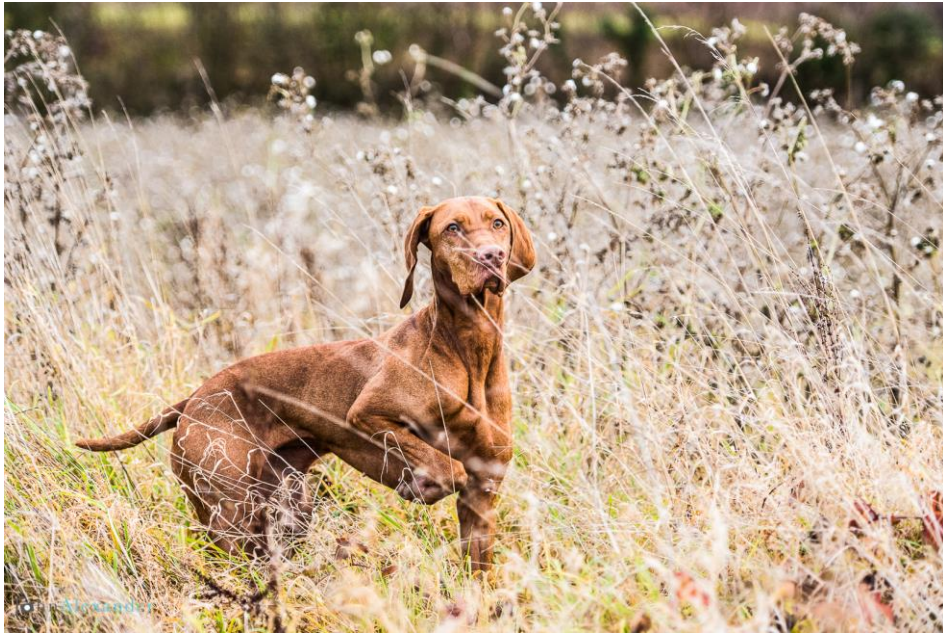


HUNT, POINT, RETRIEVE BREEDS

Truly Versatile Gundogs



Although you will rarely see a HPR in a beating line, they are truly a versatile group of dogs used for falconry, deer stalking, picking-up and rough shooting

HPR breeds include: German Shorthaired Pointer, German Longhaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Weimaraner, Hungarian Vizsla, Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla, Brittany, Large Munsterlander, Italian Spinone, Bracco Italiano, Korthals Griffon and Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer.

They are bred to hunt game.

To point it and hold the point until given the command to flush. Once the game is shot, they then retrieve it, hence the name 'HPR'.



As I have said , HPR stands for Hunt, Point and Retrieve. They should hunt the terrain and use their nose to find sitting birds.

As the dog scents a bird sitting in the cover, it will stop just down-wind from the bird. This is when the dog is “On Point”. The pointing is really just a refining of the dog’s natural stalking. During training, the handler teaches the dog to be steady On Point.

It is helpful to think of the a dog On Point is really in a harnessed stalk.

The Hunter carrying a gun will position themselves near the dog and give the dog the command to flush the bird out. The Flush is also a form of “cultivated grab”. The dog is really aiming to get the bird, but through training the idea is for the dog to charge in just enough to get the bird in the air and then immediately sit down.



There are two good reasons why the dog MUST sit to the flush:

1. So it does not get into the line of fire and get hurt.
2. To concentrate on where the bird falls as this prepares for the dog's final job, the retrieve. On the handler's command, the dog should go straight out, find the bird and bring it back to hand.



When working out on the moors or wide- open arable fields, the dogs will range anything up to 100m each side of the handler and each breed have their own hunting “traits”. German shorthaired pointers hunt hard and are very fast, whereas the Italian Spinone work at a slower, more methodical pace. One of the wonderful things about the hunt, point and retrieve (HPR) breeds is that there’s no “one size fits all”. Even within their native countries, the varying regions have developed their own individual breeds, which have adapted to that particular region’s terrain, quarry and hunting requirements. For example The Bracco bred for covering distance, the Spinone for thicker cover.



