

### **The Story behind the Painting**

As I write this story I am looking across my office to the wall where the original painting of Corky and Misty hangs, as posted in the history section of your Vizsla web-site.

Remembering the days before and after the creation of the painting brings back fond memories.

Five weeks before the painting was made Corky was bit by a rattlesnake while at a German Shorthair Pointer Fun Field Day and he almost died. He still ran all-out in 90 degree plus weather for twenty minutes after being bit; collapsing after finishing his stake (he got two birds). After discovering his snake bite marks he was rushed, with a California Highway Patrol escort, to the nearest emergency animal hospital (a story in itself). It took six bottles of antivenin and a staff of four to keep him alive overnight.

Three weeks after being bitten by the snake Corky and Misty were mated. Two weeks after their mating I was taken from work and admitted to the hospital for an emergency brain tumor operation. There was no time to make provisions for Corky and Misty. My secretary, Ellie Fiske, immediately left work and moved into my house. She did not want to see the dogs (especially a pregnant female) wind up in a boarding kennel. For the three weeks I was in the hospital Ellie (she painted under the name Santa Maria) would work, and then go home to my house where she would cook the evening meal for her visiting husband and daughter. After the meal they would go home and Ellie would settle in for the rest of the night. Corky and Misty were accustomed to sleeping in the house, so Ellie slept in a crowded bed.

In the evenings, while I was in the hospital, my secretary would sit out on the back patio where she drew numerous head studies of both dogs. Over a weekend she put them all together and did the painting you now see. On a Monday she presented the painting to me in the hospital. It indeed did draw a lot of attention from the hospital staff. One of my nurses and her husband bought a Misty/Corky puppy.

Many other Vizsla breeders and friends from Southern California helped out while I was in the hospital and during the ten weeks I was home recovering from the operation. The wife of a well known astronaut assisted with the whelping. One old time Vizsla breeder drove over 300 miles just to see that Misty's puppies had their tails docked properly.

As an aside: Ellie originally started the picture with Corky and Misty looking in the same direction. She drew a sketch with overlaid views rotating Corky's head through six positions until she finished with him looking over Misty. I still have that six-position rotation sketch.

The painting has a story, and that's it. Thank you for your time and God bless the work you are doing for our beloved Vizslas.

Eugene F. Hari