

Lagotto Bollettino

LAGOTTO Club



Summer
2011

News and Events

*Coming this Month: A Conference on Lagotto Behavioral Issues
Submitted by Mel Sykes*

This call-in seminar presents panelists from Canada, the U.S., and Australia discussing the behavioral issues they've dealt with their dogs and those of others. The purpose of this seminar is to give each of us useful information that we can use in training our Lagotto.

In this seminar you'll learn:

- The difference between a "temperament issue" and a "temper tantrum"
- The answer to "Am I training my dog, or is he training me?"
- How to "un-train" the bad habit-
- "Positive, not Punitive"
- Things my Mother never taught me about dog training (and some things she did)

AND, the panel will answer YOUR questions!

Watch the email groups for date and time.

Presented by:

"Lagotto" email discussion group, "Lagottobreeders" email discussion group, "Ozgottos" email discussion group, Cathie Ashurst (AU) E. & J. Lange (AU), Mariana and Sonny Cejic (Canada), Mel Sykes and Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes (US), Lagotto Club of America, Inc.

Panel members: Brandon Bayer (CAN), Mariana Cejic (CAN), Cathie Ashurst (AU), Noella Smith (AU), Liz Williams (US), Adrienne Perry (US)

*Upcoming Events for Lagotto Owners (past, present, and future)
Submitted by Mel Sykes*

Upcoming Events for Lagotto Owners (past, present, and future)

As we look ahead to the time when cooler weather allows us to spend more time out with our dogs, the LCA calls your attention to these opportunities for all Lagotto lovers to enjoy. Just select the events you want to attend, email the contact person to let them know you want to be there for the good times, and expect to enjoy yourselves with your Lagotto! Come have a great time with us!

Raleigh, NC - September 24, 2011 – AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day – This will be our second year to have the Lagotto on hand for a Meet the Breed. We'll visit with people, tell them about the Lagotto (good and bad), hand out breed literature, and have a great time with other Lagotto owners. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Contact Ricki Grantmyre at rgrantmyre@bellsouth.net if you would like to be a part of this event.

In This Issue

News and Events	1-3
The Sofa Sofie Team	4
Terzo Goes to Europe	5-8
Breeder's Corner	9
Announcements	10

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

*Please email submissions
for the following topics:
News and Events, Health
Update, Breeder's Corner,
Tips on Training, or Fun
Photos. Please include any
representative photos with
you submission, along with
you dogs name, age, and
photo caption. You can
email you submissions to
jenniferdavit@mac.com*

Deadline for fall issue: October 15!

News and Events

Upcoming Events Continued...
Text submitted by Mel Sykes

Knoxville, TN – September 24, 2011 –We will join the Tennessee Valley Kennel Club for their Meet the Breed – starting at 10:00 AM at Krutch Park (downtown Knoxville). Last year was a pleasant time with lots of questions about the Lagotto. Contact Mel Sykes at hgibbs@planet.com to join us.

Knoxville, TN – September 24, 2011 –Same place, same date – Join us for the first AKC Open Show in east Tennessee! AKC Open Shows are sanctioned conformation events at which Championship points are not earned. These shows are where dog clubs, judges, stewards, exhibitors and their dogs gain experience needed for licensed events. This is an important step in the learning process for all of us. Come bring your Lagotto and have a good time! Contact Mel at Secretary@Lagottous.com

Southeast PA – September 24, 2011 –The Lagotto Club of America 2nd Northeast Raduno!! As happens with most Radunos, we are still confirming the events now. Here's what we can guarantee you, mini workshops on both Agility and Nosework, a great opportunity to visit with other LCA members and non-members. Bring your Lagotto for a play time. We need to get a quick idea on how many of you will be joining us for this event, so email Sandy at dvlagotto@hotmail.com Don't be shy, if you want to help out with this Raduno, let Sandy know now.

New York, NY – October 10, 2011 – Columbus Day Parade - Join 35,000 marchers on 5th Avenue in celebration of Italian-American heritage. Of course the Lagotto belongs in the parade, as well as the 12 other Italian breeds. If you're in the city, be a part of this parade. Contact Mel at Secretary@LagottoUS.com

New York, NY – November 19 and 20, 2011 – The AKC 3rd Annual Meet the Breeds at Javits Center. Two busy days meeting people, answering tons of questions, showing off your adult Lagotto, and handing out club and breed information. Meet the Breeds is not about selling dogs, it's about educating the public. Yes, we really need volunteers to do this right. Contact Therese at: President@LagottoUS.com

Orlando, FL – December 17th and 18th, 2011 - What a wonderful way to end the year! Join us at the AKC/ Eukanuba National Championship!! The Lagotto Romagnolo will be one of the featured breeds in the AKC FSS Showcase booth! Chris Minardi is in charge of this for the club. Email her at confortolagotto@yahoo.com for details.

