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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, Nutrition, or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dogs name, age, and photo caption. Email your submissions to:

Bollettino@LagottoUS.com

Greetings from the Editors of the Bollettino. Fall is almost past and it looks like winter in many parts of the country. This issue of the Bollettino will be celebrating long life in our Lagotti. History shows the first recorded Lagotti came to the USA around 1997. Around 1999, Mel Sykes and Hilarie Gibbs Sykes entered the breed into the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) of the AKC, as well as started a YahooGroup where interested folks around the world could discuss the breed (in English). Most of us first learned of the breed via that discussion group, myself since 2004.

I have done a rewrite of the poem, "When I am old", with my apologies to the author Jenny Joseph. The photo illustration is my almost ten year old Lagotto, Adrina, the first Lagotto in the state of Arizona. This poem in its current form really describes her. Other stories are about a very long lived dog in Italy (who happens to be the sire of my boy Vando, a girl in Switzerland that worked at truffle hunting until a ripe old age, and a story about Primo (born Ponzio) who was one of the oldest living dogs in the US and has passed in the past year. We dedicate our "Celebrating Long Life" segment to his memory and to his owner.

Unofficial reports and minutes of our Annual Meeting are included, and another apology to my dog Vando, posing for an ad about Rescue. He always looks like he might want a new home at grooming time.

~~~~~

Judith Martin - Editor 

## ***President's Letter - Adrienne Perry***

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer with lots of water sports for their water dogs! The big news that we have to share with you all is that at the June 2014 AKC board meeting, our breed was advanced to full recognition beginning in one year! (July 2015). So every one that enjoys watching dog shows on television will soon be able to cheer for the Lagotto in the Sporting Group—Westminster 2016! So many club members were involved in this project over the last several years, from that first exciting time when we were asked to apply to be recognized as the AKC Parent Club, formatting the Italian Standard, presenting breed seminars and EVERY ONE of you who has participated in dog shows, obedience trials, tracking events and agility

*Continued next page*

## **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?***

***Note: be sure to read the new mandatory requirements on LSD testing to make sure you are in compliance with future breedings.***

trials or recorded therapy dog hours. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!! So what's next? A busy year of readying our materials for judge's education, presenting seminars hosting another Open Show—at Eukanuba this year!—and of course our ongoing efforts with Meet the Breed activities to give potential owners the treat of meeting the adorable little truffle dogs in person. Starting out with our dues reminder notices after the first of the years and continuing through our recent July “Campaigner” announcement about Lysosomal Storage Disease breeding requirements, it seems that some of you are not receiving email from the club. We will continue to look into the problem at our end, but in the meantime if you can take a look and make sure that neither the club email (anything that ends with lagottous.com) or notices from Campaigner are blocked that would be helpful. We are setting up both a new webpage and a new Club yahoogroups, and as those come online we will also use these as means to communicate important news to the membership as well. There has been a wonderful support from breeders and pet owners getting their dog's or dogs' DNA blood samples sent to Finland to be checked for LSD (Lysosomal Storage Disease). If you are sponsoring an event, like a raduno, and want to set up a group blood draw, drop me a line and I'll talk you through the process that we used at the Scottsdale shows in March. The biggest obstacle is the mailing itself---so fewer mailings with more samples in a box, is easier on everyone.

Please, please, please if you are going to breed make sure that you get your dog tested for this deadly disease AND hold off on breeding until after you know that at least one of the dogs to be bred is tested and confirmed CLEAR.

As always, future events need volunteers! If you are interested in helping out with the Open Show at Eukanuba (December in Orlando, FL) please let me or Show Chair Jacki Barbieri know. We're looking for members to help in a variety of tasks (some old, some new or expanding) so if you have an interest in membership, rescue, newsletter, or website design, please contact me. We can always use good writers and graphic designers to help with brochures and literature as well. With the club growing by leaps and bounds, it's clear to us that we can't continue on some of the same familiar timelines as we have in years past. Members will continue to receive notification of new member applicants via Campaigner. We are going to allow at least 30 days for the membership to make comments on new applicants. After that time has elapsed, the names (and any comments received) will be forwarded on to the board for membership approval at the next board meeting. So this won't be as fast as it has been in the past, but will be much more thorough and will give our members a better chance to respond. Finally, there will be an updated set of Club by-laws arriving at your house for each voting member soon. The bylaws are updated to reflect both AKC standards and our own changing needs. Please fill out your ballot and return as soon as possible. Have a great Lagotto filled Fall! 

