

# Lagotto Bollettino

LAGOTTO Club



Early  
Autumn  
2012

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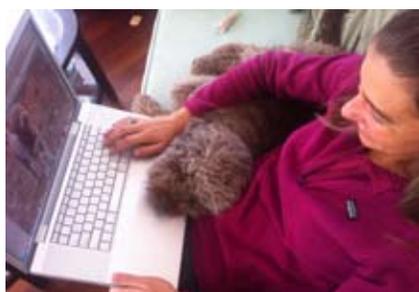
Would you like to submit an article for the next issue?

Please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Tips on Training, or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dogs name, age, and photo caption. Email you submissions

to [jenniferdavit@mac.com](mailto:jenniferdavit@mac.com)

Deadline for next issue:

November 10!



Jennifer and her editorial assistant, Enzo

## News

### Call for Comments!

Major changes have been proposed to the Bylaws and Code of Ethics. Additionally, there is a new document that all members need to become familiar with, the Health Screening and Breeding Practices proposal put forth by the Health and Education Committee. These are available for review on the club website via this link <http://lagottous.com/index.php/documents>

On July 8, 2012 the Secretary sent a letter to all members via email, informing them of the changes in these documents and supplying the link to the website. I also requested that any suggestions be sent via email to my attention at [Secretary@LagottoUS.com](mailto:Secretary@LagottoUS.com)

On July 15, 2012 the club held a Special Meeting via toll-free call for all members. The purpose of that meeting was to get input from the members on these documents (and other items of business reported elsewhere in this newsletter). I appreciate every comment at that meeting, and the three comments I have had since that time. These suggestions will be forwarded to the Board so they can address your concerns.

Because the LCA is so very interested in the opinions of their members, we are offering one final opportunity to comment on these proposed changes.

Please send any comments to [Secretary@LagottoUS.com](mailto:Secretary@LagottoUS.com)

The time for commenting closes September 30, 2012.

Looking forward to hearing from our members,

Mel Sykes

### Membership Report

Submitted by Ken Weiss

#### Membership By The Numbers

As of August 21, 2012

The Lagotto Club of America has 176 current memberships

163 are U.S. memberships

13 are foreign memberships

Of the 163 U.S. memberships, 71 are Individual memberships

66 Dual memberships, and 26 are Associate memberships.

Since dual memberships represent 2 persons, the total number of individuals currently paid up as members is 242.

Note: You can renew your membership online at

<http://www.lagottous.com/index.php/membership/fees-payment>

# The Bottle Monster and the Vacuum Zombie!

*Text and photos submitted by Toni Kay-Wolff*

It's the same garbage pail you walked past every day for the last 2 weeks, but now your puppy stops in its tracks or bolts in another direction when you come within eyeshot of it. Your puppy may be going through what is known as a "fear period". Most pet dog owners are unfamiliar with this term, yet it is one of the most critical pieces of information we can impart as trainers, handlers, and breeders to our puppy owners.

The exact time frame for fear periods in puppies can differ amongst individuals, but it is thought to include these developmental ages. It is vital that owners are taught that the reactivity of pups can vary from oblivious to hyper vigilant.

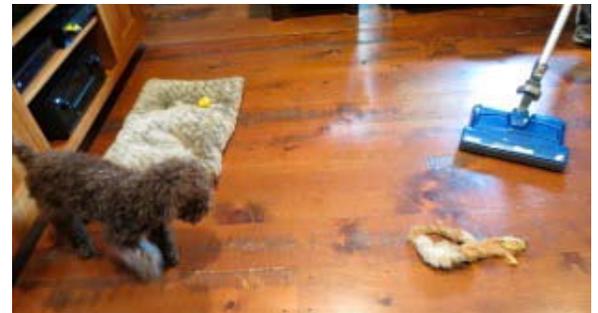
- Between seven to nine weeks of age
- Anywhere from four to six months
- Again at around 12 months
- At approximately 14 to 18 months and with some dogs can even be as late as 2 years

Here is why it's important that we are not only familiar with and understand fear periods, but also notice what your pup's body language is telling you, and how to handle them.



