



## HVCNSW Inc 2009 Hungarian Vizsla and Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Health Survey

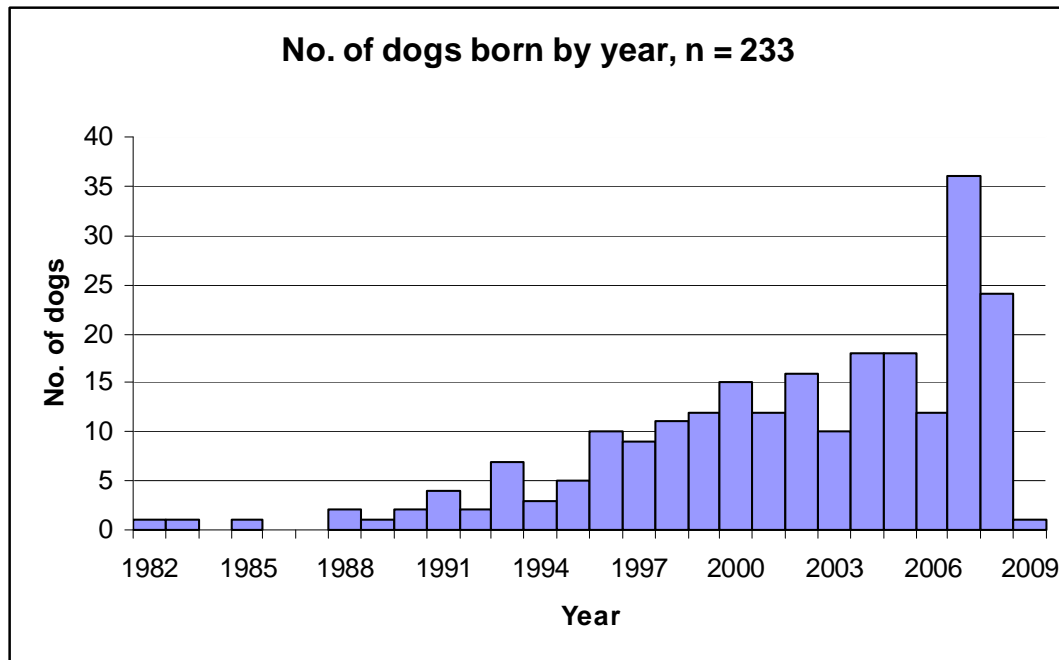
The HVCNSW Inc 2009 Hungarian Vizsla and Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Health Survey was distributed with the Clubs April/May 2009 newsletter. Stamped, addressed envelopes were provided for anonymous completed forms to be returned to the Secretary. Survey forms were also available on the Club website, and the Hungarian Vizsla Club of South Australia also distributed forms via their newsletter. The survey closed in September 2009. Forms received by the Secretary were sent to a third party for examination.

Two hundred and thirty-eight completed survey forms were received by the Club. The committee considered the dog and health information in one form to be invalid because the form was completed for multiple dogs but no details (year of birth, gender, age at spay/neuter, alive or deceased, etc) were provided. This was not useful for statistical purposes and only the personal opinions (response to 'What do you believe are the three biggest health concerns in the breed?' and free comment at the end of the survey) are included in the collated data. The number of reported cases of a condition is indicated using n. For example, n = 6 means 6 dogs.

### Dog demographics

#### Question 1 – year of birth

The year of birth was completed for 233 dogs. Just over half (51.1%) in the survey were born in the years 2003-2009.



Graph of number of dogs according to year of birth, all respondents

### Question 2 – breed

The majority of completed surveys were for Hungarian Vizslas, with one form completed for a Vizsla cross. Breed was not stated for four dogs.