## Celebrating Long Life



### When I am old

*When I am an old bitch, I shall wear a purple collar  
With a red leash which doesn't go and doesn't suit me,  
And I shall spend my pension on Italian wine and tennis balls  
And stuffed toys, and say we've no money for kibble  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and bark at the slightest noise  
And pee on the neighbor's shrubbery  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out and stare up at the rain  
And run in circles in the house to my life's content  
And learn to drool at the table.  
I will jump on the bed and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of chicken at a go*

*But, for now I shall still set a good example for the puppies.  
And continue to sit and stay on command.  
But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised,  
When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.* 🐶

### Primo (4/11/1999 - 5/5/2014) Anthony Galzarano

Below is part of a message recently sent by owner, Anthony Galzarano to Lagotto breeder, Lorenzo Ciacchi regarding Primo from kennel della Metaurense in Italy:

*Senor Ciacchi, In 1999, you sold a puppy named Ponzio to Barbara Paul . She brought him to the U.S. where he became the first Lagotto registered in this country. She trained him in agility where he won two titles. He also won "Best in Show" for rare breeds. Unfortunately, conflict developed between Primo and her two Portugese Water Dogs. Primo was taking a daily beating but (and I think because he was Italian) refused to relent. He had it in mind that he was the alpha dog and would not back down. She tried everything but could not change his mind. Although it obviously broke her heart, she gave him to me through the Lagotto Club of America. Sadly, after enjoying his company for five years, I had to have him put down in May. He was a remarkable dog.*

*I'm sorry. I forgot to mention that Barbara changed Ponzio's name to Primo because he was the first to be registered in the U.S. (Personally, I like Ponzio better.) He was intelligent, loyal, protective, loving...just a generally all around good companion. My best friend. I don't imagine getting another dog because none could measure up to Primo.. If I should, I will contact you first to get one of his line.*

**Primo**

*Continued next page*



14th Birthday party



He would only come out of his crate to scarf a bowl of food. Then he would scamper back into it, hiding at the very back. He had only been at my house for two or three days. It was late January 2009. Since 1999, Primo (aka Ponzio) had been living in southern Maryland by a river with Barbara Paul who had traveled to Italy to get him. She had trained him in agility where he won three meets. She also entered him in a dog show where he won Best of Show for rare breeds. He had been renamed “Primo” by Barbara because he was the first Lagotto Romagnolo to be registered (I don’t know with what organization) in the United States. I was a little intimidated to be getting such a special dog and a bit leery about taking in a dog that was almost ten years old. But there he was in my dining room.

Barbara had driven up to Philadelphia with him and a few hundred dollars worth of new toys, bowls, pillows, food, and the crate. I could see that it broke her heart to give him up but he was, as I myself have been called, a “hard headed wop”. Barbara had two Portuguese Water Dogs. Each of them outweighed Primo by about thirty pounds. Primo was undeterred by that fact, in his campaign to be alpha dog. He would bump them aside so he could eat first. He would mount them. Then, when they would force him onto his back in a submissive position, he would get right up and mount them again. They were pulling big tufts of hair from his back which was evident when I first saw him. Barbara trains dogs. In the vet notes she left with me, the vet had noted wounds from fights and that both she and Barbara had concluded that Primo needed a new home. And here he was, in my dining room.

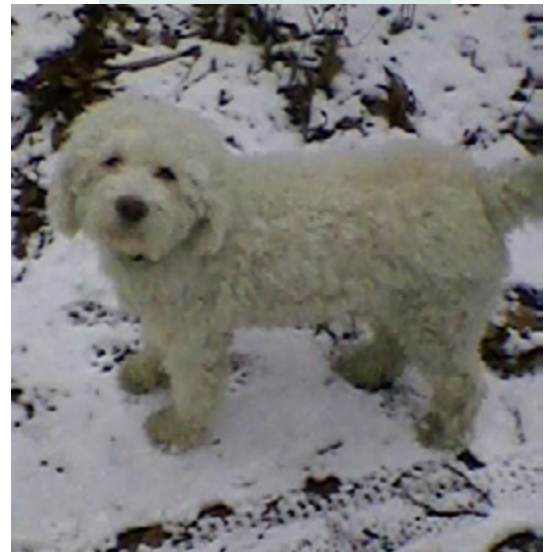
Little by little I was coaxing him out, trying to gain his trust, until one night it snowed. I put on his leash and the two of us went out into the woods behind my house. All of a sudden, we were both running through the swirling snowflakes, the leash straining between us. We were out for about an hour, sharing pure joy. By the time we got back, we were best buddies. He stayed by my side every chance he got.

