

advice for those looking for a good breeder

This is a generic response that I have put together to answer inquiries quickly. It should answer any questions you may have and more. If not please let me know!

You may also need to check out this link <https://rufflyspeaking.wordpress.com/2009/04/26/puppy-buyer-ettiquette/>

When you contact breeders, please share your experience with dogs in general and Vizslas specifically.

- Why a Vizsla?
- I am not sure how much you know about the breed/how much time you have spent with them. First of all, you need to actually spend some time with Vizslas.
- Make sure that they are truly the breed for you. As you know, all breeds are different in some way or another. Their behavior and appearance which are achieved through selective breeding is what makes them identifiable as their breed.
- Our rescue took in a 6 month old pup from a family that went to a multi-breed facility wanting a Lab, and the seller talked them into a Vizsla - he had no Labs and told the people that they were just alike... NOT! A great website to get an idea about Vizslas is <http://www.rmvc.org/how-do-vizslas-compare-to-labs-and-goldens.html>

What are the demographics of your home? Age, marital status, children, other pets, activities you participate in that include your dog are all important bits of information for a breeder who cares about the pups they are breeding. If you mentioned having a running partner as a reason for getting a Vizsla how much running and what type do you do? I also work in rescue, so truly have a vested interest in matching people with quality breeders and making sure that the breed matches your family.

I am happy to talk about the breed and any potential breeding plans that I know of, but also want you to know that you can check with some close by Vizsla Club of America members. We have a list of those who offer to educate about the breed.

http://www.vcaweb.org/breed/ask_a_member.shtml has the link to the pdf.

There is also a web site that lists breeders who do health tests. Jayney does a great job of making sure that people agree to at least a minimum of testing: <http://jayneyscreativeworks.com/VizslaBreederRegistryHomePage.html>

When contacting breeders, you want to make sure that the parents were health tested. Please keep in mind that the breed club recommends certain health tests are for all breeding animals.

The information for the Vizsla is at <https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=VZ&var=> People often perceive that since they "just want a pet" that the parents do not need to have titles or health testing.

Titles and health tests together indicate that the breeder is doing more than indiscriminately breeding dogs. They are proving that the dogs they breed meet the breed standard in temperament and appearance and potentially will be healthy so that the dog you bring home looks and behaves as you would expect that particular breed to be. In earning titles on the parents they are testing the ability of the dog to be around people, do a job, have a sound temperament. In testing health the breeder is stacking the odds in his or her favor to produce healthy pups. BTW, titles and health testing generations back in a pedigree, but none on the parents and grandparents means very little, if anything, at all.

There is a great site to help you understand what to look for when looking at breeder web sites, how much information they give about their breeding stock <http://www.lgd.org/library/breedercomparison.htm>

In general Vizsla puppies from responsible reputable hobby breeders range in price from \$1200 to \$2000. Some may be more. Some may be slightly less. Price does not reflect quality, neither do well crafted websites. Most responsible, hobby breeders have many if not all of their puppies spoken for before birth. Only lucky circumstances (a large litter, a change in circumstances of a prospective home, no appropriate puppy for a planned home) would make it such that a puppy would be available whenever a breeder is contacted. Plan on spending approximately 6 months finding a breeder that meshes with you and who then has a puppy available for you.

When looking at a breeder for a puppy, these are true "please walk away" warnings:

- SELLS MALES FOR LESS MONEY THAN FEMALES. This is because a premium is placed on females by other "wannabe" breeders to start their own backyard breeding program.
- SELLS "SHOW QUALITY" WHILE THEY NEVER SHOW THEMSELVES. How can you know? Markings? That only represents about 10% of what makes up a "show quality" dog.
- SELLS ANY PUPPY WITH FULL REGISTRATION for more money, regardless of the quality or health of the pup.

