

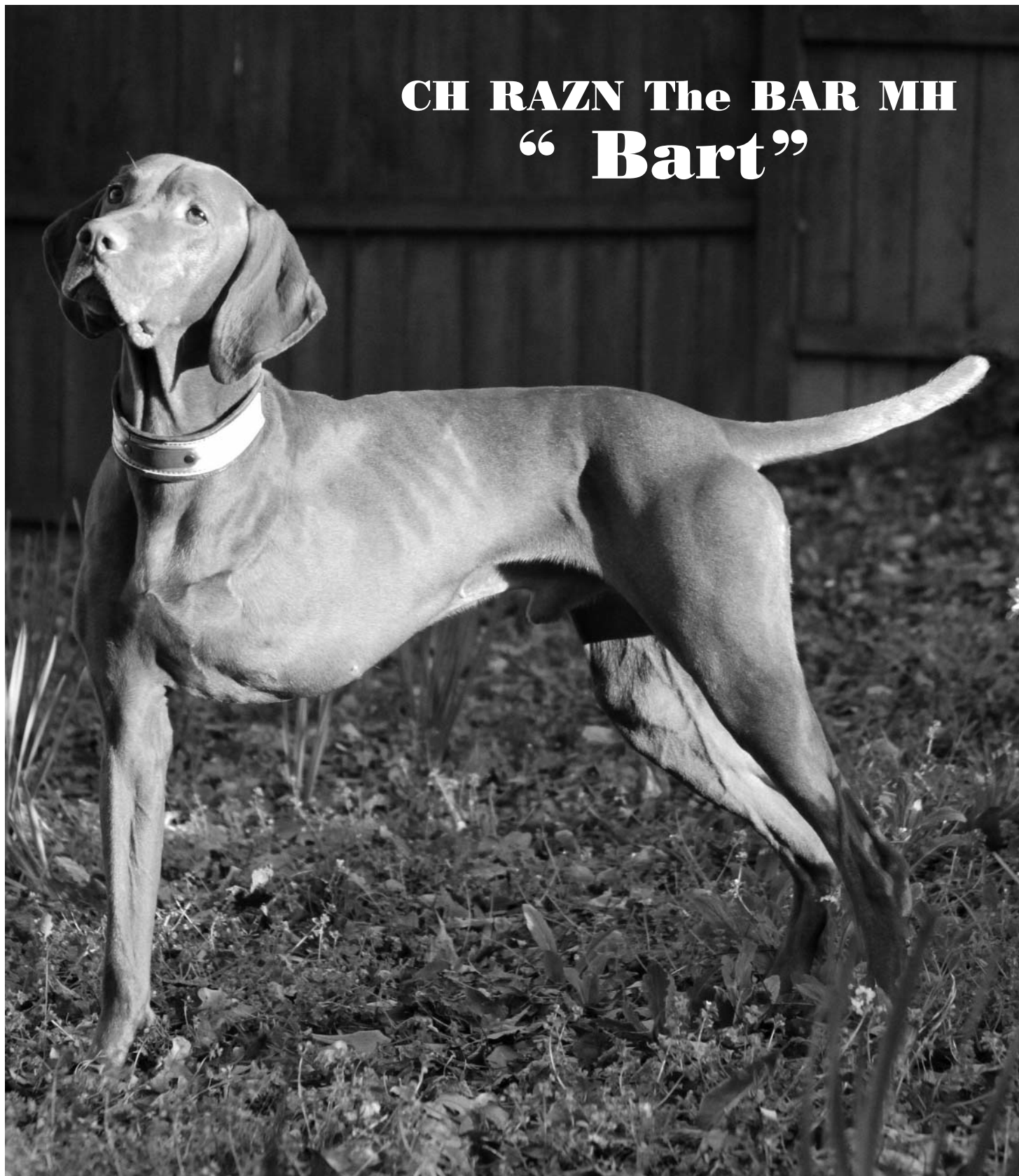
# *The* VIZSLA NEWS

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PUBLICATION OF THE VIZSLA CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

