

A Vizsla or a German Shorthaired Pointer?

Size

GSP: 50-80lbs depending on sex

Vizsla: 40-60-lbs depending on sex

Both breeds are wonderful hunters and excellent family companions in the right home. The Vizsla is a very sensitive, and needy breed. They are also slower to mature and are very soft hearted. The GSP is a more independent breed and can be more stubborn. However, their independence and more stubborn nature allows them to handle high levels of training and pressure at a much younger age. Most of our GSP's earn titles as soon as they are old enough to enter tests. Whereas our Vizsla usually are hitting maturity when they are ready to take tests to earn their titles.

Tightly tied to Vizsla's softer temperaments is their intelligence. They are thinkers. We could train a GSP 7 days a week and they won't tire of it if we change things up daily. A Vizsla will get bored and may not handle the pressure. This can make the Vizsla a challenge to train for the novice hunting dog owner.

A Vizsla will be a fine hunting dog around 3-4 years old whereas the GSP will be a fine hunting dog after their first season. Vizslas are not push-button hunting dogs, and they were not bred to be. Swimming and retrieving does come more natural to the GSP. The GSP is a Doer whereas the Vizsla needs this to be their idea. While swimming/fetching is a naturally bred in instinct for both breeds the Vizsla will do this on their time. A Vizsla will need more encouragement and involvement from you during training.

Vizslas are really owner dependent dogs and really want you involved in everything they do. Even during hunt tests, we have found Vizslas tend to perform better for their owners whereas our GSP's just want to work no matter who they are working for. The Vizsla wants to please YOU their owner the GSP just wants to please. The GSP doesn't care who they are working for they are just willing to work.

A Vizsla is going to thrive with a trainer who has the experience level to train this breed whereas harsher methods that many bird dog trainers use just won't cut it and often they do best when their owner is the one doing the training rather than sending them off.

Pushing your young Vizslas too hard in the early years can really shut them down. They will lose their style, intensity, run, and love for hunting. If you're a competitive person who wants to have a broke gun dog by the time the dog is 1 year old, get a German Shorthaired Pointer. If you love the nature of the Vizsla and are fine with taking your time to train, then Vizslas are like fine wine and only get better with age and training. Both breeds hold their own in the field and are very competitive in many events from Field, Obedience, Rally, Fast cat and Dock diving. Your hunting style, time to devote to training, and experience level are all things to consider with both breeds. Both breeds are very active and need daily exercise and training. You will find both breeds are very loyal and loving and both have their pros and cons.