

Vizsla Health –

FACT SHEET ABOUT POLYMYOSITIS (muscle inflammation)

Generally the Hungarian vizsla has always been considered to be a healthy breed. Responsible breeders adhere to a code of conduct which requires that they breed only from individuals that are of sound temperament, hip-scored, physically healthy and free from known hereditary diseases.

This approach has worked well and has helped to ensure that a vizsla usually lives a long, strong, happy and healthy life.

However the veterinary profession has recently identified a breed specific muscle wasting disease that owners should be aware of. The condition is still very uncommon (and your puppy is MOST unlikely to be a victim) but responsible breeders are now including this fact sheet in their puppy packs to describe the signs to look out for (the disease is so unusual that many local vets may not recognise it either!)

The signs of our illness are problems with swallowing food and water, excessive drooling, and usually also muscle wasting around the head. Frequently there is an acute episode of retching, gagging, choking, dysphagia and hypersalivation. Sometimes the onset is more insidious with inefficient and messy eating and drinking being noted. Megaoesophagus, fatigue, aspiration pneumonia and a stiffness of gait are other common findings. The illness is believed to be immune mediated. With prompt diagnosis and treatment it can usually be well controlled.

The disease is more fully described on this website

<http://www.vizslamyositis.blogspot.com/>

Once again we emphasise that as responsible breeders we care about the future health and well-being of our lovely breed. We are including this fact sheet for information purposes only and do not want you to worry unnecessarily. Please keep this sheet and if over the months and years to come you hear of any vizsla that has succumbed to myositis, or other immune mediated illness, then please ask the owner to make inform their breeder and also make contact with Di Addicott who is researching the incidence of immune mediated disease in the vizsla.

Enjoy your puppy!