



*From the Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America...*

# *The Wirehaired Vizsla*

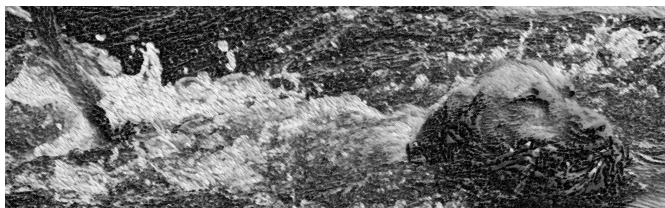
*You did your homework, researched the breed and found a reputable, conscientious breeder. Congratulations on your newest family member, a versatile Wirehaired Vizsla!*

Making the decision to bring a dog into your life is a major milestone for you, your family and ultimately your canine companion. Buying a dog is a lifetime commitment and a major responsibility in time, energy and money. Wirehaired Vizslas often live 12 to 14 years. For more detailed information about Wirehaired Vizslas and our club, please visit our website,

[www.whvca.org](http://www.whvca.org)

## **A Versatile Hunting Dog and Companion**

Bred to hunt fur or feather on land or in water, the Wirehaired Vizsla was developed after WWI, by hunters and falconers in Hungary and Austria, who wanted a dog with the same outstanding traits as the Vizsla and the same self-coloring, but heavier and sturdier, with a thick wiry coat more resistant to extreme winter weather and rough field conditions. They are generally close working, methodical hunters with keen noses, firm on point and excellent trackers and retrievers.



Strong swimmers, they enjoy the water and are determined to stay on scent, even while swimming. The Wirehaired Vizsla loves to hunt whatever you hunt, from upland birds to waterfowl to furred game.

Their versatility extends beyond the field and your Wirehaired Vizsla can excel in many events, from Agility, Obedience, Tracking, to Dock Diving, Barn Hunting and Lure Coursing. With their easy-going temperament and intuitive intelligence, they are also excellent Therapy Dogs.



See the complete Wirehaired Vizsla standard at

[www.whvca.org/breed-standard.html](http://www.whvca.org/breed-standard.html)

## **Health & Breeding**

Breeding a litter of puppies is a serious endeavor and not a casual undertaking. Responsible breeders give

lots of thought and consideration to their breeding programs. These breeders research potential dam and stud lines, utilize DNA tests and clinical screening to give puppies the best possible start. The Wirehaired Vizsla is generally a healthy breed, but they are susceptible to certain health issues commonly affecting many breeds—hip dysplasia, eye disease and cancer. Responsible breeders address health issues, genetic concerns, temperament, soundness and appearance before breeding.

Breeding Wirehaired Vizslas does have many rewards, but a monetary profit is not one. Medical care, food, stud fees, and all the other expenses easily outpace the revenue generated from an average litter. Breeders carefully place each dog in a responsible and loving home, and re-home any puppies that do not work out. Responsible Wirehaired Vizsla breeders take this obligation very seriously.

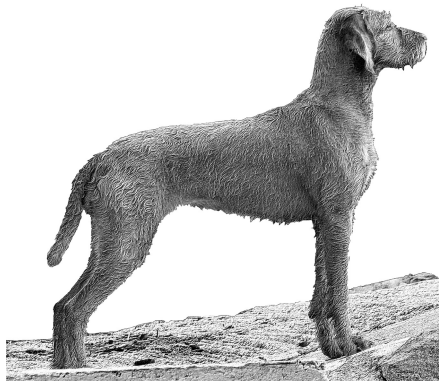
If you want to become an educated breeder, there are Wirehaired Vizsla owners who have taken this route and had a lot of fun producing and exhibiting top quality Wirehaired Vizslas. They are anxious to help you learn more. Your breeder, books, local clubs, or the WVCA are all good resources to help get you started. Check the WVCA's website for further information on Wirehaired Vizsla health page,

[www.whvca.org/health.html](http://www.whvca.org/health.html)

If you decide not to breed, and wish to spay or neuter your dog, please note that Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC's Chief Veterinarian Officer recently reported, "Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian." Neutering or spaying will not exclude a dog from AKC Companion events such as Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Agility, or from AKC Hunt Tests.