*Tillie, wary of the vacuum, which is not turned on.*

First, I believe that fear in dogs can be good. It can save their life. A puppy's senses are constantly increasing... they are more aware of their surroundings, their eyesight and hearing becomes more acute, etc. As they mature and become even more aware you will see varying reactions to every day objects and occurrences. As humans, our perceptions are considerably different. We are immune many times to what is overwhelming for a puppy. I look around my home and see a vacuum cleaner, the water bottle dispenser, I hear the dishwasher, the sound of the coffee maker. A puppy may hear the world coming to an end... new sounds that can be perceived as a threat! Ignoring or dismissing the possibility that these things can affect how our puppies perceive their world can be a crucial error in how they live out the rest of their lives. They will either be stable and cope well with whatever comes their way, or they will be frightened and feel as though they can't count on their world to be a safe place. It's our job to make sure it's the latter.



Secondly, dogs are congruent. They can't feel one way and behave another. Humans can face something frightening if they have to, put on a brave face, and get through it. Dogs, well, they can't. For example, if they are moving forward, they are exhibiting confidence. If they are backing away, mild concern to real fear. Freezing? So frightened that they can't move. You'll want to watch for obvious signs of fear, like ears laid back, body leaning back, pulling away or scurrying behind you, as well as less obvious signs to the newer puppy owner, like eyes becoming wide (showing the whites, often called "whale eye"), or even dilated pupils.

During fear periods, your puppy may experience something they perceive as so scary, it will define how they handle the same or similar situations throughout their entire lives. I had a client with a Bearded Collie in NYC over 20 years ago. As we were walking past a store-front, the owner was closing up, and the gate was brought down with a tremendous crash. It was unexpected for all of us, and it took us about 3 months to get this puppy to walk past this one store without reacting. Had the owners not had me with them when it happened, helping them get her through it, this pup may never have gotten over it. Living in NYC with a dog who is afraid of loud noises is, well, difficult to say the least, tragic at its worst. In fact, what most people do in such situations usually makes it much worse. Your puppy may react to familiar people, objects, even toys this way, and it can be disconcerting to owners

## The Bottle Monster and the Vacuum Zombie...continued

A list of Do's and Don'ts can be life-changing for puppies and their owners:

### DO:

Notice your puppy's body language and reactions to noises and objects, people, dogs, just about everything. I can't tell you how many people I see with not only adult dogs, but puppies on the end of their leads who are unaware as to what's going on with their pet. If you notice your pet becoming concerned about something, distance is your friend. For some it will be 2 feet, for others, 15 or more. I took my own Australian Shepherd to a baseball field where my husband played softball many, many years ago. She was just over a year old at the time. After the first crack of the bat she was on her belly trying to get as far away as possible. She had never shown that kind of fear before, but that didn't matter, I had to deal with what was right in front of me. I literally had to take her all the way to the other side of the schoolyard, well over a football field away, before she could settle enough to get her brains back in her head. We worked on that all summer, and all ended well. Had I forced her (also known as "flooding": Flooding in its purest form involves forced, prolonged exposure to the actual stimulus that provoked the original trauma.), I am quite sure she would have been a basket case.



*Using treats, Tillie is willing to explore and check out the vacuum. Vacuum will stay in this room, off, for several days. I'll start getting her used to the sound by using it in another room and using chicken to treat her, fast and furious, for very short amounts of time until I get no reaction.*

Keep introductions to new objects, people and experiences positive, and during non-fear periods whenever possible. If you can avoid getting vaccinations during a fear period, do so. If not, bring lots of chicken!

Keep it fun! Laugh, giggle, sing a song! Your puppy will take your lead and if you're having fun, so will they. Act the way you want your puppy or dog to act, and don't forget to breathe! I like to use a technique wherein I am happy, laughing, telling them how brave they are as they are approaching (or even just looking at) the scary thing, and I go neutral and silent when they walk away or back away. Good things happen when they are brave and willing, silence and low energy when they turn away. One of the keys is actually to back away and call them to you happily BEFORE they turn away themselves.

### DON'T:

Force your puppy to check out anything they are afraid of. They have their own agenda, and forcing them or dragging them over to something will frighten them more. Imagine you are afraid of the ocean, and someone drags you over, repeating: "It's ok, once you get in you'll be fine!" Uh, no, I won't. Coddle or console. You will be using a praise tone of voice, convincing them there is indeed something to be afraid of. This is the opposite of the information you want to impart. Best to jolly them through it, or stay neutral and say absolutely nothing in those moments.