Now, what will we do in 2012? Here's a peek. In the Spring, the SW Raduno and the SE Raduno. In the summer....Oh my...we're planning the Lagotto Club of America National Specialty!!!

Lots going on now, more things being planned.
Thank you to our members for supporting the Lagotto Club of America.

News and Events

Meet the Breed

Text and photos submitted by Kathleen Correll

Texans finally got to meet the Lagotto Romagnolo up close and personal at the 2011 Reliant Park World Series of Dog Shows in Houston held July 20th to 24th. This is the fourth largest cluster of dog shows in the country, so it was a good opportunity to introduce our dogs to a great number of people. There were over 110 breeds of dog at the Meet The Breed event, and our Lagotto and the Golden Retrievers were the only breeds to participate on two days. Carol Williamson was the AKC liaison in charge of the Meet The Breed event, and she was a maestro bringing together plans and orchestrating the event for a really professional production.

Carol Williamson arranged that we could have just one Lagotto at the MTB, but we tried for more. I heard from a few LCA members, but with such short notice they weren't able to come (I have hopes for future opportunities though). To the rescue rode Christy Beverding and Susan Lewis! Christy brought her girl Ziva, and Susan (who will have her puppy Donatello in August) became the official photographer.

The MTB event was wonderful; I could have done it all day. We put our Lagotto on tables, which really worked out well. We answered questions, passed out brochures, and let visitors feed cookies to Ciccica and Ziva. They were stars. Ciccica bowed for cookies from the crowd, and Ziva touched noses with visitors and rolled over to have her tummy rubbed.

The most common questions asked were: what kind of dog is that; do they shed; do they get along with cats; are they PWDs; are they blah-blah doodles? One mother with two very young girls asked what kind of dog Ciccica was. To my astonishment, when I told her, one of the small girls said, "I told you mommy". The mother explained they had watched "Dogs 101" that morning before leaving home, and seen the segment about Lagotto Romagnolo.



Ciccica stands for a treat from a fan!



The table was a great idea!



Kandy Lukats and Ciccica

I think we'll be seeing more members in the group; we had some visitors return for multiple visits. One woman came running up just as we were leaving the MTB area after our session. She said she had just arrived from Louisiana and particularly wanted to see the Lagotto. And serendipitously, LCA member Paula Alders ran into us in the parking lot at the end of the day. Paula doesn't have her own Lagotto yet, but really enjoyed meeting Ciccica. Ziva and Ciccica both garnered attention all day and received many requests for cuddles and photos.

I can't wait for a chance to do this again. I have a feeling that next time, there's going to be a regular pack attending. We all had fun, the dogs loved meeting each other and we look forward to the next event and encourage you to attend any Raduno that is being planned in the future. It is a great way to meet other dog lovers and see so many wonderful examples of our breed.

The Sofa Sofie Team

Text and photos submitted by Christine Anne Minardi, Conforto Lagotto

“Would you like a pet therapy visit? My Sophia is here to visit with you?” is our standard call out before we enter any room at Hospice. Sometimes the families are so numb, they don’t quite know how to respond, and sometimes everyone in the room lights up, and you immediately feel like a good friend. That was the case during a visit I will never forget and often tell this story when my friends can’t understand why I take my Sophia to Hospice.