Many Parent Club members individually or collectively support health research for your breed through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help your breed, call toll free 1-888-682-9696, or see

[www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)



## **Wirehaired Vizsla puppies need. . .**

### **Socialization & Training**

The Wirehaired Vizsla is a calm, gentle and loyal companion, but early socialization and training is necessary to help it reach full potential. Positive experiences with new things, places, people, and other pets will develop confidence for taking new, different situations in stride. Puppy kindergarten is a great way to give your puppy a good start. They are sensitive with a strong desire to please, so harsh discipline is unnecessary and unwise. Make lessons short and fun, always ending on a good note—you and your puppy will enjoy training and be very successful!

### **Physical Exercise**

The Wirehaired Vizsla was bred to hunt in fields and forests with ease. So, your puppy will have lots of energy to run and play. Engage your puppy in frequent periods of activity on and off-leash every day, but wait until he is grown with completely developed bones and joints for strenuous activity like very long walks, jogging or running, jumping down or over things, and too much up and down stairs, especially down. Let him play, romp and rest when he wants. Swimming is excellent exercise, and with a good introduction to water, your puppy will love the water. Let your puppy regulate his activity in the water and rest when he wants.

### **Mental Exercise**



Intelligent and intuitive, your puppy needs mental stimulation as much as physical exercise. Any bored puppy can develop destructive habits when bored, but mental exercise will keep your puppy occupied and tire him just like hard physical exercise. They are quick

learners, eager to please, and can easily learn basic obedience commands at a young age. Playing games in the house and yard, like fetching a toy, “wing on a string,” or finding a hidden treat gives your puppy fun mental and physical exercise—all good foundations for more advanced skills like tracking, nose work, retrieving and obedience. Bird work and learning manners in

the field are important if your puppy will be a hunting companion. The best time to start is now. Just remember that mental activity is tiring just like physical activity, so be sure to give your puppy rest after lessons.

### **Protection**

If your new puppy does not already have a microchip, it is strongly recommended that you have this done. One in three pets will go missing in its lifetime. The AKC Reunite “Lost and Found” recovery service option is available for a small, one-time charge with your puppy’s registration. It includes a free AKC logo collar tag customized with his AKC Registration Number and a toll-free recovery service hotline number. The service works with any brand of microchip and charges no annual fees or record update fees. For more information, call 800-252-7894, or see

[www.akcreunite.org](http://www.akcreunite.org)

### **Grooming**

Keeping your dog’s coat healthy is important for overall health. A Wirehaired Vizsla coat is not difficult to maintain but does need regular brushing to stay healthy. Use a slicker brush to brush the coat, remove old hair, burrs and stickers from your dog’s fur.

Not all Wirehaired Vizslas have a perfect coat right away. If your puppy has an over-abundant coat, it will benefit from stripping. Strip the coat by pulling out the longer, dead hairs. New hair grows back shorter and coarser, with a wiry tip and shaft. Stripping the coat all over in one session is too much for you and your dog; just do little areas each day. Some puppies can have a very short coat and take longer to grow a wiry coat. They only require brushing with a stiff bristle brush every few days. Your puppy’s breeder can show you how to strip and answer grooming questions.

### **WVCA**

The Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America is the official AKC Parent Club for the Wirehaired Vizsla. We promote and protect quality and versatility in the purebred Wirehaired Vizsla as our main mission.

Membership in the WVCA links you with other Wirehaired Vizsla owners in the United States and provides you with the latest information and news about Wirehaired Vizslas. A Facebook group gives members a place to discuss everything “WireViz” from hunting, shows, and events to questions about breeding, training and health. Our annual meeting and supported entry events with Sweepstakes are held in different locations every year.

Membership dues support club activities and WVCA Rescue. Visit our website

[www.whvca.org](http://www.whvca.org)

for more information about membership. We’d love to have you join us!