Slow and steady wins the race, so don't rush things. You have all the time in the world to help your puppy, and that's what you're doing, helping them. If you have an agenda, STOP. A frightened puppy will easily become a frightened dog, and that is a project that is much more difficult and time consuming to deal with.

If you are seeing reactions in your puppy or dog that are highly unusual, fear that is becoming aggression, get the help of a qualified professional as soon as possible. You will be making your pup's life (and yours!) so much more pleasurable than if you let it go and hope for the best.

# The Lagotto Alarm

*Text and photos submitted by Kim Bellew*

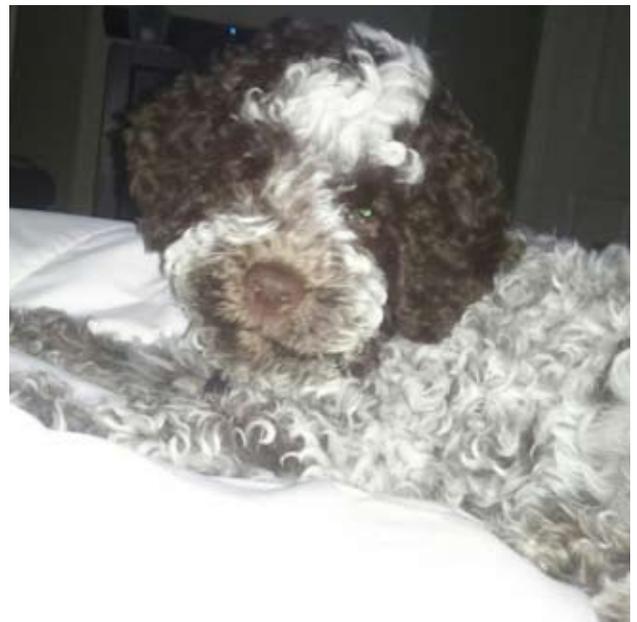
I am not a morning person. I am a wife, mother, grandmother and working professional who managed to fake morning cheer and cognitive competence before 9 am for almost 50 years. I remember as a teen my parents promising that ALL people, as they age, begin to LIKE mornings and early rising. Of course, this is a rather foggy recollection paired with my mom pulling the covers off of me while my dad stood in the doorway banging a stainless steel pot and lid together. Yes, I have already had therapy for that. However, the undeniable truth remains; they were WRONG.

I have greatly benefited from the technological advances of a smart phone alarm sequence. In fact, most days its varying stages of wake-up tones successfully propel me to the coffee pot (lovingly prepared by my more morning friendly husband) for the caffeine I need to successfully navigate a slippery shower. I particularly enjoy the pre-alarm “fairy” music as it gently prepares me to respond when the “walk in the forest” music plays. However, it is the ten or so snooze bugle calls that eventually get me out of bed. FYI: I LOVE my bed.

Well, I am happy to share that I have recently discovered a new and improved alarm system! The “Lagotto Alarm” is fail proof and surprisingly intuitive. Originally engineered in Italy, you can now order one from a variety of European countries, and even a few cities here in the USA and Canada. Mine came from Sweden and is named “Jasper.” At 35 pounds, it is a soft and curly, irresistibly playful, compact bundle of loving energy. Additionally, it does not need to be set, plugged in, or require batteries! Rather, its energy supply is ENDLESS and seems to work best on the weekends. Oh, but don’t worry, even on weekdays this is the most reliable, persistent, determined, and soulful alarm on the planet.

The pre wake-up warning is delivered by an incredible agile leap onto the bladder. Yes, it often bypasses the bed and lands directly on me; far more effective than “fairy” music. Of course, I HATE mornings so after practicing my kegels to avoid morning bladder complications, I simply roll over. The next move is seamlessly executed after the bladder pounce and is referred to as the wiggly kisses maneuver. The Lagotto will almost break in half as it rapidly rotates its rear, back-and-forth, while delivering kisses that cover my entire head, face, and cleans out my ears. This almost works. At this point, the Lagotto will intuit that the snooze shocks are necessary and will settle down by pushing up against my torso lest I forget it is really time to GET UP.