MAY/JUNE 2010

**CH RAZN The BAR MH**  
**“Bart”**



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## ON THE COVER

# Ch RAZN The BAR MH “ BART ”

OFA - VZ

Sire: Ch Jazzan Rusty Dusty Blues

Dam: Ch Vizcaya's Raisin Caine MH

Owner: Darcy S. DuVal

Breeder: Julie Bender

Bart came into this world in grand style and has continued to live life with the type of zest and spirit that just makes you smile. Most importantly, Bart inspires us to never give up and to enjoy every moment to the fullest.

Bart was diagnosed with bone cancer in his shoulder in June 2008. His owner knew in her heart that if there was ever a dog that could thrive and flourish on three legs, Bart was the one. And excel he did. Only four months after his amputation and three weeks after finishing chemotherapy, Bart completed his SH Title, having finished 3 of the 4 legs pre-cancer. The next day, Bart earned the first leg towards his MH Title and has never looked back since.

Bart finished his MH Title in April 2009, only 10 months after his amputation, showing everyone what can be accomplished with a big heart and the love of the hunt! Bart continues to compete



Photo by: Kathy Hansen

and earn placements in Field Trials, constantly inspiring those around him and changing people's perception of what it takes to make a great hunting companion. He is currently training for the grueling NAVHDA

testing (doesn't even swim in circles) and plans on taking a shot at NSTRA next fall. There is nothing TeamBarty cannot accomplish!!!

Bart is featured as a Success Story on the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine's website and appears on the front and inside cover of the ACVIM's Canine Cancer brochure. Bart remains in good health and has big plans for celebrating his 2nd Ampuversary in June 2010 with friends and family!!!

Thank you, Bart, for being all I could have ever wanted in my 1st Vizsla. You have taught me to live in and enjoy the present, because that is really all we have. A Toast to Bart - a truly remarkable Vizsla!!

## BART'S HISTORY

- DOB: 3/21/2005
- Official AKC Name: CH Razn the Bar CGC MH
  - CH = show champion (9/2007)
  - CGC = Canine Good Citizen (2009)
  - MH = Master Hunter (4/2009 - 10 months post-amputation and Bart is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vizsla in history to have accomplished this title (start to finish) on 3 legs)
- In early 2009, noticed a slight limp when we were running (he had trained for a few marathons with me, with his longest run over 16 miles)
  - This was during Field Trial and Hunt Test season so I figured he had strained something; the limp was not present all the time and it was definitely not something that slowed him down in the bird field.
  - In May after the season was over, I kept him on crate rest to see if his limp would go away...seemed to help.
  - One day, he got out of his crate, looked up at me and I told him that we were going to see Dr. Huggins that day.
  - I dropped him off at the vet, thinking that at the worst he had a torn ligament. Received call from Dr. Huggins that he had a lump on the top of his shoulder and she was going to have him X-rayed.
  - When I returned to the vet's office to view the X-rays, about 80% of his scapula had been eaten away by the cancer. Thankfully he was so very strong from competing and training every weekend - I think his tip top physical shape kept his leg from breaking.

- I remember looking at Dr. Huggins and asking her how fast can we have his leg removed.
- I also remember vividly either she or I or both of us looking at each other saying that if there was a dog who was going to do well on 3 legs, it would be Bart. No doubt about it.
- Biopsy (6/5/2008) to confirm - osteosarcoma
- Amputation 6/10/2008 - Full Scapulectomy.
  - Successful surgery - clean margins!!!
- Bart had a few days of depression, but expected it b/c I had read numerous blogs on Tripawds.com.
  - For the first 2 weeks, I also had a bit of stunned depression and walked around in a fog.
  - How could this have happened to my sweet, young boy??
  - I remember sitting on my couch when Bart was at GVS for his surgery asking myself what was the meaning of this...what was the purpose, the lesson, what was I supposed to get out of this. Then the word LOVE appeared across my insides, in bold, colorful, beautiful letters and I knew we were going to be OK, no matter what happened, because this was to be a journey about LOVE. Love of Bart and Love of Friends.
  - I had read so much about canine cancer, really everything I could get my hands on, and it was always such a dismal outcome with osteosarcoma. It was always, with amputation and chemotherapy the chances of remission are good, expect with osteosarcoma, time after time after time.