Hungarian vizsla

Has a long, aristocratic history. Early standards would have used words gaunt and noble They are natural hunters with an excellent ability to be trained . Not only are they great pointers, but they can be excellent retrievers as well. They will retrieve on land and in the water, making the most of their natural instincts. Vizslas are excellent swimmers. The Vizsla should be square with a prominent chest bone and a short body. Well laid shoulders tight elbows a strong pasterns and catlike feet are essential to give the ground covering movement One of the most distinguishing features is the coat, both the colour and texture a rich russet gold , short, straight dense smooth and shiny, feeling greasy to the touch – which gives it a water proof quality



Hungarian wirehaired vizsla (HWV)

The wire-haired vizsla is a completely separate breed from its more commonly seen smooth-coated . The HWV was developed in the 1930s, initially by Vasas Jozsef, owner of the Csabai Vizsla kennel along with Gresznarik Laszlo, who owned the de Selle German wirehaired pointer kennel. Their aim was to produce a dog that combined the colour of the vizsla with a heavier coat, and a more substantial frame, better suited for working in cold weather and retrieving from icy water. It is a double coat the undercoat topped by a harsh close fitting wire coat The eyebrows and beard should be harsh . The wirehaired Vizsla is slightly longer from point of shoulder to point buttock than in height from withers to ground.



German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP)

Very versatile and the most popular of the continental HPR breeds,. Descended from from the Spanish pointer, the English pointer, the foxhound and the Hanovarian schweisshund – basically a mix of two true pointers and two tracking hounds. . They are extensively used for falconry and deer stalking as well as shooting. A medium sized dog with a short back standing over plenty of ground round to spoon shaped feet allow for fast work and quick turning. It has a smooth lithe ground covering gait and at speed will single track



German Wirehaired Pointer (GWP)

They tend not to hunt as fast as the GSP but their protective rough coat makes them more suitable for harsh or heavy cover. The breed is very popular as a deer stalking dog. They stand up to 26 1/2 inches making them a taller dog than the GSP and slightly longer in body . Feet round to oval and heavily nailed.



Italian Spinone

A large rough-coated dog, the Spinone is a loyal, friendly and alert dog with a close lying, rough coat. It is an ancient breed that can be traced back to approximately 500 BC. the Spinone was bred to enter thicker cover and it is believed that its name is derived from a type of thorn bush that grows in Italy called a spino. It is also said to be an excellent swimmer due to its large feet. It can make a good all-round gundog and although the Spinone can be a very active breed, it is not a racy dog like most of the other HPR breeds. The Spinone typically moves at the relaxed trot that is characteristic of the breed and can make an ideal rough shooting dog .A shorter neck holds his head high and his large nose, spongy in appearance is ideal for air scenting. A square dog his top line is a feature of the breed , it slopes gently down from the withers and then rises to a slightly arched strong well muscled loin The croup then slopes slightly to set on of tail . He has a kind almost human expression.



The Bracco Italiano

The Bracco can cover great distances, having been bred in the 4th or 5th centuries for both stamina and hunting ability. The breed was popular for centuries but by the end of the 19th century was greatly diminished. However, it was thankfully brought back from the brink and has since gained in number. The breed is highly prized in its native Italy. Whilst the Spinone was bred for thicker cover and water the Bracco was bred for covering distance. Like the Spinone it is a trotting breed – the Bracco should be capable of an untiring extended trot – with a little more extension and a little less lift than the Spinone – the coat should be short, dense and glossy, the skin is tough but elastic. Look for a head that is long, angular and narrow at the Zygomatic arches, with lean cheeks, pronounced occiput and slight stop. Like a Spinone a large spongy nose and a short neck – he will trot with a high head carriage – the head is carried above the level of the top line.



Brittany

Shooting is hugely popular throughout France, the French word used to describe it is — la chasse . Most shooting is communal, with the band of chasseurs all local people, while a typical French shoot relies almost entirely on wild game. The nature of the shooting also demands a different type of gundog. The Brittany as one of the most popular.