Ten minutes may pass until the first snooze tone goes off. This is delivered by the Lagotto nuzzling as close to the ear drum as possible and emitting a shrill, weapon grade “yip!” If this fails to move me (of course, this often puts me in a temporary state of shock since ten minutes is more than enough time to go back to sleep) the procedure is repeated with increasingly shrill, urgent, and sonic like “YIPS.” Yes, by this time I am usually up. However, on the rare occasion I reflexively push the alarm off of the bed so my ear drums will stop that annoying ringing noise, the Lagotto engages the GET UP NOW phase with the “dresser surfing” maneuver. It deftly removes something valuable that compels me to run after it and into the kitchen where fresh coffee is brewing.....ahhh....coffee.....good alarm.....good alarm.....



Lovingly written (in the morning) by Jasper’s mom, Kim Bellew

# Meet a Member: Kathleen Correll

Text and photos submitted by Kathleen Correll

## How did you find out about the Lagotto Romagnolo and when did you get your dog?

I had been looking for a mid size poodle for over a year when I stumbled across the Lagotto Romagnolo. I wanted a smart, active, medium-sized dog. I was also interested in tracking, and think that's where I first came across a reference to the breed. Once I learned about the Lagotto, I couldn't get enough of them. I researched everything I could find on them, joined the Yahoo users group and the LCA, and contacted several breeders. I loved the brown Lagotto and was looking for one, but they were scarce at the time. My breeder had a brown and white boy available, and after thinking it over, I decided I had to take him.

## Why do you love the LCA?

My favorite thing about the LCA is the sense of community. There is such an abundance of sharing and good will that is extended by members. Newbies are welcomed and mentored without hesitation. I've made many good friends among the ranks and enjoy joining the push to educate others about the breed.

When Ciccina was 8 months old, Faith Robb and Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes invited me to meet them in Dallas. It was great meeting them and seeing another Lagotto for the first time. When the Southwest Raduno in March 2011 came up, we travelled and met others who mentored us through our first show and we made more friends.



## Where do you reside and what activities does your dog enjoy there?

We live in Houston, Texas and it gets pretty hot for both of us! We do most of our exercise in the early morning and evening. Ciccina has his UKC championship and CGC (Canine Good Citizen). We've also taken tracking and are up to Agility III. We are taking a break right now since I'm having trouble getting around, but hope to get back to it soon. I'm always on the lookout for activities to engage Ciccina. From classes, day care, water therapy, and Home Depot visits, we embrace any adventure. We also work hard on his bag of tricks which numbers over 20 now. Some are mundane such as sit, down, and ringing a bell to go out. Other fun commands include roll over, play dead, bow, gimme a kiss, and get your pillow and go to bed. Ciccina also speaks a little Italian (his favorite phrase is *hai fame*).

## Can you share one of your favorite stories about your dog?

SOCKS! To this day, I don't know where he finds them. When Ciccina was a puppy, he would dash into the other room and come back with a sock in his mouth. It was endless. I kept thinking that I had done a load of laundry that had socks only and that they had fallen under something – whatever, but I looked everywhere and never found them. And he kept coming back with more. And more. AND – more!

Then it got weird. One day he dashed out and returned with a new pair still in the wrapper. At least this set my mind at ease (I had a small fear that it was a load of dirty, not clean socks that had been misplaced somewhere).

Who knew that Ciccina would have a nose for socks. We could make money by specializing in Sock Search & Rescue if I could just find a market for it!

# Grooming: Properly Trimmed Nails

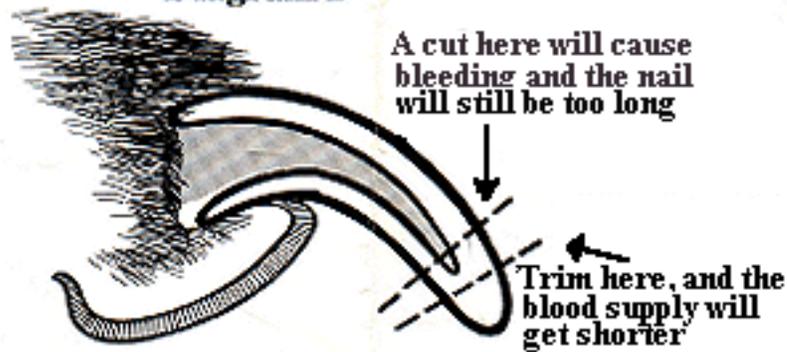
Printed with permission from English Spring Rescue America Inc.

**Diagram 1**



The blood supply (Kwik) in a short nail.

