



VSO Members' Code of Conduct

Vizsla Society of Ontario Members:

- **Support:** VSO members are involved and support their local, national and international clubs. Memberships in the Vizsla Society of Ontario, Vizsla Canada, and the Vizsla Club of America (VCA) are needed to secure a group of truly dedicated people committed to maintaining the breed and assuring its proper management here in North America. The Vizsla deserves good owners, breeders, trainers, and judges so that future generations may also enjoy the noble characteristics of this wonderful sporting dog.
- **Sportsmanship:** VSO members conduct themselves in a manner that reflects credit upon themselves, their Vizslas, and the sport of purebred dogs regardless of the location or circumstance. VSO members shall act with the knowledge that dogs are dearly loved. Whether at ring side, in the ring or in the field, they are polite and supportive. VSO members do not make derogatory comments about other owners or their dogs, nor do they spread gossip or rumours. They criticize constructively but only when asked. They encourage people to get involved in different aspects of owning a Vizsla.
- **Knowledge:** VSO members freely share information and knowledge with others involved in Vizslas and with people interested in the breed. They are honest about our breed's traits, characteristics, and needs. VSO members do not claim that the Vizsla is the perfect breed for everyone (although they are perfect for them!).
- **Rescue – Rehoming:** VSO members exhibit a commitment to support Vizsla rescue and rehoming. Support may include but is not limited to financial, fostering, returns to breeders, and/or re-homing. VSO members ensure that Vizslas produced by either a dog or a bitch that they own or co-own is either returned to them or appropriately rehomed and supported.
- **Sales:** VSO members do not sell, give or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet shops or other commercial ventures such as lotteries or raffles or research institutions.
- **Health Care:** VSO members provide adequate veterinary and health care for their Vizslas to ensure that they lead healthy and happy lives.
- **Breeding:** Any VSO member who breeds, i.e., produce puppies either by breeding a bitch or by offering stud service, regardless of whether they apply for and are listed on the VSO's Breeders' Directory, shall strive to meet the VSO *Breeders' Code of Practice*. Prior to mating, VSO breeder-members test and ensure their breeding stock is certified clear of hip dysplasia by a recognized health registry, e.g., the Orthopedic Foundation of Animals (OFA) or Penn HIP. VSO breeder-members follow the breed-specific recommendations for health testing set out by the Canine Health Center (CHIC) for Vizslas. At a minimum VSO breeder-members do not breed a dog or a bitch before it is two years of age and never without an official certified clearance for hip dysplasia as noted above.