

VIZSLA

THE BREED AROUND THE WORLD

This month's column is by François-R. Bernier.

Most fanciers know that, while its popularity is increasing, the Smooth Vizsla can still be considered uncommon in Canada, while the Wire-haired Vizsla is positively rare. Have you ever wondered how this compares to the situation in other countries? This column presents a brief summary of data drawn from the *Deuxième annuaire de la race* published by the Vizsla Club de France in 1998. It should be kept in mind that the individual registration numbers reported in the *Annuaire* do not account for dogs that are not registered with a country's main registry body. For example, 2,738 Smooth Vizslas registered in the United States in 1996 represents dogs registered with the American Kennel Club and does not include Vizslas that have not been registered by their owners, or those that have been registered with some alternate registry.

Vizslas are widely distributed the world over, from Japan to South Africa and from Denmark to Argentina. Hungary and the United States are the only countries in which more than 1,000 Smooth Vizslas are registered each year on average. In 1996, however, the number of Vizslas registered in the United States was more than double the number of registrations in Hungary, where the number of registrations declined steadily between 1992 and 1996 while it continued to increase in the U.S. for the same period.

The next group of countries with over 200 annual registrations on average but less than 500 is Australia, France and the United Kingdom.

With an average of 100 to 200 individual registrations, Canada is found in a third group, which also includes Germany, Argentina and the Slovak Republic. Canada will pass the 200 individual registrations mark for the first time in 2000.

At the other end of the spectrum, countries with fewer than five individual registrations at the time of publication of the *Annuaire* included Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland and Portugal.

One of the intriguing aspects of these statistics has to be the fairly reliable inference that the number of Vizslas whelped in the United States is at least twice the number whelped in Hungary. A plausible consequence of the dominant position of U.S. breeding may be that the *American* idea of the ideal Smooth Vizsla will eventually impose itself on the rest of the world. Whether such a result is desirable or not is for you to decide...