- So, since time was not on our side, I decided that we were going to Party Like a Rock Star until the fat lady started singing, and boy what a Party it has been and continues to be!!!
- I promised myself early on that if someone was going to offer assistance or support I was going to accept it even if I didn't feel like it
- Bart's Breeder became my Research & Development Department - she attended vet appointments with me and I remember her sitting there with her note pad ready to take notes as she, too, was trying to wrap her mind around what was going on. I could not have made it without her. (I attached an e-mail that she sent out to the Vizsla Club of Metro Atlanta yahoo group so you can see what kind of support we had)
- Another wonderful friend set up a TeamBarty yahoo group so everyone could stay up to date on Bart's daily activities. We posted pictures and shared stories and I got most of my strength and courage from the support of these folks. Friends quickly became Family, and strangers became friends.
- Bart's breeder scheduled a yard sale - I think that the money it raised was secondary to the organization of something that allowed us all to come together and take our minds off of cancer for a moment or two.
  - This is when TeamBarty took on a life of its own. For folks who lived too far to donate goods for the yard sale, they began offering financial support as well as positive thoughts, prayers and well wishes through cards and dog toys and treats for Barty. Every day I would go to the mailbox and find 4 or 5 cards or letter from across the country (from people I did not even know) offering their sympathy, love and support.
  - Bart's breeder & I stood in her living room the night before the yard sale, which was also the night before Bart got to come home from his surgery, in awe of what was going on

around us. This had truly taken on a life of its own.

- I don't know about other breed communities, but the Vizsla Community is one of a kind to me. I saved each and every card, note and e-mail and I am moved by the outpouring of love I received from these wonderful people.
- Once Bart was home from his surgery, I had set up a HUGE crate (Great Dane size) and lined it with baby crib bumpers. I figured this would be big enough for him to move around but still keep him contained.
- We lined my house with carpet runners and put a huge rug in the living room to keep Bart from slipping on the wooden and tile floors.
- Someone gave me a ramp for my car, but Bart let me know early on that he had no time to waste waiting for me to set that thing up.
- My goal in his recovery was to get NORMALCY back into his life, so here was our routine:
  - Every single day at 5:30 a.m. I took him on a walk in the neighborhood off leash - the reason for this was that I did not want him to feel dependent on me or feel that he could not do what he did before.
    - At first we could only go to the end of the driveway, then the end of my yard, then my neighbor's yard, then the end of the road, until he was eventually able to run!! I remember as if it were yesterday the first time I saw him cruise across some lawns and easily jump up a small retaining wall. He had come so far already
  - Bart LOVES to hunt! He was born and bred to do it, so that was another thing I wanted him to get back to doing as soon

as possible, which was why I worked so hard to get him back into shape. It was summertime, so we were able to go to a local NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) training day where Bart could hunt some quail and search for a duck or two. I have video of Bart out there for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since his amputation, and you can see him Bobbing through the tall grass having a good ol' time.

- During all of this, Bart was also going through Chemotherapy every 3 weeks.
  - He alternated between **Cisplatin** and **Doxorubicin** (Adria) in his treatments
  - During this time, my main focus was to get him to EAT and he actually gained a few pounds during chemo
  - Although I cooked him a home made diet of 50% meat and 50% vegetables, there were many times after the chemo that his appetite was non-existent.
  - Dr. Hamilton prescribed **Mirtazapine** (human anti-depressant) to initiate his hunger and that was a miracle worker! I would give this to Bart the day after chemo and his appetite was no longer an issue.
- In addition to chemo, I had met with a wonderful Holistic Vet, Dr. Susan Wynn, who provided me with great supplements to keep his stomach in good shape and to help keep his immune system strong during chemo
  - During chemo we were to avoid anti-oxidants because they turn to sugar which feeds cancer
  - Supplements - K-9 Immunity (mixture of medicinal mushrooms - may have stopped this during chemo if it had an anti-oxidant component to it, can't recall); Fish