**Diagram 2**



A cut here will cause bleeding and the nail will still be too long

Trim here, and the blood supply will get shorter

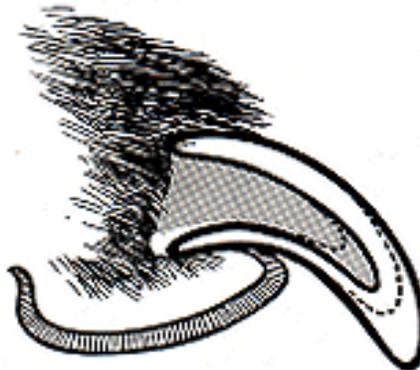
Note how the blood supply gets longer as the nail grows.

**Diagram 3**



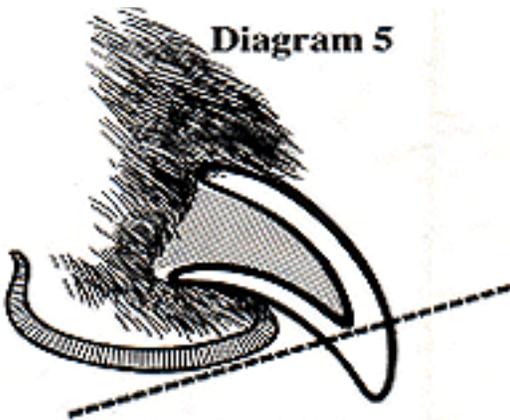
If you clip or file a little off of a long nail every few days, the blood supply will continue to recede.

**Diagram 4**



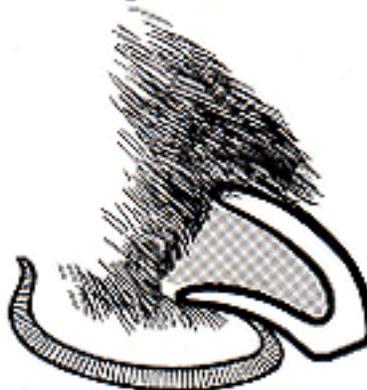
As the nail gets shorter so does the blood supply.

**Diagram 5**



Only when the nail is kept short can it be trimmed without bleeding. If the same cut had been made on the long nail in Diagram 2, it would have caused bleeding.

**Diagram 6**



A properly trimmed nail.

You can also access this document at [http://hqbullies.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/dog\\_nails2](http://hqbullies.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/dog_nails2).

# Emergency Vet Visits

*Text and photos submitted by Adrienne Perry*

Do your dog a favor, go and get a phone book and look up the veterinary clinics in your area that list “Emergency Services.” Today on your lunch hour, call your regular veterinarian and ask which emergency clinic they refer their clients to, which one is the best, which one(s) to avoid. Make some preliminary choices. When you’re next in the area, drive by the clinic (s), if you have time, stop in and chat briefly to the receptionist. If you have a good feeling about the staff after your research, program the number into your phone, and program the address into your GPS. It is so much easier to do this small amount of research when you do not have an emergency to deal with at the same time!

*Learn These Simple Procedures to Accurately Determine & Describe Your Dogs Current Condition. Practice them so you can perform them in an emergency situation!*

## **Heart rate/pulse**

How many beats per minute? If you don’t have a stethoscope at home, take the dog’s pulse by standing him in front of you. Take your right hand and place it on the very top of the dog’s thigh so that the fingers of your hand are on the inside of the thigh and your thumb is on the outside. With your ring finger gently press into the inner thigh, you should feel a “thud, thud” this is the pulse. You can also feel a sense of how strong it is or thin (thready). Count the beats by going 6 seconds on your watch and add a zero to the end of your count. (eg: 8 beats in 6 seconds is 80 beats per minute)

## **CRT (Capillary refill time)**

Lift the dog’s lip. Press a finger firmly into the gums. You should momentarily see a white imprint that then refills back to the original color. Unless the gums are normally black, the mouth should have a nice rich pink color (think bubble gum). The refill time should be no more than 1 to 2 seconds. Dogs with tacky feeling and/or pale gums are definitely in an emergency situation...Mention this right up front as you call the emergency clinic and get in the car to go. This is usually a sign of internal bleeding (either from poison ingestion, anemia, autoimmune diseases, or certain cancers like hemangiosarcoma) In my personal experience, the mouth usually feels “cold” as well.



