

COMPARING THE BREEDS

Please note: As the Standards for the Hungarian Vizsla and the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla are almost identical I have written Vizsla to include both breeds.

The Vizsla and the Weimaraner are utility Gundogs that possess all the characteristics of a utility Gundog necessary for a day's work in the field. They have clean heads with ears to the corner of the mouth, strong jaws, moderate sized ears, well developed noses, clean necks, pronounced withers, ribs well sprung and well ribbed back, short, strong loins, level topline, good angulation, oval feet, slightly low set tails.

In these ways they are similar. However they also have distinct differences which set them apart and each breed should be easily recognised.

Of course they are a different colour and they are a different size but if you changed the colours and removed from a photo all indications of size, they should still be quite distinctly different. The word I find needs to be remembered with the Weimaraner is "long" or "length" whilst the word for Vizsla is "moderate".

Both breeds should be slightly longer than the height at withers though the Weimaraner Standard does give the ratio of 12:11 and the Vizsla mentions only slightly. Lately one does hear around the Gundog ring the words "square" and "short in body" as if desirable. **Neither breed should be short backed, square or compact.**

Differences between these breeds start occurring in the head where the **Weimaraner has a muzzle slightly longer than the skull** while the **Vizsla muzzle is slightly shorter**. The Weimaraner Standard also mentions a slight arch in the bridge of the nose (this arch is helpful in scent collection) while this is not mentioned in the Vizsla Standard though it does occur. The Weimaraner nostrils are not only well developed **but actually protrude over the under jaw** whereas the Vizsla, while having nostrils as wide as possible, **has a more squared off muzzle**.

Ears are also different with the **Weimaraner having longer ears than the Vizsla**, though they still only reach the corner of the mouth as they are **set on high and narrow**. The Vizsla has ears **set at medium height**.

The Weimaraner has **round eyes** according to the Standard while the Vizsla has slightly **oval** ones.

The Weimaraner has an **extremely slight stop** while the Vizsla has a **moderate stop**.

One of the differences I see as being important between these two breeds are the words that can be found in the Weimaraner standard, **"high on leg"**. The Vizsla is **longer in leg than depth of chest** which should come to the elbow but this is **slighter** than the Weimaraner. From the Weimaraner Standard **"distance from elbow to mid pastern and distance from elbow to point of withers about equal"** is unique to this breed. The Standard goes even further and has a **chest almost to the elbow**, The Vizsla on the other hand has a **chest to the elbow and the legs only slightly**

longer than the depth of chest. This extra length of leg is needed in both of these breeds. A Vizsla without this extra length of leg will lack the elegance required in the breed.

According to the Standards one would expect to see different underlines though I can't say that I ever see this. The Weimaraner should have an **underline rising slightly but the belly is not tucked up** while the Vizsla should have an **elegant, tight underline arching towards the rear and slightly tucked up**.

Two breed characteristics mentioned for the Weimaraner should not be overlooked. They are **slightly longer middle toes** and a **slightly longer back** which should not be penalised.

Overall I see both breeds as having the requirements of utility Gundogs. The differences give the Weimaraner a noble appearance, well muscled, clean and strong with a powerful, smooth, ground covering stride. He is **longer in many respects** – muzzle, ears, shoulders, legs, croup, thighs, back, middle toes. The Vizsla on the other hand is **medium** sized, elegant, lively, moderate, light-footed with reach and drive.

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