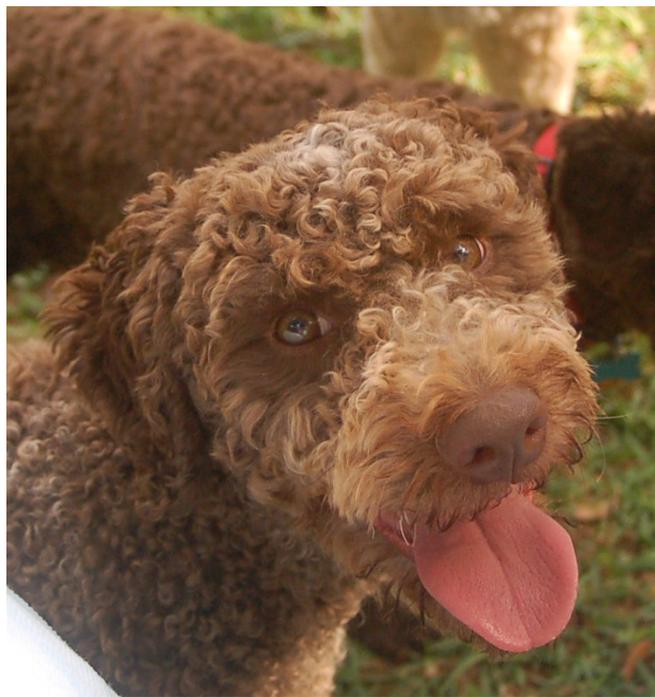
As I walked into the room, an older man was lying in bed and there were two women on either side. The gentleman was sleeping; however, the women immediately insisted that he would love the visit, loves dogs, and “please do come in.” As Sophia and I approached the bed, she knew exactly what to do, so she waited for my command.

The gentleman reminded me of a professor I once had in college, even in his sleep he had an air of distinction. The woman on the right identified herself as his daughter, the one on the left her partner. We chatted about pet therapy, what was involved with becoming a team, what type of places did we visit, etc. I asked if it would be ok if Sophia jumped on the bed (the command she was waiting for) so that her father could pet her.

Now, the staff at Hospice knows that Sophia is going to jump on the beds, its ok with them. She is always clean, doesn’t smell, and doesn’t shed any more than I do. After giving Sophia the command (I patted the corner of the bed), she jumped up and immediately went into a down. Good girl! The daughter informed me that her father probably wouldn’t respond; he had been unresponsive for several days.

I gave Sophia the command to scoot forward until her head was under the gentleman’s hand, something that comes naturally to a dog. When she felt that hand on her head, she stopped. Good girl! We were all watching Sophia until we noticed he moved just a little and then a huge grin spread over his face. The smile stayed for only a moment, but it was a smile! The women were amazed, I almost started to cry, and I think I cried when I got back into my car. This is why I volunteer as a pet therapy team.

I am part of two teams, Sophia and Hannah. Both dogs went through puppy class, puppy manners, manners and more, and received their Canine Good Citizen. Both teams were evaluated prior to even being considered for the pet therapy training program and then re-evaluated after completing the program. We went on some shadow visits and have been volunteering for the past 3.5 years every weekend we are available (when I’m not visiting my grandson). Hannah and I go to assisted living facilities where there are wheelchairs, because she is taller than Sophia and the folks can reach her better. Sophia and I got to places where she can sit on a sofa or bed because she is shorter and can’t stand for long periods of times because of her bad hip. She is fondly nicknamed “Sofa Sophie” by the Hospice staff and the folks at our local addiction recovery unit. To become a Pet Partners Team, you can find additional information here <http://www.deltasociety.org/Page.aspx?pid=261> and to find your local teams or affiliates, go here <http://www.deltasociety.org/Page.aspx?pid=367>.



News: Sophia is now a certified AKC Therapy Dog- possibly the first Lagotto Romagnolo with that distinction!

Terzo Goes to Europe...continued from Spring 2011

Text and photos sybmitted by Adrienne Perry

Getting Terzo ready

Okay, okay I know you actually want to know the blow by blow of the trip and the shows. The only other thing I want to mention is Terzo's preparations. He has been going to dog shows with me since he was a little guy, whether he was competing in Rally or not. So he is used to the noises and sounds and general hub bub. And of course he has been shown here too in IABCA and UKC shows in conformation. We went to conformation class religiously for around 6 weeks getting used to gaiting in front, the middle, the back, stacking up, showing teeth, finding the right speed to move him, as well as getting him clear on when we were "gaiting" and when we were doing "heeling for competition." I stopped doing much obedience heelwork with him, as it gave him the tendency to prance which looks really cool for obedience and looks like all heck for the breed ring. I found a show collar/lead that I thought would feel very different to him from his obedience collar and worked on having him start out ahead of me when we move out (his cue that we aren't heeling), I've also found that sticking a piece of food in his mouth as we set out keeps him from prancing too. Apparently you can't chew and heel at the same time, according to Terzo!

Hair!