## **Respiration**

Can be panting, labored, shallow, if not easily described by one of these count the number of breaths in a 15 second block and multiply by 4 (eg: 7 breaths in 15 seconds is 28 breaths/minute)

## **Temperature**

You should have a dedicated dog thermometer at home Put a dab of vaseline on it and insert rectally. If you are using an old non-digital thermometer remember to shake it down before inserting it. Normal temps for dogs are 100-102. Sometimes a sleeping or older dog will have a lower temp or an excited dog will have a higher one. If the dog’s temp is low (doesn’t register on a digital thermometer or is lower than 98), throw a towel in the dryer for a few minutes and then wrap him in it for the trip to emergency. Temperatures higher than 104 (without explanation---such as an excited car ride or a hike/run) are not to be ignored.

## Emergency Vet Visits...continued...

Don't do this: Hope that whatever issue your dog has will go away, don't consult your regular veterinarian, then days later decide it's now an emergency and then show up at 6am and wait in your car for the first staff members to arrive and demand to be seen. Yes, this does happen. No amount of shouting "It's an emergency!" transforms a regular vet's office into an emergency facility with the staffing, specialized supplies and equipment that are crucial to saving your pet's life in a genuine emergency. For the most part, regular vet practices do not do transfusions and blood typing, carry rattlesnake venom antidote, do oxygen therapy, or have a veterinarian onsite during the entire sweep of business hours.

### What Information the Emergency Veterinary Staff Will Want To Know:

- **Eating, drinking, peeing and pooping**

Are they normal in terms of amounts and appearance? Dogs that have not been able to urinate for a day are in a dangerous situation, as are dogs that are refusing water. Don't assume the dog is doing his business in the yard- go observe what is coming out the other end.

- **Vaccine status**

Remember this isn't your regular vet, they don't have this information and depending on the time of day you arrive they might not be able to get it until after 8 am....being able to rule in or out on a disease that your dog should/could/might be protected from is great information when trying to choose which diagnostic tests to run. Grab your latest vet invoice for the animal---the vaccine history is almost always at the bottom of the receipt.

- **Medications or nutraceuticals that you give to your dog**

- **Changes in food, treats, medications, supplements or schedules**

- **General demeanor**

If your dog is normally a high energy dog and today looks like a couch potato be sure to convey that. Your dog's "lethargy" could like another dog's "normal." Conversely, a dog that seems agitated today and is normally easy going is also worth noting. The more information you can provide, the better able the veterinarian will be able to avoid diagnostic tests that won't help and concentrate on getting to the tests that will reveal what is wrong. This saves you money!



Speaking of money.....the fear of how much a visit to an emergency clinic seems to be the biggest reason clients to want to stay at their regular vet instead of going to an emergency clinic. There are a couple avenues you should probably investigate ahead of time. Knowing how you are going to pay and that you have a plan to do so will greatly reduce your stress, and get you and your dog to the emergency clinic in a timely manner.

#### **Do you want to purchase health insurance?**

Investigating insurance offers for your pet before you need them is the best way to go. No insurance company will agree to pay for conditions that have already been diagnosed (and yes they do contact veterinarians for your records complete with dates). If after viewing several plans you don't find one you like, you may find it makes more sense to earmark the same amount of money that you'd pay in monthly premiums from each paycheck to go into

an emergency animal fund....then the money is there for you to use however you need it, pre-existing condition or not. **Consider Signing up for Care Credit:** One fact of life is that no veterinary clinic accepts delayed payments. Care Credit is a medical credit card that pays the vet in full and allows you to make payments to them. Qualifying before you need to use it is a good way to be prepared. Care Credit can be applied for through [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com)

# Health, Breeding, & The Lagotto Romagnolo

Text by Hilarie Gibbs Sykes

There are several health issues that breeders can and should test their Lagotto for prior to breeding them. Within the breed we see hip dysplasia, distichiasis and juvenile cataracts and Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy, often referred to as BFJE. Breeders who belong to the LCA are required by the Club's Code of Ethics to perform hip and eye testing. A DNA test for BFJE was not available until the spring of 2008 and is thus not included in the original COE. However the proposed Health Screening and Breeding Practices (elsewhere in this newsletter) does incorporate a requirement for this test.

