

Fact Sheet about Polymyositis (muscle inflammation)

Generally the 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 vizslas that they know to be of sound temperament, hip-scored, physically healthy and free from known hereditary diseases.

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

In recent years we now know that our breed has a predisposition to a disease called polymyositis (muscle inflammation)

The condition is still not common (and your puppy is most unlikely to be affected) but, for the purposes of the research, responsible breeders are now including this fact sheet in their puppy packs so that new owners can be made aware of what to look out for (the disease is so unusual that many local vets may not recognise it either!)

The signs of polymyositis in the vizsla are problems with swallowing both food and water, excessive drooling, and usually also muscle wasting around the head. Typical onset is usually in adolescence or maybe up to about two years of age and 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. Often there is an initial diagnosis of megaesophagus. 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 excellently described on this website

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

Once again we emphasise that because we are 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 a swallowing disorder, or other immune mediated illness, then please ask the owner to contact those in the breed who are conducting the research (details below)

Enjoy your puppy!