- DOES NOT HAVE VERIFIABLE HEALTH CLEARANCES on hips AND elbows of at least MOST of the dogs on the pups pedigree. If you are told "our vet said they are healthy" this is a BIG red flag.
- "BREEDING STOCK COMES FROM HEALTHY LINES" If you are told this, DEMAND PROOF.
- "HEALTHIER EUROPEAN LINES." Don't believe it. There are healthy and unhealthy lines in all countries.
- DOGS WHICH ARE BRED BEFORE TWO YEARS OF AGE AND/OR ARE BRED EVERY HEAT CYCLE. "BOTH PARENTS ON PREMISES." Good breeders go out and find the stud dog that best compliments their bitch. Breeders who tend to be in it "for the money" only, don't want to pay a stud fee, so they just get a boy and a girl, and whatever they produce, they produce. Also, if they own several females that they breed to one of their males each and every time. This tells me they are just pumping out puppies - high volume - high sales - more money in the seller's pocket (This is not an absolute. Some good breeders DO have the stud dog, but this is not always the case).
- MULTIPLE LITTERS PER YEAR On occasion a responsible breeder will have more than one or two litters per year but that would be a rare circumstance.
- BREEDER DOESN'T FOLLOW UP ON PREVIOUS LITTERS to assure the pups they have produced are healthy. This is especially important if the puppy seller touts "healthy dogs." If they haven't bothered to follow up on previous litters, how can they make this claim????
- THE "HEALTH GUARANTEE" SALES PITCH.
- BREEDER HAS A USDA LICENSE. This almost guarantees you are dealing with a mass production puppy factory.
- "AKC INSPECTED." Every breeder who breeds AKC registered dogs is subject to AKC inspection. This means nothing.
- BREEDER DISCOURAGES YOU VISITING THEIR FACILITIES, or "suggests" you meet somewhere to get your pup. This is often offered as a convenience to you. It is really because the breeder doesn't want you to see their kennel.
- HAS A FACILITY OR NETWORK OF PUPPY RAISERS and isn't raising puppies in their home and exposing them to many different experiences.
- PRETTY WEBSITES with lot of cute pictures and flowery language like "Farm raised with love," or "we just love our fur babies." Provides little or no useful information such as pedigrees of parents, health clearances, breeding philosophy, etc. This is a very crafty and effective way to bamboozle you as the buyer.
- REQUIRES MONEY UP FRONT before any paperwork (such as pedigree

info, contract into, etc) is provided.

- REQUIRES DEPOSITS (USUALLY NON-REFUNDABLE) BEFORE THEIR BITCH IS BRED OR THE LITTER IS WHELPED.
- SELLS WITHOUT A CONTRACT.
- PUPPIES REGISTERED WITH OTHER THAN AKC REGISTRY. While AKC registration does not assure a good breeder, NO responsible American breeder uses any other registry with the typical exception being the Canadian Kennel Club. The puppy mill industry has created many bogus registries to trick buyers. Dogs registered with APR (American Pet Registry), CKC (Continental Kennel Club, not to be confused with the Canadian Kennel Club, a legitimate registry), ACA (American Canine Association), AMW (Archive of Merit Worldwide), FIC (Federation of International Champions), etc, are indicative of a commercial puppy factory.
- DOESN'T ASK YOU ANY QUESTIONS. In an effort to confuse you into thinking they are a responsible breeder, you may be asked to complete a questionnaire, but you won't be asked any follow up questions.
- "I JUST BREED NICE PUPPIES FOR NICE PEOPLE." This is the hallmark of a bad breeder. You are a nice person, and you want a nice puppy, but not from this breeder. What this REALLY means is, "I am breeding whatever dogs I can get my hands on, and I am selling them to anyone who comes up with the cash."
- BREEDS MULTIPLE BREEDS. Some good breeders may breed one or possibly two other breeds, but anyone who has more than 4 or 5 different breeds of dogs is making a business out of pumping out puppies. There is no way this many dogs can be given the attention and care that they need. This is a puppy factory.
- "CHAMPION BLOODLINES." This could mean one dog in a 64 dog pedigree has attained a championship. This also implies that the parents aren't champions. This is just another trick to fool you.
- DOES NOT HAVE A LIFETIME RETURN POLICY FOR DOGS OF THEIR BREEDING. Do not concern themselves with rescue, and take no responsibility for the dogs they have produced once the sale is done and money has changed hands. These breeders represent a large part of the mess that purebred rescue groups have to clean up.
- JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS (EASTER/MOTHER'S DAY, ETC)! Good breeders just don't market their "merchandise" this way. In fact, ethical breeders strongly discourage giving puppies as gifts at any time of year.

The decision to add a puppy should be made by the entire family, and good breeders will want to meet with all of the prospective owners.

also of use:

This site is for Frenchies but the information pretty much holds true <http://sto-robrenchbulldogs.tripod.com/id19.html>

The Vizsla Club of Long Island has some fantastic items under The Breed. Among them are:

<http://vcli.net/the-breed/identifying-reputable-breeders-and-avoiding-red-flag-ones/>

<http://vcli.net/the-breed/infomation-for-prospective-first-time-vizsla-owners/>

Be aware that the "Find a Puppy" listing on the AKC website is **ONLY a classified ad service** (<https://marketplace.akc.org/>).

- The AKC does not endorse nor verify any of the advertisements on display.
- Listing on this classified is NOT a measure of quality.
- The primary function of the AKC is to keep records of pedigrees and events.
- The AKC does NOT verify the quality of either dogs or breeders.

If a person selling a puppy says that they are a "*Member*" of the AKC...- RUN. The only members of the AKC are breed/all-breed clubs. NEVER an individual.