Breed	No. of dogs
Hungarian Vizsla	229
Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla	3
Hungarian Vizsla cross	1
Not stated	4
Total	237

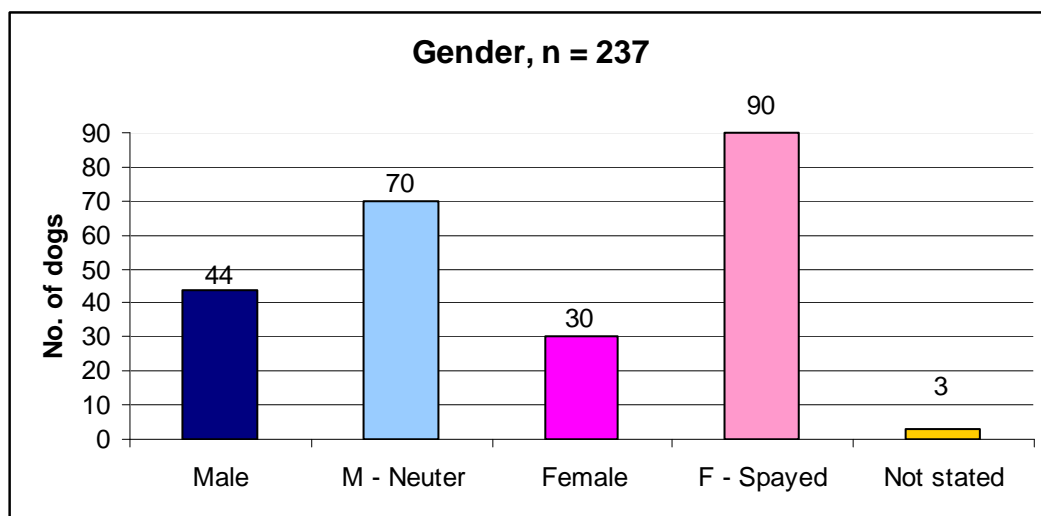
*Summary of number of dogs of each breed, all respondents*

### Question 3 – country of residence

No respondents indicated that their dog was resident or had spent a majority of years outside Australia.

### Question 4 – gender

Gender was not indicated for three dogs. Around half the forms were completed for females (50.6%), with slightly fewer for males (48.1%). Where gender was stated, there was a significant difference in the proportion of neutered Vizslas (74 males and females (31.6%)) compared with intact Vizslas (160 (68.4%)) in the survey (Fisher's exact test,  $P = 0.035$ ).



*Graph of gender of dogs, all respondents*

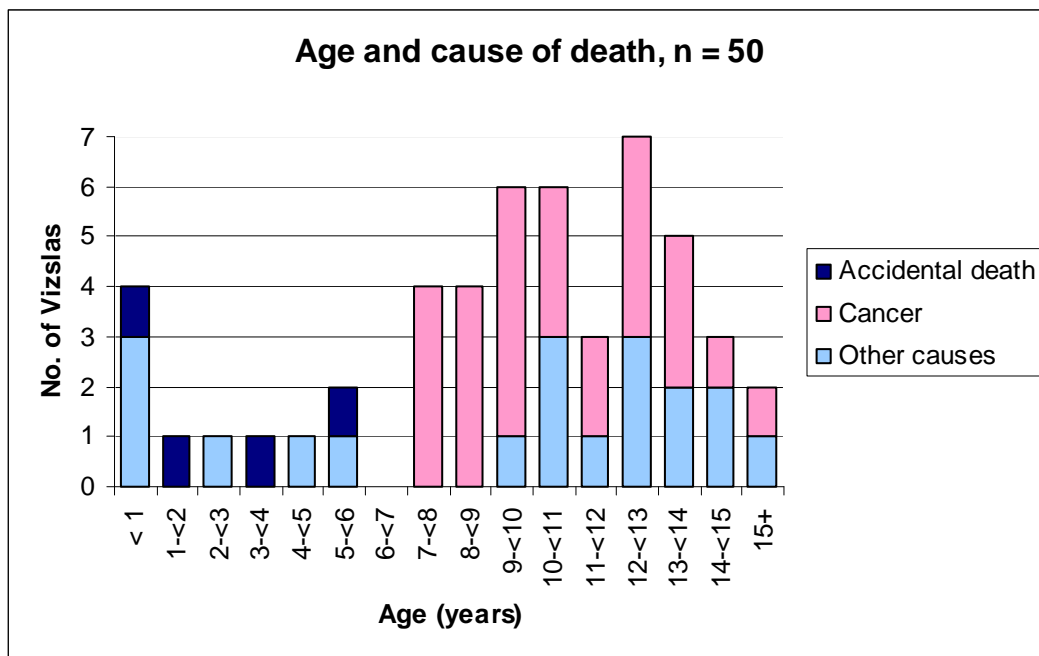
For 143 dogs where **age at neuter or spay** was known, median age was 12 months, average age 2 years 1 month +/- 2 years 4 months, range 5 months – 10.5 years (age not reported for 17 dogs).

