knows where his hunting partner is.

Mental exercise is as important for the WV as physical exercise and they need the interaction of learning with their owners. It is important to be able to set aside time every day for learning, whether it is tricks, yard games, obedience exercises or field

work. But while training the Wirehaired Vizsla, it is very important not get carried away in repetitions or use any kind of harsh or sharp corrections. Their soft temperament can make them fold up and shut down under heavy hands or too intensive training. For a Wirehaired Vizsla, a verbal correction is as harsh as it ever needs to get and care should be taken to not use too sharp a tone of voice in making the correction. They do not bounce back the way other breeds with harder temperaments do and can take a very long time to recover from anything they view as a bad experience. The key to success is to keep training fun and positive. In field work, experience is the best teacher and sometimes the sage advice for someone with a Wirehaired Vizsla is to quit training in the yard and just go hunt wild birds. With a soft voice and gentle hand in guiding a young puppy into a hunting dog, anyone with a Wirehaired Vizsla can have a skilled, versatile hunting companion for many years.

The Wirehaired Vizsla has an average lifespan of 12-15 years. Although overall it is a relatively healthy breed, there are many diseases and conditions that can be found in practically every breed of dog and the WV is no exception. Screening for hip dysplasia and eye problems is recommended for all breeding dogs, and many breeders additionally test cardio, elbows, and thyroid. Probably the most common complaint is auto-immune related, most often allergies of some kind, but other auto-immune diseases have been noted as well. Allergies can be expressed as chronic ear infections, yeast infections, skin irritations or gastric upset/IBS and are sometimes relieved with a change in diet, particularly eliminating grains and glutes. Some kinds of cancer have been seen, but no particular

form of cancer is widespread or occurs with any frequency.

The Wirehaired Vizsla has a small gene pool and care must be taken in breeding decisions to not create a genetic bottleneck with too many dogs too closely related to each other.

Understanding the breed's origins and history is an important key to figuring out Wirehaired Vizsla pedigrees. Although the breed's written history only dates back to the 1930's, the breed arose from the remains of the Austria Hungary Empire and survived through wars, changing political boundaries and decades of conflict in the region. The idea of hunters and falconers there was to create a breed with the traits and qualities of the Magyar (Hungarian) Vizsla, but sturdier, with more bone, and a dense wiry coat to protect from the elements. With the fall of the Empire, those involved in the breed's earliest development ended up in different countries, Hungary, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. In 1943, Vasas Josef, who had the Csabai Vizsla kennel in Hungary, submitted an application to the Magyar Vizsla Klub, in which he outlined the ways to develop such a breed and asked the club to authorize their efforts and keep a registry of their foundation stock. It was a controversial proposal, but ultimately, the club approved with the recommendation to develop as many specimens as quickly possible and to exhibit them in shows and hunting competitions, with the club reserving the right to give future permission for more development only after examining the characteristics and abilities of those dogs.

Vasas Josef was aided by Gresznarik Lazslo, from the De Selle kennel, who was greatly experienced in breeding German Wirehaired Pointers. Together, they crossed two Vizsla bitches with a solid brown German Wirehaired Pointer. The first dogs

# Koppertone Vizslas

Smooth and Wirehaired Vizslas



Zoldmali Csongor, CM, JH - "Izzy"



UKC GrCh, UKC RBIS, UKC #1 WHV 2011

ad by Silanna Summers.com



Vidor's Grace Under Fire - "Kenna"



Zoldmali Oliva - "Olivia"



Mark and Bonnie Goodwein  
Chatsworth, CA  
[www.koppertonevizslas.com](http://www.koppertonevizslas.com)

~ Since 1985 ~

with three-generation pedigrees fulfilled the dream by inheriting the color and other characteristics of the Vizsla while at the same time passing along the somewhat heavier bone structure and wiry multi-layered coat of the German Wirehaired Pointer. The first Wirehaired Vizsla to be shown was Dia De Selle, in 1943. By 1944, there were 60 dogs registered. But WWII brought the near extinction of both the Vizsla and the Wirehaired Vizsla in Hungary; dogs were killed and kennels were dispersed or nationalized under the communist regime, while records and stud books were destroyed or lost. Because of the upheaval of the Second World War and the post-war years, the breed's development in that period is difficult to trace. We rely on anecdotal information, hand-written pedigrees and oral history. We know that there were some outcrosses to other breeds in addition to GWP; Pudelpointers and Wirehaired Pointing Griffons were certainly used, and possibly even a Bloodhound. A handwritten pedigree for one dog goes back, eleven generations on the sire and ten generations on the dam, to an Irish Setter which was bred in a total of four times "for speed."

