

Dogs on Trial



A Vizsla pointer has just smelled a bird and is moving up on it before freezing. The Vizsla is an old Hungarian breed.

WHEN the nip of autumn enters the air, gun dogs perk up because field trial time has come. Trials are held fall and spring almost every weekend within easy driving range of Washington. Pictured on these pages is the action at one of them, run recently at a shooting preserve in Columbia, Md. Sponsored by the Conestoga Vizsla Field Trial Club, which has a number of members in the Washington-area, the event drew 44 dogs, a hundred or so officials, handlers and spectators, and two days of sunny weekend weather. Entries in three breeds from five states competed in a variety of events for trophies and championship points. Competition was keen as usual. The dogs—Vizslas (an old Hungarian breed enjoying a boom in this country). German short-haired pointers and Weimaraners—enjoyed themselves as they ranged the fields hunting for the planted pheasants and quail. The spectators saw a classic sport. And the handlers had the satisfaction of seeing their hours of training reflected in the skillful, responsive work of their dogs. It is a relationship that man has been enjoying thoroughly ever since domestication of the wolf during the stone age.

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