### Question 5 – living status

Respondents completed surveys for 182 dogs (Hungarian Vizslas, Wirehaired Vizslas and a Vizsla cross) that were alive and 51 that were **deceased**. Living status was not supplied for three dogs. All deceased dogs were **Hungarian Vizslas** (18 male, 13 male neuter, 2 female and 18 spayed females). Fisher's exact test was used to determine if there was a difference between reported deaths in male and female Vizslas. No significant difference was found ( $P = 0.23$ ), nor for neuter status (desexed versus intact Vizslas) ( $P = 0.06$ ). Age at death was reported for 50 Vizslas; median age was 10 years, average age was 9 years 3 months +/- 4 years 2 months, range 3 months – 15 years 10 months. Excluding accidental causes, average age at death was 9 years 9 months, +/- 3 years 9 months.

Of 46 responses, the most frequent **cause of death** for Hungarian Vizslas was cancer/probable cancer (n = 27), followed by accidental (snake bite, motor vehicle accident, poison) (n = 4). Three Vizslas suffered chronic arthritis, two Vizslas died as a result of immune-mediated disease, two young Vizslas of renal failure and two from other congenital problems. Single reports of spondylitis, probable stroke, unknown severe weight loss, unknown sudden death and old age were reported. One Vizsla died as a result of long-term medication to control seizures.

Of the reported deaths due to cancer or probable cancer, brain tumours/probable brain tumours were the most common, with 5 reports. Haemangiosarcoma/presumed haemangiosarcoma was reported in 4 Vizslas, with 3 Vizslas having succumbed to mast cell tumours. There were reports of 2 Vizslas each having died with lymphoma, osteosarcoma, liver cancer or suspected cancer from an unknown source. Other reported cancer deaths were a histiocytic sarcoma, a rhabdomyosarcoma and from cancers of the bowel, kidney, mammary gland, nose and pancreas.



Graph of age and cause of death of Hungarian Vizslas

## Reported health or behaviour problems in Hungarian Vizslas

Conditions listed below are those which were reported in 2 or more dogs. The remaining reports were categorized as 'other'. Dogs may be reported with multiple conditions in the same category; eg separation anxiety and noise phobia. Similarly for cancer; a dog may have cancers of different types diagnosed, none of which have proven (or will prove) fatal.

Category	Condition	No of dogs
<b>Question 6</b> <b>Congenital</b> problems n = 22 (Total cases = 22)	Heart murmur	6
	Tail problems	3
	Hernia	2
	Overshot jaw	2
	Other	9
<b>Question 7</b> <b>Recurrent infection</b> n = 32 (Total cases = 32) Site	Yeast	13
	Bacteria	6
	Bacteria and yeast	4
	Cause not specified	9
	Ears	21
	Other	8
	Feet	4
	Eyes	3
Not stated	2	
<b>Question 8</b> <b>Eye</b> problems n = 18 (Total cases = 18)	Minor infection/conjunctivitis/weeping	5
	Entropion	3
	Ectropion	2
	Lens luxation	2
	Episcleritis	2
	Corneal ulcer	2
<b>Question 9</b> <b>Bone/joint</b> problems n = 27 (Total cases = 28)	Arthritis	10
	Cruciate ligament rupture	5
	Hip dysplasia or luxation	4
	Osteochondrosis/problems with shoulder cartilage	4
	Neck problems	2
	Other (includes 1 tail)	3
<b>Question 10</b> <b>Immune-mediated</b> disease n = 57 (Total cases = 64)	Allergies/dermatitis, including seasonal or occasional	40
	Allergic to insect bite or sting	7
	Food allergy/intolerance (2 to chicken, 1 to eggs)	7
	Masticatory muscle myositis	3
	Immune-mediated disease (3 blood disorders, 1 skin problem)	4
Other	3	
<b>Question 11</b> <b>Endocrine</b> (hormonal) problems n = 5 (Total cases = 5)	Hypothyroid	4
	Other	1