A good Brittany is extremely fast and almost inexhaustible, ideal for covering a lot of ground particularly good when used on Woodcock. The pointing instinct is strong, if a dog finds a bird a couple of fields away, it's likely to hold it until the hunter can catch up.

Originally called the Brittany spaniel, as it certainly looks like one, but the word spaniel was dropped some years ago, a reminder that this is a genuine HPR, although it is the smallest of them. The French, however, still call it the l'épagneul Breton. According to the breed's history, the Brittany is the result of local French spaniels mating with pointers and setters, the latter owned by visiting sportsmen from England.

You should look for a short, cobby dog with a top line that slopes from a high wither to a croup which rounds off gently . It should hold this top line on the move . Skull is slightly rounded moderate stop, skull to muzzle 3:2. Unlike most spaniels the ears are triangular, set high and rather short . It has a short brisk stride – with little rear extension from the hindlegs.



Weimaraner

Originally developed in Germany at the court of Weimar , the Weimaraner was successfully bred to be a versatile hunter of upland gamebirds, waterfowl, predators, and big game. The Weimaraner is very versatile for rough-shooters, capable of working in wooded, low ground as well as open areas. Famous for its distinctive gun- metal grey coat, the Weimaraner can have the more common short coat or a long coat. Like the vizsla at the time, the breed was created exclusively for the nobility. The aim was to create a noble-looking, reliable gundog with its restricted ownership and natural instinct, the breed was highly prized and lived with the family. This was unusual since during this period hunting dogs were kept in kennels in packs.

Weimaraner's are unique among hunting dogs in that they can learn to track, flush out game, point and even burrow.

The Weimaraner is the biggest and most substantial of the HPR Breeds he must however retain a degree of elegance , with a clean cut and moderately long neck , good length to the body and moderate angulation , the colour is unique; preferable silver grey , shades of mouse or roe grey permissible The whole coat gives an impression of a metallic sheen . There is also the long coated variety. Eyes medium round and shades of amber or blue grey.

The head should have an aristocratic look, the skull should be slightly domed between the ears and a marked occiput. Effortless movement , ground covering with the top line held , parallel front and rear.



The Large Munsterlander

Is a workman like dog , white with black markings , a solid black head, a white blaze snip or star is allowed . Body white or blue roan with black patches , flecked, ticked or combination of these

Traditionally a woodland dog , they work with enthusiasm and will work all day .The Large Munsterlander has only existed since 1922,however the history of the Large Munsterlander goes back to the Middle Ages. The breed has evolved from the ancient longhaired hawking and retrieving dogs found across Europe, The Grosser Munsterlander was developed near Munster, Germany, where it served as an all around gun dog bred for upland and water work. In Germany they are often used for big game tracking.

There should be nothing exaggerated you should look for moderate angulation, well sprung ribs to give plenty of heart room and short couplings giving powerful movement . Standing slightly higher at the withers the body should slope smoothly to wards the loin and tail . Broad hips and well muscled thighs. The skull should be slightly elongated, wide soft nostrils , ears are set high and covered with long hair . The Large Munsterlander has a free long striding springy gait.



The Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer is an extremely modern breed that was created in the 1950's in Slovakia by crossing the German Wirehaired Pointer, Český Fousek and the Weimaraner. The breed was established in an attempt to create an excellent all round gundog that could track, point and retrieve on land and in water. Today, the Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer is used predominantly as a working dog and in its native Slovakia all registered breeding dogs must have participated in working trials, making it popular with gundog enthusiasts. Physically, it is of a sturdy build but not heavy, large in size and should have great stamina.

Body length exceeds height so you are looking for a rectangular dog, good depth of chest for heart room , the eye colour and ear shape reflects the Weimaraner , The head is rectangular, balanced with prominent occiput with a large dark nose. the coat which is a distinguishing feature , comes from the German Wire Haired Pointer , a harsh textured outer coat with a softer undercoat which is usually shed in the summer, the skin is grey moderately thick and elastic without wrinkle . A balanced , lively ground covering movement , with top line held on the move.