You can't talk about showing Lagotto without talking about hair. I didn't track Terzo all summer for fear that he'd get caught in the cactus and mess up his coat. I buzzed some hair off him in July with a 3/4" blade, but basically just let it grow. When he was younger I shaved Terzo's entire head---I think it took 6 months to grow back--- Argh! Don't want to make mistakes like that again!

Then one day I got the bright idea to go talk to a really good groomer in town, Barbara Byrd of Transformations Pet Center. I went in and asked her about grooming lessons. We made an arrangement to do a consultation. I was to bring Terzo and as many pictures of how Lagotto are supposed to look as possible. We talked about the dog's rustic appearance, about scissoring dry, curly hair, about encouraging hair growth, preserving hair without breaking

it. What products and tools would help. Then finally one day about a week before leaving in we went and we scissored away. With pictures of great lagotto past and present on the wall in front of us, Barbara and I worked on T's coat. Of course with static pictures you can't tell what is "body" and what is "hair," so you guess a little.... We shaped his head, we shaped his feet, we worked on the planes of the dog, blending one into another. It was really fun! Wherever we were unsure we left more hair on, with the idea that I could take it off under the watchful eye of my friend, Carolyn, in Switzerland. In the end, we were very close. We had taken a little too much off the face under the eye and not enough off the neck (mostly for Terzo's markings and conformation). And he still didn't really have enough beard hair, but we did re-scissor his neck and mousse his beard and voila! We had the right look.

I took my scissors, mousse, 2 small bottles of whitening shampoo, 2 of conditioner and Ice on Ice wooden pin brushes and combs with me. For his part, Terzo spent the summer staining his white legs with dessert clay creating a pink look that drove me nuts! I also took a light coat and some boots as I didn't know what kind of weather we'd encounter or how that might stain or otherwise mess up his coat. I never gave Terzo a complete bath the whole time we were gone. I did however wash his legs before every show weekend (once I used the bidet in our bathroom!) as they got very dirty from walking around on a lot of asphalt streets. We also did the beard wash whenever necessary too.

It's Show Time!

We arrived in Italy on Thursday morning 2 days before the Raduno. On the advice of our Swiss friends we stayed in a hotel in Brisighella nearer to the truffle hunting site than the show site. At night though we all, dogs included, wound up at the pizzeria. Saturday morning we caravanned to Dr. Morsiani's house, the site of the show. We went to check in and were given a beautiful bottle of wine, the label had lagotto on it along with the show's information and dates---what a great keepsake, it's empty but I still have it! The grounds were decorated with the flags of many nations around the two rings. Lots of grass and trees everywhere. A lot of people let their dogs run in the field and get quite wet before the show began too---not something you'd see here.



Exam in Stuttgart

Terzo Goes to Europe...continued!

The Show

The classes were run in an interesting order. First the champions class, then the large open class, then Intermediate (Terzo's class), then junior, then puppy. We'd made the decision to enter Terzo in the Intermediate class in all the shows. Junior class (for which he was also eligible) wins only count toward junior champion—and we wouldn't be in any of the countries long enough for him to get all the junior wins. Intermediate class wins count toward adult championships. We did not expect to do anything other than get a nice critique (we hoped!) at the Raduno. Carolyn's dog, Rino (Comes cordis Flarino) came away with an Excellent 2 (2 means he was second place in the class), and she was over the moon! Terzo's class came up just before lunch. It was much like showing here, except obviously I've got to pay attention to what the other dogs have done and watch for hand signals since I don't speak or understand Italian. He did a good job and nearly got 4th place (the judge moved the two dogs around together several times) and finally decided to give it to the other male. The judge was pretty tough, he did give "very good" ratings (one level down from excellent) to dogs in all classes including Terzo's—so we were really excited to get an excellent. After all the classes were concluded they did the best male, best female, best hair and best movement. The judges asked dogs to come back for the best hair and best movement while in their regular classes. I realized a little too late that I should have let Terzo be a little "wilder" on leash just as we do with some of our European style seiger shows for rottweilers in the US, for some reason measured, even movement isn't viewed in the same way as it is by US judges.



Truffle Hunt Time

The next day was the truffle hunt day. Carolyn's dog Rino was one of a few dogs entered in both events. Most of the dogs were shaved down and looked very different from the dogs the previous day. We were up on the side of a mountain, but we still had nice formalities: a man selling cappuccinos and the club providing bread and sausages. We spent a lot of the day trekking up and down the mountainside to get to the various areas for the different truffle classes (much the same divisions as we had the previous day in conformation: champion, open, etc). Fred, Carolyn's husband, hunts with Rino and they found 2 truffles, though he is very new to truffle hunting! We were exhausted from all the hiking--I don't think I'll ever be a truffle hunter—but the awards dinner was yet to come.