(table continued next page)

Category	Condition	No of dogs
<b>Question 12</b> <b>Neurologic</b> problems n = 8 (Total cases = 8)	Recurrent seizures	6
	Other (includes condition not specified)	2
<b>Question 13</b> <b>Behaviour</b> problems n = 63 (Total cases = 68)	Separation anxiety/mild separation anxiety	26
	Noise phobia or sensitivity	23
	Aggression (fear, n = 3)	5
	Barking	3
	Sensitive, shy	3
	Anxiety (eg when deaf)	2
	Fear of nail clippers/foot being touched	2
	Other	4
<b>Question 14</b> <b>Benign</b> (non-malignant) lumps n = 64 (Total cases = 80)	Lipoma	41
	Unknown type	17
	Melanocytoma/pigmented lump	13
	Histiocytoma	3
	Cyst	3
	Other	3
<b>Question 15</b> <b>Cancer</b> (includes probable cancer) n = 45 (Total cases = 51)	Mast cell tumour	14
	Melanoma	6
	Haemangiosarcoma	6
	Brain tumour	4
	Unknown type	4
	Soft tissue sarcoma, histiocytic sarcoma	3
	Liver cancer	2
	Lymphoma (lymphosarcoma)	2
	Malignant mammary tumour	2
	Osteosarcoma	2
	Other	6
<b>Question 16</b> <b>Urinary</b> problems n = 23 (Total cases = 23)	Incontinence	19
	Renal failure	2
	Other (1 unspecified)	2
<b>Question 17</b> <b>Reproductive</b> problems n = 13 (Total cases = 13)	Pyometra	3
	Caesarian (including 1 elective Caesar)	3
	Other	7
<b>Question 18</b> <b>Adverse reactions</b> to drugs or vaccination n = 14 (Total cases = 14)	Vaccination (may be once only reaction)	5
	Anaesthetic	2
	Cortisone	2
	Flea treatment (one to pyrethroid products)	2
	Worming tablet	2
	Other (heartworm injection)	1
<b>Question 19</b> <b>Other</b> problems n = 46 (Total cases = 60)	Accident (hit by car, poison)	8
	Tail problems * (some tail problems listed under congenital)	7
	Broken or dislocated leg/toe	7
	Anal glands	5
	Broken teeth/tooth abscess	5
	Infection (eg abscess)	5
	Dog bite	4
	Heart (murmur, cardiomyopathy, mitral insufficiency)	3
	Kennel cough	3
	Pancreatitis	2
	Removal of an eye	2
	Other	9

## **Further information on the responses to questions 6 - 19**

Abbreviations used: yr – year or years  
m – month or months

Gender of the Vizsla was recorded as that at the time the condition was reported. For example, a Vizsla was spayed at 12 months of age. For any conditions reported prior to 12 months of age, the gender was female, and for those conditions reported to have occurred after 12 months of age, gender was spayed female. In categories where 5 or more cases were reported, Fisher's exact test was performed to examine if gender at the time the condition was reported, was a risk factor. Reports in males (intact and desexed) were compared with those in females (intact and desexed), and desexed Vizslas (males and females) were compared with intact Vizslas (males and females). Generally, a p-value of less than 0.05 is regarded as significant. No significant difference was found between reported incidence in males and females or between intact and neutered Vizslas for recurrent yeast, recurrent bacterial or combined recurrent yeast and bacterial infections. No differences were found for reports of congenital heart murmurs, conjunctivitis, arthritis, allergies/dermatitis, allergic reactions to bites and stings, food allergies, recurrent seizures, separation anxiety, noise phobias, all cancers, vaccination reactions or 'other problems'. Where significant differences in reported incidence for desexed and intact Hungarian Vizslas or between male and female Hungarian Vizslas were found, these results are included under the individual questions.