Eventually, after many ups and downs, the Wirehaired Vizsla was recognized by the FCI in 1966 as an independent Hungarian breed, Drótszőrű Magyarvizsla (Wirehaired Hungarian Vizsla) under Standard #239. With the first imports to North America, the UK and Western Europe from Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the 1970s, the Wirehaired Vizsla began gaining popularity around the world.

Although recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club in 1977, the Wirehaired Vizsla remained unrecognized in America as the result of a sort of "identity crisis." Author and literary editor, Charles Newman discovered the breed in his visits to Hungary in the 1960s and imported

his first Wirehaired Vizslas in 1973. But Newman called them "Uplanders" from their origins in the uplands of northern Hungary, believing the name would help distinguish the breed from its smooth cousin, the Vizsla. He formed a club in Virginia with the aim of gaining support for "Uplanders" among American sportsmen and applied for recognition with the Field Dog Stud Book and the American Kennel Club. However, there were far too few in the country for recognition and, because the breed was not recognized by that name anywhere else, AKC and FDSB refused to recognize the breed as the "Versatile Uplander." Still relatively unknown in the US, the early efforts to promote Wirehaired Vizslas as "Uplanders" died out and few records remain of them.

A handful of dedicated hunters in Canada and the U.S. persisted in their efforts to preserve the integrity of the purebred Wirehaired Vizsla through importing purebred registered European stock for their breeding programs and testing the dogs' versatile hunting ability. NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Assoc.) tested the first WV in 1974 and formally recognized the breed in 1986. The WV can be registered in the Field Dog Stud Book through NAVHDA.

By 2003, a total of 181 WV, including those in Canada, had been registered in NAVHDA and the Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America was formed for the purpose of breed rescue and to develop a breed network in the US. By January 2006, over 350 Wirehaired Vizslas had been registered in NAVHDA and the WVCA organized its first board of directors. Also that year, the breed was recognized by the United Kennel Club as the Hungarian Wire-Haired Vizsla and the United HWV Association was founded.

Since then, the breed's numbers have increased much faster.

In 2007, the WVCA applied for the Wirehaired Vizsla to be admitted in AKC's Foundation Stock Service (FSS) and was accepted, effective Jan. 1, 2008. The WVCA began collecting pedigrees and applications for its first packet of registrations. The breed became eligible to compete in AKC Companion and Performance Events on Jan. 1, 2009. The WVCA was named the AKC parent club in 2010, sanctioned to hold hunt tests and given permission by AKC to collect a second packet for registrations. The Wirehaired Vizsla and the WVCA have continued to grow together in AKC and the breed was admitted into the Miscellaneous Class on Jan 1, 2011. Although the UHWVA disbanded in 2012, many continue to show and compete in UKC events as well as AKC events and NAVHDA ability tests. There are now over 330 Wirehaired Vizslas registered in AKC-FSS with three-generation pedigrees. Earlier this year, the WVCA applied to the AKC Board of Directors for the breed's recognition in the Sporting Group and the AKC Board voted in favor of the request. It will be effective July 2, 2014.

The Wirehaired Vizsla has survived incredible challenges, from wars and near extinction to an American identity crisis. The breed keeps growing and improving, thanks to its wonderful qualities that win our love, admiration, and determination to preserve it. Although there are only several thousand—five thousand at most, found worldwide, dedicated kennels and fanciers all over the world work together to protect and preserve our wonderful Wirehaired Vizslas. ■

*For more information about the Wirehaired Vizsla and the WVCA, visit <http://www.wbvca.org>.*

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