Awards Dinner

Definitely one of the highlights of the trip was the big awards dinner at the agricultural center. Agricultural centers are places where locally produced foods are sold. This one was situated in an orchard. We took Rino and Terzo out back and let them run off some steam chasing apples, which they devoured at the end! When we arrived, a man was out selling slabs of cured bacon and sausages. Inside were different jams and preserves. All the food we ate and wine we drank that night came from that region. We started with pesto lasagna, followed with pasta with Mora pork, foccacia bread, chestnut polenta, roasted meats (a platter of different meats: chicken, pork, beef), and desserts and cappuccino. Terzo spent the meal under the table, getting tasty tidbits! Everything was so delicious! Then came the awards. Beautiful trophies awarded and critiques of the winning dogs were read aloud.



I didn't realize until then that the dog's style is more important in the competition than how many truffles he finds...but it is! Also finding natural truffles is valued more highly than finding the ones that have been hidden in the field by the organizers. Dogs are rated just like they are in conformation: excellent, very good, good etc. You have to find at least one truffle to get a very good or excellent (I am told this is a very difficult rating to get, unless you are a full time truffle hunter/trainer). Rino got a very good, so once again we were celebrating!

After Raduno we did a little sightseeing in Italy as we worked our way north to Lausanne for shows the following weekend.

Terzo Goes to Europe...continued!

Lausanne International Shows

We get to the show site early the next morning and sit in a long line to get into the convention center parking lot and park on the bottom level. Cubby ended up waiting so long for the elevator that she hauled Terzo's crate up 4 flights of stairs. Terzo and I went on ahead as the noise of the dogs and the cars in the basement of the structure was mind boggling (I think both of us humans hated it more than he did!) We finally found the right hall for our ring and a spot for the kennel. Terzo went in and took a nap.

The Swiss group: Stefan Hilber, Christine Frei (the Swiss Breed warden) are there as well as Andreas Lendorff (president of the Swiss Club) and his wife Helm. All but Christine had been at Raduno the previous week, so want to know all about our sightseeing trips. Carolyn arrives and helps us get checked in and we found out that Terzo had competition in his class—something we hadn't expected. He is a beautiful little brown male in named Ercolano an Italian import from France. Stefan says that nobody ever beats him. He is really cute, but he looks a little frightened by the noise. By contrast, Terzo is out and about and confidently taking it all in stride. I think we can beat our competition on movement and temperament. And we do! This qualifies us to go in for best Male with the winners of the open male and the champion males class (both dogs from France). The champion male (a champion in many countries and the winner of the Swiss specialty under Dr. Morsiani this past Spring) wins the CACIB. Then Terzo and the Open Male go around the ring together for the Reserve. And we go around, and around and around. I'm in front and I finally realize that no one is watching us running around....they're all arguing at the judge's table. So the other handler and I stop running, he says to me "your dog isn't eligible to be in the CACIB, you were in the junior class." I contradict him, that no we were "the winners of the Intermediate class." Apparently that was what the argument was about, even though the ring steward had told me to come in for judging, someone outside the ring gave her the idea that Terzo shouldn't be there. The judge whose international language was English hears this, and points to Terzo as the Reserve CACIB. Oh gosh!

If you're used to showing over here, Res CACIB is not the same thing as Reserve Winners Dog. In an FCI show if the dog that wins Best Male doesn't need the win for his International title the win goes to the reserve dog. Unlike the states where all the champions are entered directly into the best of breed class, in FCI shows the champion class is just another class, the winner meets up with the winners of the Open and the Intermediate class to compete for Best Male (the junior class and puppy class winners compete for best puppy of each sex). The owner of the champion male comes over and makes it clear that he will do whatever we needs to in terms of the paperwork to make sure that we get the CACIB for Terzo's title. I don't know if he knew we were from America and didn't know how it all worked but he couldn't have been nicer about it. Wow! I just hoped we could win our class and get the CAC towards his Swiss championship....now we had a CACIB towards our International championship too! I can't even remember what we did for dinner that night—it's all a happy blur.