Eleven reports of Vizslas with tail problems were received. Some Vizslas were reported to have congenital tail problems, whilst the majority were reported as split and bleeding tails under 'Question 19 other problems'. One tail was broken (reported as bone problem). In NSW docking was banned from June 2004. Two dogs with tail problems were born prior to the ban. Nine of 88 dogs (10%) in the survey that were born from 2005-2009, had tail problems reported.

### **Question 6 – Congenital problems**

The majority of responses to this question were Vizslas with heart murmurs. Five of the six Vizslas (3 male, 3 female) with murmurs were born prior to the year 2000.

### **Question 7 – Recurrent infections**

The average age of Vizslas presenting with recurrent infections (n = 25) was 2 yr 2 m +/- 2 yr 7 m, with ears the most commonly affected site. Yeast infections were the most frequently reported recurrent infection.

### **Question 8 – Eye problems**

Eye problems in Hungarian Vizslas were reported from birth to 13 yr 3 m (n = 15). The average age of affected dogs was 4 yr 10 m +/- 4 yr 8 m. Entropion and ectropion were reported as either present from birth, or occurring later in life. One dog was reported to have glaucoma, but it was not stated whether this was primary or secondary.

### **Question 9 – Bone/joint problems**

The majority of reported problems with bones and joints occurred in older Vizslas; average age (n = 27) of 5 yr 10 m +/- 4 yr 7 m. Arthritis was the most frequently reported problem. Vizslas presenting with arthritis ranged in age from 3.6 – 15 years of age. Cruciate ruptures occurred in dogs aged 12 months to 12 years of age.

### **Question 10 – Immune-mediated disease**

Immune-mediated conditions were reported in 24% of all Vizslas. Most were occasional or seasonal allergies or dermatitis. The average age at which immune-mediated conditions were first reported in Vizslas (n = 43) was 2 yr 3 m +/- 2 yr 7 m.

Allergies/dermatitis (n = 30) were first reported at an average age of 2 yr 10 m +/- 2 yr 10 m. Bite reactions (n = 6) occurred at an average age of 14 months +/- 17 months. Food reactions (n = 7) were first reported at an average age of 13 months +/- 7 months.

**Question 11 – Endocrine (hormonal) problems**

Endocrine problems were reported in 5 Hungarian Vizslas, four of whom had hypothyroidism. The average age of onset was 4 yr 1 m +/- 1 yr.

**Question 12 – Neurologic problems**

Of 8 dogs with neurologic problems, 6 reports were for recurrent seizures. Dogs first presented with seizures between the ages of 2 and 7 years, with the average age of onset being 4 yr +/- 1 yr 8 m. One respondent indicated that the fits were infrequent (5 in 3 years). Five of the six dogs with seizures were born prior to 1999.

**Question 13 – Behaviour problems**

Two respondents replied their dogs were 'just naughty'; it is suspected this may have been under-reported ☹. Excluding these two reports, just over one quarter (27%) of all Vizslas were reported to have a behaviour problem. The average age (n = 46) of onset was 2 yr 8 m +/- 3 yr, with dogs first presenting from birth – 12 yr 9 m. The majority of dogs (n = 26) exhibited separation anxiety or mild separation anxiety, closely followed by a noise phobia or sensitivity (n = 23). Some dogs with noise phobia were sensitive to specific loud noises, but not to others; eg fearful of fireworks and thunder, but not to gunshot, or fearful of other loud noises but not of thunder. The average age at occurrence of separation anxiety (n = 14) was 2 yr 6 m +/- 2 yr 8 m. Average age at occurrence of noise phobia/sensitivity (n = 19) was 2 yr 11 m +/- 3 yr.

Of the five Vizslas reported to show aggression, three were aggressive towards children.