## BFJE

BFJE is a genetic problem thought to be unique to the Lagotto. It is a transient form of epilepsy which typically shows up in affected puppies at roughly 5 weeks of age and disappears somewhere between 10 and 13 weeks. In order to be affected, puppies must receive a gene for BFJE from each parent. Symptoms can range from a barely noticeable tremor or wobble in the head or a leg to a full blown seizure. Fortunately for the breed, there is now a DNA test to determine a dog's status. The test will reveal whether the dog is an "Affected", thus carrying two genes for the disease; a "Carrier" having one gene for BFJE and one normal gene; or "Normal", having no gene for BFJE. With this information, breeders can avoid producing affected puppies by testing their breeding stock and always planning breedings where at least one parent is Normal and carries no gene for BFJE. Test results are often expressed as follows: Affected +/+ , Carrier +/- , Normal -/-. Go to [www.optigen.com](http://www.optigen.com) to learn more about testing.

## Distichiasis & Juvenile Cataracts

Distichiasis is an abnormal growth of eyelashes such that the eyelashes point inward and, if there are enough of them and/or they are long enough, they can irritate the eye and even damage the cornea. Current veterinary advice is to not breed severely affected dogs at all. For dogs with minor distichiasis, it is suggested that they only be bred to unaffected dogs. Distichiasis can be readily diagnosed by a veterinary ophthalmologist when doing a CERF (Canine Eye Research foundation) exam. During a CERF exam, the ophthalmologist will examine the eye for other anomalies as well. Besides distichiasis, juvenile cataracts can occur in Lagotto. Long before we can observe them ourselves, an ophthalmologist can see them in the dilated eye. Juvenile cataracts are also often referred to as "inherited cataracts". In breeds the size of our Lagotto, juvenile cataracts of a hereditary type can occur up until approximately 6 years of age, per Dr. Rhea V. Morgan, DVM, DACVM, DACVO, and former head of the Ophthalmology Department at the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Science. Thus it is recommended that Lagotto have if not an annual CERF eye exam, then at least one such exam no more than 12 months prior to any breeding. Currently there is research being carried out at the University of Hannover in Germany in hopes of developing a DNA test for juvenile cataracts.

## Hip Dysplasia

Hip dysplasia is disorder in which the femoral head does not sit properly in the socket of the hip joint. Although the joint is normal at birth, it does not develop properly as the puppy matures. There is a genetic component to this problem as dogs with poor hips are far more likely to produce to produce affected puppies than are dogs with good hips. In addition to the genetic component research appears to indicate that environment and nutrition can play a role in the development of this problem.

Hip dysplasia is a problem in the Lagotto so breeders who are LCA members are required by the COE to test their breeding stock for this disease, with results being issued by either the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or by PennHip. OFA ratings are based primarily on the appearance of the hip joint on X-ray while the PennHip scoring primarily assess hip laxity. For more information about these two different approaches, go to <http://www.offa.org> and <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/>

## Health, Breeding & and the Lagotto Romagnolo...continued...

When planning a breeding, breeders should attempt to gather as much information as possible about close relatives of the dogs to be bred. Thus one should look at the hip status of litter mates, parents, aunts and uncles rather than simply parents and grandparents. Many dogs never have their hips rated – it is not an inexpensive thing to do and most pet owners do not have this done.

There are now 96 Lagotto listed with hip scores on the database at <http://www.offa.org>. Many in Europe list their dogs on the database kept by Laura Tanos at <http://www.lagotto.hu> and provide hip scores for them, although the ratings differ from those of OFA. The more normal hips there are in close relatives of the dogs being bred – siblings, half siblings, aunts and uncles as well as grandparents - the better the chance of producing puppies with normal hips.

OFA rates dogs with normal hips as either Excellent, Good or Fair and these dogs receive an OFA number and certificate. Dogs with abnormal – dysplastic – hips receive ratings of Mild, Moderate, or Severe. If consensus among the three panelists who review the x-rays for OFA cannot be reached, a dog will receive a rating of Borderline. Neither Borderline nor abnormal results will be certified, although a written report is sent to the submitting owner. In Europe, the dogs are scored using the same x-ray view of hips as OFA. Dogs will be scored as A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, C, D or E. However, it seems to be most common to see the first 4 categories narrowed down to 2 and simply expressed as A or B. When looking at hip scores for dogs rated under the European system – litter mates, parents, aunts and uncles etc.- it is important to bear in mind that a C hip is equivalent to a mildly dysplastic hip under the OFA ratings. In fact some of the dogs rated B may actually be B-2, equivalent to a Borderline rating from OFA and therefore abnormal.