And the next day, Terzo did it again! We excitedly called Terzo's breeder later in the hotel lobby and she couldn't believe it either! But here is the best story of Sunday in Lausanne. The judge is judging the puppy males class. Christine's puppy, Limoncello, has won on Saturday. But today the judge clearly likes the other puppy better, Giano, owned by Andreas and Helm. Helm was having a difficult time with Giano—who is quite the wild man. He doesn't want to gait correctly for her, the judge tells her that she must get the puppy to gait or she can't give him the class win. Christine, in an extreme display of good sportsmanship, switches puppies with Helm -- even though staying on her own well trained puppy would have won her the class. So Christine wins the class for her competi- tion. Marvelous! Andreas takes everyone to lunch.

Terzo Goes to Europe...continued!

That night we drive back to Liestal (near Zurich) to Carolyn and Freddy's house. We'll spend some down time and have dinner with Terzo's breeder, Susanne. It will be Susanne's first time to see Terzo since he left at 10 weeks old. I'm so proud of him, I hope that she'll be pleased with how he has matured. Cubby's cold has really socked me a good one, so she and Freddy take Rino and Chili (Terzo's half sister) out to hunt for truffles and I stay home on the couch and cuddle with Terzo. They come home with 3 truffles in all 2 the size of large prunes and one the size of an orange! We have pasta with the Raduno wine and a great time with Susanne and her husband, and meet a couple of her new puppy girls. Terzo has a good time getting reacquainted too. Dogs never seem to forget their breeders!

International and National shows in Stuttgart, Germany

We take off on Friday morning for the drive to Stuttgart in Germany. Our job is to figure out how to get from the hotel to the show site, as Carolyn has a therapy dog class with Rino in the afternoon, so they won't arrive until late. We can literally see the show site from our hotel room. And not only that, we can walk to the Stuttgart airport from our hotel---so Cubby returns the car a few days early. How convenient is that?!



Terzo's sister Tabita

Saturday arrives and we have a heck of a time getting into the convention center, Carolyn and I go in and find the ring and then Carolyn goes off to pay our entries at the secretary's desk. It's a little bit frantic, but we get everything done in plenty of time. Some of the Dutch breeders are here (including one I was supposed to meet in the Spring when I couldn't get the car rental). And one of Terzo's litter sisters, Tabita, is here too! Not sure he recognizes her, the way he recognized his breeder. But it is fun for us to see how she has matured. She has the rotten luck of being in a very competitive class with two girls who have won a whole lot all over Europe, but she does well and gets an excellent rating though it is her first show and she is just learning. Adjacent to our ring is the big ring that will be used for the Group competition in the

afternoon, but prior to that it is used for spectators' activities. A brass band opens the show, pairs of Bernese Mountain dogs and Greater Swiss Mountain dogs pull carts, a clown on REALLY tall stilts entertains the kids and makes them scream, disaster dogs do their demos....and they say Americans put the "show" in dog show?! I've never seen anything like it. Clearly it is too much for some dogs, at times it is too much for me. Terzo doesn't seem to care, but I make sure he gets some down time in his crate so he can unwind.

Terzo again wins his class (over a German dog this time- see photo on page 3) and on this day, he wins the CACIB himself over the open dog (the dog from France again) and the champion dog (who was in a class of 3). The CACIB female beats us for Best of Breed---but I'm not sure I could even concentrate by that point, and she is really a beautiful girl: Gleska Goody Goody from the Netherlands. She goes on to place in the gun dog group both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday, in rather anti-climatic style, is a national show (not an international) one, so there is no CACIB to win, only the CACs in each class. And on this day that's all he does....we're both tired! He has accomplished so much, much more than I'd even dared to hope for. Now of course we have to come back in a year and finish it all up! For the European FCI countries and the International championship the first and last wins (CACs and CACIBs) must be at least one year apart.

Can it really be time to go home? We pack up all our stuff, leaving some of it behind with our friends. We hug Freddy and Carolyn goodbye, they are such good friends---half a world away and we only know them because of lagotto. Which, in the end, is one of the things that I really like the most about showing dogs: meeting all sorts of people. And then odd as it seemed, on Monday morning we walked across to the airport and flew home. On Tuesday, I went back to work!

Are You Thinking About Breeding Your Lagotto?

Text submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

Over the last year or so, we have seen more interest in breeding Lagotto coming from novice breeders. There are many factors that novices may not be aware of that should be considered before deciding to breed your Lagotto.