**Question 14 – Benign (non-malignant) lumps**

Benign lumps were reported to occur in 10 intact Vizslas (7 males and 3 females) and in 53 spayed or neutered Vizslas (22 desexed males and 31 desexed females) (gender not stated for 1 Vizsla). Some dogs had more than one report of lipoma or melanocytoma. The average age of onset for all lumps (n = 79) was 6 yr 4 m +/- 2 yr 8 m. The average age of 39 Vizslas with lipoma was 7 yr 3 m +/- 2 yr 4 m. Of 13 Vizslas with benign pigmented lumps, the average age at presentation was 4 yrs 5 m +/- 1 yr 5 m. Desexed Vizslas had significantly more lipomas reported than did intact Vizslas (P = 0.003). There was no significant difference in the reported incidence of lipomas in males and females (P = 0.17).

**Question 15 – Cancer (includes probable cancer)**

Cancer was reported in 9 intact Vizslas (7 males and 2 females) and in 34 desexed Vizslas (10 male, 24 female) (gender not stated for 2 cases). Where age of diagnosis was known, the average for all cancers (n = 41) was 8 yr 5 m +/- 2 yr 9 m. Although mast cell tumours were the most common cancer diagnosis reported, they were not the most common cancer cause of death recorded in Question 5.

The average age at presentation with mast cell tumours (n = 12) was 7 yrs +/- 2 yrs 1 m; melanoma (n = 5) was 9 yrs 1 m +/- 3yr 8 m and haemangiosarcoma (n = 6) was 9 yrs 10 m +/- 3 yrs 7 m.

No significant difference was found between reported incidence in males and females or between intact and neutered Vizslas for mast cell tumours, melanomas, haemangiosarcomas or for all reports of cancer.

**Question 16 – Urinary problems**

Urinary incontinence was the most common urinary-related problem reported in Hungarian Vizslas. Of the 19 incontinent Vizslas, 16 were spayed females and 3 were neutered males. The average age at which incontinence was reported to start (n = 16) was 6 yr 10 m +/- 3 yr 7 m. For these 16 Hungarian Vizslas, the time between neutering and incontinence ranged from immediate to 10 and a half years, average 4 years 2 months +/- 3 years 6 months. Incontinence was observed significantly more frequently in neutered Vizslas than in intact Vizslas (p = 0.001), and more often in females than in males (p = 0.004)

Two young Vizslas died of renal failure; the older of the two was 30 months old.

**Question 16 – Reproductive problems**

The average age of onset of reproductive problems (n = 11) was 4 yr 2 m +/- 2 yr 10 m. Two of the problems were reported in males, one of whom was sterile.

**Question 18 – Adverse reactions** to drugs or vaccination

Adverse reactions to drugs or vaccinations were reported in 14 Hungarian Vizslas, with the most common reaction reported to be against vaccination. Three of the dogs had reactions to a C5 vaccination. The age range of dogs that exhibited adverse reactions (n =10) was from 6 m to 7 yr 2 m, average 3 yr +/- 2 yr 4 m. Those that had vaccination reactions (n = 4) were on average 2 yrs 2 m +/- 1 yr 7 m.

**Question 19 – Other problems** not covered above

The most common problems reported in this category were accidents or injuries (n = 8). Broken bones, some cases of broken teeth and dog bites might also be considered accidental injuries. A couple of Vizslas appear to have tested the maxim 'live life to the full' and sustained quite a number of injuries. The average age for all problems reported (n = 46) was 3 yr 11 m +/- 3 yr 11 m.

**Reported health or behaviour problems in Hungarian Wirehaired Vizslas**

One condition was reported in the three Wirehaired Vizslas for whom surveys were completed; a fatty tumour.

**Other questions**

<b>Membership status</b>	<b>No. of dogs for whom surveys were completed</b>
HVCNSW Member	210
Non-member (some from HVCSA members)	25
Not stated	3
Total (includes form with invalid health data)	238

### What do you believe are the three biggest problems in the breed?

All responses are included in the table, below. Conditions (from 85 respondents) are listed in alphabetical order with the three most common in bold type. Not all respondents provided three problems. This table also includes information provided on a survey for which the health data was considered by committee to be invalid.