Oil (both from Aloha Medicinals); Liver support supplements, flaxseed oil, slippery elm (for his stomach during chemo); Glutamine (for stomach lining during chemo)

- Once chemo was over, I met again with Dr. Wynn and she connected me with Monica Segal who I contacted to design a specially tailored raw diet for Bart (see attached). Dr. Wynn also prescribed the following for Bart:
  - **Doxycycline** - there is research that shows that dogs with osteosarcoma who take this post-chemo have a greater rate of remission. Bart was on this for 2 years
  - **Fish Oil, Fish Oil, Fish Oil!!!**
  - **Hoxsey Formula**  
([http://botanicaldog.blogspot.com/2010/02/hoxsey-formula-for-dogs\\_25.html](http://botanicaldog.blogspot.com/2010/02/hoxsey-formula-for-dogs_25.html))
  - **Devil's Claw** - helps reduce inflammation
  - He took the Hoxsey & Devil's claw for approximately one year. Then Dr. Wynn noticed a change in the color of his tongue and changed him to Max's Formula, which is another chinese herb.
  - Bart was on one other powder, but I can't find the name of it (it is at home and I will check what the name of it was)
- After 2 years, Bart was weaned off everything because Dr. Wynn did not see any potential side effects to outweigh the benefits and because he was now being treated, essentially, as a healthy dog!!
- Although I fed raw up until about a year ago, I have now found a good



kibble that has the right balance he needs, is grain free, and derives the bulk of its components from vegetables/plants as well as meat proteins. I add anti-oxidants, such as blueberries, and also give him raw meat 1x per day with his kibble.

- He also gets Fish Oil from Omega QD, which is designed specifically for animals, so the absorption is supposedly better. I used to use human Fish Oil Tablets.
- HE IS NOW OVER 3 YEARS IN REMISSION!!!!

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***HERE ARE SOME OF BART'S NON-MEDICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

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- June 2008 - Bart's photo wins the Animal Attraction internet photo contest thanks to the daily voting of all his supporters - it gave us all something to root for during Bart's initial diagnosis
- October 2008 - only 3 weeks after completing Chemotherapy, Bart finishes his Senior Hunter Title (had 3 of 4 legs pre-cancer) and earned the first leg of his Master Hunter Title (AKC titles)
- October 2008 - Bart makes his debut as Barrrrggghhhty the Pirate with his Merry Wench (me) in tow at the Marietta Dog Shows Annual Halloween Costume Contest and steals the show and 1<sup>st</sup> place!!! (see photo)
- November 2008 - April 2009: training/traveling/competing every single weekend towards our Master Hunter Title (highest Hunt Test title awarded by the AKC)
  - I remember time after time entering the bird field where the appointed gunners were waiting for the dogs/handlers' arrival and seeing their sympathetic expression as the gal with the 3

legged dog moved into the field. At the end of every single brace, grown men (some with tears in their eyes) approached me and expressed what an incredible pleasure it was to watch Bart work and that they were rooting for us all the way!

- April 10, 2009, Bart is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vizsla in history to complete the MH on 3 legs!! He was written up in the Australian Vizsla Newsletter for this accomplishment.
- February 2009 - Bart travels to Louisiana to compete in his first Field Trial since his amputation, and places 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in two different stakes competing against 15 dogs in each stake! One of the Judges did not even notice he was on 3 legs until several minutes into the event.
- Summer 2009 - Bart continues training for a NAVHDA title, which during the summer consists of duck work in the water. Bart is a swimming machine and people stand by the shore in absolute amazement as he swims and swims like he still had 4 legs.
- Fall of 2009: Bart enters numerous Field Trials, leaving the spectators, judges and other handlers speechless when they see the heart this dog shows in the field.
- October 2009: Bart appears at the Vizsla Club of America's National Event in the ALL STAR REVIEW, where Vizslas who have accomplished their show title as well as one of the highest Field Titles are recognized. (See Attached)
  - As someone described Bart's run around the ring, during this black tie event, "there wasn't a dry eye in the place."
  - Bart also took his second 1<sup>st</sup> place Costume Contest Title for Barrrggghy!!! It's hard to beat a 3-legged dog dressed as a pirate!

