

SAN DIEGO NAVHDA BIRD DOG SPOTLIGHT

ON POINT WITH...

Hera



Owner: Al Bates
Breed: Vizsla
Age: 1.5 years



Titles: NA Prize II, AKC JH
Breeder: Gyöngyi Móci Mohosköi



North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association

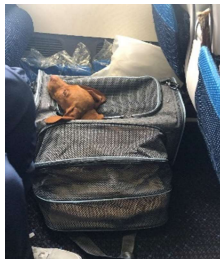


From Budapest with love..... Al's family has kept Vizslas for over 25 years. His wife Karen had been wanting a pup from a Hungarian dog named Móci for many years. Karen worked with Gyöngyi, Móci's breeder via facebook and picked out Hera from the litter. Gyöngyi is a great breeder and all around great person. She sent them Facebook videos of the pups on teeter-totters, swimming, in tunnels and all forms of stimulation, Gyöngyi creates an amazing first 10 weeks of puppy life. At one point, Karen asked if she could teach Hera a few basic English words. Gyöngyi responded humorously that "She doesn't even listen to me in basic Hungarian!" Those who own Vizslas can relate.

The adventure began, they took the long flight over and arrived in Budapest, enjoying the City and the gracious Hungarian people. The breeder arranged for a taxi to bring them to meet Hera - it was love at first sight! Hera got to spend the night

at a swanky hotel on the Danube. They had 3 fears - Airline not letting her on the plane, Having a screaming pup for the 11 hour flight, and the US not letting her enter. Thankfully, Hera

travelled like a well behaved queen and her puppy passport got her thru with no issues. Except..... after she left customs, she pranced like she was at the Westminster dog show, the onlookers oohed and awwed at the playful pup. Then, the crowd noise changed as Hera (after a very long journey for a very young pup) did her very messy business. Slightly embarrassing, but quickly cleaned up, they left LAX for home at last.



Several weeks later, Hera and Al were already in the field training on birds. Actually, Hera knew what she was doing, it was Al being trained! They began some sessions with Dave Awbrey. Al says a carded bird is forever etched in his memory as he watched Hera's first point and then retrieve! Al got hooked when he participated in several NAVHDA training days. Last March at 8 months old, Hera achieved a Prize II in her Natural ability test! Covid has impacted training during 2020 but they are moving forward and beginning their training for the UT test in 2021. Hera has also had much success in AKC field tests. Hera is the first of his Vizsla that Al has trained himself, this has created a bond with Hera unlike any other dog.

I think we would all agree with Al's sentiment that the rewards and satisfaction gained by training your own dog cannot be overstated - it is a symbiotic bond between man and dog like no other.

Be sure to give this sweet Hungarian girl a pat on the head when you see her at the next training day (and Al too)!

Lines of Communication

Check out our San Diego NAVHDA website www.sandiegonavhda.com for updated information on events, training locations, maps, contacts, sponsors, test dates, etc.