### Comparison of Hip Ratings

OFA	European
Excellent	A-1
Good	A-2
Fair	B-1
Borderline	B-2
Mild	C
Moderate	D
Severe	E

PennHip uses a much different rating system than does OFA. Dogs are rated primarily on the laxity of the joint as expressed by the Distraction Index – “DI”. Per PennHip, the greater the DI, the greater the chance of the dog developing hip dysplasia. The closer to .30 the DI is the less the chance is of the dog developing hip dysplasia. The closer the DI is to .70, the greater the chance of the dog developing hip dysplasia. Along with the DI, the report sent to the owner includes the current median DI for the breed and PennHip’s recommendation that only dogs with DIs equal to or lower than the median be bred. This will result in a decrease in laxity over time, thus reducing the occurrence of hip dysplasia in the breed. As of June, 50 Lagotto had been scored by PennHip and the average DI was .50. You can see a sample report at <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/PennHIPMethod/PennHIDLaxityReport/tabid/3343/Default.aspx>

Breeding dogs with abnormal hips increases the possibility of producing affected puppies. While many dogs with mild dysplasia may not have symptoms until old age, others may suffer most of their lives from this disorder. Dysplastic hips develop arthritis which can be, depending on severity, a painful and debilitating disease. Affected dogs can have problems climbing steps or standing from a lying down position. Some may suffer pain just from walking. Owning a dysplastic dog can be an anguishing and expensive experience.

Puppy buyers should review the information at <http://www.offa.org> and <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/> to learn more about hip dysplasia and hip ratings. It is advisable to request proof that the parents of a puppy they are considering purchasing have been hip scored. Looking at the scores of close relatives using the databases mentioned earlier in this article is also a good idea.

The next issue of the Lagotto Bollettino will feature an article on how to find vets for OFA x-rays, and eye exams, as well as resources for finding health clinics!

# *Upcoming Events*

*Submitted by Mel Sykes*

## **October**

- October 13, 2012 : Italian Lagotto Club Raduno Championship Show, Bagnara, Romagna, Italy
- October 14, 2012: Truffle Hunting Test, Brisighella, Romagna, Italy.  
<http://lagotoromagnolo.org/>

## **Januray 2013**

- The Lagotto Romagnolo enters the AKC Miscellaneous Group!!!!

## **March 2013**

- March 15-17: AKC Champion Events Extravaganza, Tulsa, Oklahoma

## **CALENDARS**

- American Rare Breed Association Calendar: [http://www.arba.org/show\\_calendar](http://www.arba.org/show_calendar)
- Canadian Kennel Club: <http://www.ckc.ca/e/default.aspx?tabid+87>
- International Canine Kennel Club: <http://www.inernationalcaninekennelclub.com>
- United Kennel Club Calendar: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/Upcoming.nsf/EventView?Open&Group=DogEvents&Type=M>
- International All Breed Canine Association: <http://iabca.com/calendar.html>

***Advertising space available in next issue!  
Contact [advertising@lagottous.com](mailto:advertising@lagottous.com) for more  
information.***

***Ads for next issue must be submitted by  
November 1!***



## Photo Highlight Submitted by Gil Liran

While in Tucson and visiting with Adrienne Perry, I received an instant message from my daughter who was watching my boy Bruno for a few days. The photo here was attached with the text: "What should I do with this one?". As you can see Bruno is not too happy for being told to "leave it!", yet, unwillingly obeyed. This photo was taken in our family room in Nashua, NH and comes after Bruno's busy summer season showing strong hunting drive of frogs, toads, geese, chasing fish in the lake's shallow waters, chasing deer and warning me of a black bear out in the woods.

We have noticed the change in stamina right after he turned three years old. Mature, very confident, protective and wicked smart.

## Considering Breeding... ?

If you are thinking of breeding your Lagotto, you need to consider the following:

1. Does your Lagotto have a good temperament?
2. Is he/she a good representative of the breed type and conformation?
3. Have you reviewed the agreement (if any) with your breeder to determine if your puppy was sold with a "restricted from breeding" clause?
4. Have you checked your AKC FSS papers to see if your dog has a limited (from breeding) registration?
5. Have you reviewed the LCA Code Ethics to be sure that you are in compliance with the rules pertaining to breeding a litter and placing puppies?

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### LCA Board Members for 2012

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