- I met the breeder of Bart's sire at this event for the first time, and she could only hug me with tears pouring down her face. She was so proud of the heart and determination Bart showed and like so many others, unable to hold back the strong emotions we have when it comes to our dogs.
  
- February 2010: Bart competes in the Vizsla Club of America's National Gun Dog Championship, which is a 1 hour hunting stake with over 30 competitors. Bart is one of less than ½ of all the competitors to complete the course (dogs are picked up if they do not perform as a Gun Dog is supposed to)
  
- May/June 2010: Bart appears on the cover of the Vizsla Club of America's *Vizsla News*. (Previously sent to you)
  
- Summer 2010: Bart, along with several other Vizslas and their owners, is invited to visit the **WOUNDED WARRIORS** in Ft. Campbell, KY. One of the Wounded Warrior's met Bart at a Fun Day when he was picking up a Vizsla that was donated for hunting with the Warriors.
  
- Fall 2010: The Wounded Warriors came down to the Vizsla Club of Metro Atlanta's Thanksgiving Field Trial to be our official gunners. The highlight of their weekend was getting to watch Bart run in the field, as they felt that he, too, was a Wounded Warrior. Bart must have known that his men were there to see him, so he put on some of his best performances, placing in 3 out of 4 events that he ran in. After the event was over, we were honored to go on a sort of guided hunt with these men, almost all of whom had never hunted behind bird dogs. Meeting these men was one of the most special memories I have and one I would not have had the chance to experience without Bart and his cancer.

- 2010: Bart is recognized on the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Foundation's (ACVIM) website as a "Success Story" - this organization is partnered with Chase Away K9 Cancer, where he is also featured as a Success Story

<http://www.acvimfoundation.org/>

- 2010: Bart appears on the cover and inside the ACVIM Foundation's "Diagnosis: Cancer" brochure to distribute information about canine cancer.

<http://www.acvimfoundation.org/downloads/Oncology-Diagnosis%20Cancer.pdf>

- The Present: Bart continues to be healthy, happy and active

**This was most definitely a journey about Love. This has most definitely been a journey with a very special creature. Someone once said about Bart - "Bart's reputation proceeds him because of all his incredible accomplishments. Then, once you meet him, his reputation is quickly surpassed by his personality and zest for life. He is one of the happiest dogs you will ever meet." This is why I felt it important to highlight so much of his accomplishments so that you can get a small taste of what an incredible being Bart really is.**

**This was also a journey with a very special TEAM! I could not have endured this with so much strength and dignity without the support of TEAMBARTY!! What an amazing group of people I have had the great fortune of meeting and really knowing through this experience. I told myself that I was going to walk through every door that was opened due to Bart's cancer and talk to as many people as I could, and share whatever someone needed. I did not want to look back after Bart's passing and think, "I wish I would have..." I think I have exceeded that goal.**

**I am a changed person due to this experience. Far less bothers me. I enjoy the little things more such as spending time just sitting, just being with Bart. I take the time to inhale deeply when I hug him and just sit with him and absorb his energy, which is incredible. Do I get mad about what he has gone through, sure. Have I shed more tears than I care to admit, sure. But, do I regret this journey that I have been blessed to participate in, no way!**

**My favorite quote I have ever read is in the Tripawds.com 2011 Calendar for February and I think it says it all:**

**"It is not about waiting for the storm to pass...  
It's about learning to dance in the rain."**