

## Hunting



Hungarian pointer is a versatile hunting dog. Fowl hunting is the most popular type of hunting with Hungarian pointers in Finland. It is not through unusual to see Vizslas be used in duck-hunting and small predators hunting. We have also shot couple of rabbits to our dogs. The working of a Hungarian pointer can be roughly divided in two: working before the gunshot and after the gunshot.

When hunting small game dog's duty is to find game and point for it. If bird manages to fly away hunter has to decide whether he/she is within reasonable shooting distance of the bird. Meanwhile the dog has to wait calm and still. If the bird is shot the dog has to do its best to find it and retrieve it for the hunter. This is called working after the gunshot. If the bird flushes from a good shooting distance and hunter decides to shoot the bird, dog can find the bird relatively easily by using one's nose effectively and taking the scent from the air. If bird gets wounded dog trails the bird until he reaches it and then retrieves it for the hunter. Tracking wounded game, by taking the scent from the ground, can easily be of several hundred meters of length. Vizslas have an excellent nose and they can easily track even older tracks.



Vizslas should show a keen desire to hunt and the style of running and searching should be fast and cover the terrain well. Too modest, continuous stops including style of running and searching should not be accepted. It is important that Vizsla demonstrates the will and ability to find game. In waterfowl hunting vizsla's duty is to find game, retrieve it from land or water and if needed track a wounded game. Dog should search reeds systematically, because in thick terrain the scent of bird doesn't drift as far as in open areas. Dog's duty contains also to flush the hiding bird so that the hunter can shoot it.

The following qualities are essential for a good, versatile hunting dog:

- stable mentality,
- good trainability,
- intelligence,
- excellent sense of smell and the ability to use it,
- strong pointing instinct,
- high willingness to retrieve,
- good grip on game when retrieving,

keen desire to hunt,  
good contact with the handler (dog is not allowed to stop continuously, it should demonstrate good cooperation with the handler and be obedient),  
good tracking abilities,  
water passion,  
stable and self-confident behaviour.

Hungarian pointers belong to the FCI Group 7 and their breed club in Finland is the German Pointer Club, Saksanseisojakerho ry. You can find plenty of useful information on the German Pointer Club's webpage, for example information on hunting trials for continental pointing dogs, general information on Hungarian pointers and general information relating to pointing dogs.

On German Pointer Club's webpage ([www.saksanseisojakerho.fi](http://www.saksanseisojakerho.fi)) you can find the breeding program of the breed. This breeding program is useful for every one to read, both for present Vizsla owners and prospective Vizsla owners.

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