Condition	No of responses
Accident prone ('wizzy' behaviour)	3
Anal glands	1
Behaviour (Anxiety, phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorder)	10
Benign lumps/tumours	3
Breed popularity/wrong owners	4
<b>Cancer (osteosarcoma, skin cancer and mast cell tumours specified once each)</b>	<b>21</b>
Cranial muscular atrophy	1
Ear/eye infections	8
<b>Epilepsy</b>	<b>19</b>
Fertility	2
Health issues that impact on every day life	1
Heart murmurs	1
<b>Hip dysplasia/joint problem</b>	<b>16</b>
Immune-mediated (autoimmune) disease	4
Inbreeding	2
Ligament injuries	1
Masticatory muscle myositis	1
Myositis/polymyositis	3
Neuromuscular disease	1
None/very sound	5
Ophthalmic condition	1
Skin allergies/disorders	15
Skin rash of puppies (Vizsla rash)	1
Sun spots	1
Tail problems	14
Unsure/this is my first Vizsla	11
Urinary incontinence (post spay)	1
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>151</b>

### Have any of the dogs you have owned or bred had these conditions?

Yes = 45

The table below compares the number of reported conditions with the most common responses to what were believed to be the biggest health concerns in the breed (11 conditions are listed because two responses were tied in tenth place)

Condition	No. of replies where this condition was believed to be one of the biggest health concerns	Reported no. of Vizslas with the condition
Cancer	21	45
Epilepsy	19	6
Hip dysplasia/joint problems	16	4
Skin allergies/disorders	15	40
Tail problems	14	11
Unsure/this is my first Vizsla	11	
Behaviour (Anxiety, phobias)	10	52
Ear/eye infections	8	22
None/very sound	5	
Breed popularity/wrong owners	4	
Immune-mediated disease	4	4

## Comments

A number of respondents took the opportunity to provide extra comments;

How lucky have I been with my marvelous boy - not much to complain about! (touch wood)

Until the onset of IMHA my dog was a very healthy, energetic animal

Perfect breed. Low maintenance. No health problems in my two so far though the first died young due to bait.

xxx is very healthy, apart from some non-cancerous lumps which have just been removed. xxx our previous Vizsla died aged 10.5 yrs of cancer of the liver-spleen.

On the whole I find Vizslas a very healthy breed of dog

Re question 13 - Behaviour problems. Given she spent 7 months in a crate from 12 months of age it is amazing she has no long-term behaviour problems! What a wonderful dog she is.

This survey is a wonderful idea & I look forward to the results. Thanks

My dog xxx has always been in excellent health & zero vet fees (except for routine injections etc)

xxx gets extremely excited when I get home. She will bark and carry on for quite some time and always try and bring me a present! Is this normal?

This dog suffers from recurring ear mites. She was delivered to us with puppy mange.

This dog has had no problems at all

I am very impressed by their intelligence & obedience

I believe unnecessary vaccination may lead to ill health, such as auto-immune disease

Wonderful dog!

Previous dog had many allergies to food, grass. Anal problems. Incontinence from approx 6 yrs old. Died of cancer (tumours) at 9 yrs old

Other than ear infections all of her life she has been very healthy until the last 12 months, due to heart murmur and age

So far so good with this one. Previous Vizsla succumbed to lymphoma at 8 yrs of age. Tragic loss.

No, typical velcro Vizsla

No, just naughty

Very healthy dogs that hunt every year. Well tempered

First time owning a Vizsla

Many thanks to the HVCNSW for conducting this valuable health survey

My lovely dog hasn't been tested for hip or elbow dysplasia

We take our Vizsla regularly to obedience classes (he's 16 months of age now and we've been going since he was 6 months) and yet he still looks at us like he's not motivated to do what we ask when away from specific training (or sometimes during training). Food is only sometimes a motivator and other times a distraction. He does our heads in some days. The fact that he walks away from the lead when we go to take him for a walk (it can take a few minutes to catch him) yet he is happy as anything once we go for a walk, just confuses us.

Notice that other dogs in the Club chase reflections of light on the ground or walls. Chase bird shadows on the ground.

Although xxx hasn't been diagnosed with hip dysplasia - the vet has cleared him of this - he continues to be sensitive around his hind quarters & we are watching this

Survey is pointless as the majority of V owners (pet buyers) not member of V Clubs and they do not take part in survey. Find out problems when they buy a new dog!