Good breeders want to produce puppies that will become the beloved companions of the families that they live with. While the families themselves play a huge role in the development of a puppy into a confident, loving companion, it is the breeder's job to lay a foundation that the family can build on with love, training and socialization.

Is your Lagotto restricted from being bred? Review your agreement with your breeder as well as checking your AKC paperwork to see if your puppy is restricted from breeding. If your Lagotto is restricted from breeding and you still wish to go ahead and breed, then you must contact your breeder and see if they are willing to lift the restriction. Your breeder should have questions about the conformation and temperament of your dog as well as the results of health testing.

Does your Lagotto have a typical Lagotto temperament? While some Lagotto are friendlier and more confident than others, Lagotto that exhibit persistent fear of strangers and/or new situations or surroundings, or those that show aggression towards dogs or humans for no reason, are not good candidates for breeding. This fearful/aggressive temperament can be inherited by puppies, so properly reared, well socialized Lagotto that exhibit this behavior may well pass it on to some or all of their puppies.

Does your Lagotto have good conformation (structure) and breed type? The skeleton is the structure that ordains the shape and movement of the dog. Correct structure reduces the wear and tear on joints that can lead to discomfort and pain as well as enabling the dog to move freely and easily thus reducing energy expenditure. Breed type are the things that make a Lagotto a Lagotto rather than a Spanish or Portuguese Water dog. They include such things as size, head shape, and coat type and color among others. People who know what a Lagotto looks like should have absolutely no question that your dog is a Lagotto when they see it. Your breeder may ask you to send a video of your dog to help in this evaluation. Another option is to contact a local all-breed dog club to find some one to help you evaluate structure and movement. The LCA Breed Health and Education Committee may also be able to find a knowledgeable person to help you. You can contact them at HealthEducation@lagottous.com

Is your Lagotto apt to pass on health problems to puppies if you breed him/her? The LCA Code of Ethics requires that members have certain health tests performed prior to breeding in order to reduce the possibility of inherited health issues becoming widespread in the breed. Testing for hip dysplasia, BFJE (benign familial juvenile epilepsy) and hereditary eye problems are required. While testing cannot guarantee that puppies will be problem free, it goes a long way towards reducing the risk of these problems turning up in your puppies. The Code of Ethics also stipulates after what age a Lagotto may be bred. Three primary considerations in establishing a breeding age were at what age health testing is reliable, at what age is a bitch physically mature enough to carry a litter without undue stress and at what age is a bitch apt to be mentally and emotionally mature enough to successfully rear a litter. Click here to read the CODE: <http://lagottous.com/files/LagottoClubofAmericaCodeofEthics2007.pdf> <http://lagottous.com/files/Lagotto-ClubofAmericaCodeofEthics2007.pdf>

This is a very brief summary of the major steps one should take before deciding to breed. There are many other factors that need to be considered not the least of which is where and how you will raise the puppies, how you will find homes for them, if you and your family can cope emotionally with the loss of one or more puppies, or even your dog. You must also consider what your response will be if one of your puppy owners calls you months down the road with a serious problem with the puppy you sold to them. These topics will be addressed in future issues of the Bolletino.

SIGNS OF GREATNESS AWARD

If your dog has earned any of the following titles you are eligible to apply for this award:

- AKC titles in Rally, Obedience, Tracking or Agility
- AKC certification as a therapy dog
- AKC CGC
- A championship title in UKC, IABCA, ARBA, NAKC, FCI International or FCI foreign country
- Nosework level 1, 2 or 3

What do you get? A crate sign with your dog's full name and titles and either his call name or your name on a second line. Crate signs are a beautiful wood burl background with white lettering and are 2" x 8". If you have 3 or more titles/certifications from the list you are eligible for one of the signs with gold lettering.

Please contact Adrienne Perry @ cubrienne_rottweilers@hotmail.com to apply for your award (s). We hope to order the first batch during September.

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?

*Articles in this newsletter may be copyrighted and may need permission to be reproduced.
If you wish to use any of these articles, please contact the Lagotto Club of America.*

LCA Board Members for 2011

President:	Therese Williams
Vice President:	Adrienne Perry
Secretary:	Mel Sykes, TN.
Treasurer:	Celeste Parsons
Director:	Christine Minardi, FL.
Director:	Jamie Rosentahl
Director:	Ricki Grantmyre

LCA Website: www.lagottous.com

AKC: www.akc.org