Our morning ritual consisted of me trying to beat him from the bedroom to the living room. If I cheated and took off suddenly while he was looking the other way, I sometimes got there just before him. I would sit on the floor with my back against the couch and he would press against my side as I wrapped an arm around him and scratched his chest. Sometimes we would play tug of war, Primo shaking his head furiously while growling until he would yank it from my hand. Then, we would go out for our morning walk or I would let him out into our spacious yard while I prepared his breakfast.

Primo loved to eat. Barbara told me that he was easy to train because he would do anything for a biscuit. I enjoyed standing next to him while he ate, listening to the contented sounds he made as he scarfed his food. If you didn’t know you had just fed him, you would not be able to tell by looking at his bowl when he was done. It was sparkly clean.

Lagotto owners know the variety of barks they make. My favorite sound was Primo’s musical baying when he got very excited. Ringing the doorbell would often trigger it. He was always on patrol. Once he identified an area as his territory, whether it was our backyard or the path I walked him on every day, he would bark at any human or dog that had the temerity to set foot on it. If we were on neutral territory, he would ignore everyone.

We have a 4,000 acre wooded park behind our house that has a good sized creek, the Wissahickon, flowing through it. Primo and I spent some of the best hours of my life walking through it. Once he smelled the creek, I had to take him off his leash or get pulled down the hill that led from our house to it. Nobody believed that Primo was 10 or 11 or 12 years old, es-





pecially when he got near water. Passersby would stop to watch him swim. His ability and his pleasure were so obvious that just about everyone who saw him would smile.

There was a bittersweet feeling that mingled with the joy of the bond I shared with this remarkable creature because of his age. Although he did not at all show it, I knew the clock was ticking. I figured if he could make it to fifteen... well....that was all I could ask.

By the time he reached 14 years old, Primo was definitely showing his age. He settled into his walk around the block. If you tried to get him to go farther...well...you might as well go for a walk with a ball and chain. As always, Primo was both the immovable object AND the irresistible force.

Then, on the morning of Saturday, May 3rd I found a message on my answering machine. I had brought Primo to the vet that Thursday because he was limping and seemed to be drinking a lot of water. The vet pulled a lot of debris out of those deep paws and did a blood test. Primo seemed energized and his usual plucky self. On Friday, the vet called me and said that Primo's kidneys were failing.

Primo was spending the weekend at a friend's house. She called early Sunday morning and said that Primo had had a very hard night and that he was shivering and was unable to get up. I rushed over there. We took turns sitting with him throughout the day. I considered bringing him to one of the excellent veterinary hospitals in the city, but decided against it. Maybe we could buy him a couple of days or weeks or even months, but he was just tired and worn out and very old. He needed our love and comfort, not tubes and shots and separation. On Sunday, I spent much of the day with Primo. In the evening, I wrapped Primo in the blanket he had been lying on, listless and limp. I spent the night on the floor with him, carrying him outside to do his business, holding him up.

May 5, 2014 was one of the saddest days of my life. After spending the night on the floor with my best friend Primo, I got up at 6 am, wrapped him in his blanket and carried him in to see Dr. Walls, his veterinarian, knowing I was going to walk out without him. A week later, I went back to retrieve Primo's ashes. They are under the bed, on my side, in a carved wooden box. I have made explicit instructions that when my time comes, the box is to be put into my casket and buried with me.

My son says he hates dog stories because the dog always dies at the end. For the most part, that's true. They don't live nearly long enough. But while they are here...what fun...what joy! When I first inquired about adopting Primo, Judith Martin said to me: "You haven't been loved until you have been loved by a Lagotto." Ain't it the truth! 🐶

”

### OLD DOG FACTOIDS

The oldest dog recorded by the Guinness Book of Records was an Australian cattle dog named Bluey. Bluey belonged to Les Hall, a cattle rancher in Victoria, Australia. Bluey was born in 1910 and died in 1939 at the age of 29 years, 5 months. He worked the ranch livestock for 20 years before he retired. Fourteen dogs over the age of 5 have won Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The oldest dog to win the prestigious title was a Sussex spaniel named Stump. Stump was crowned BIS in 2009 at the ripe "old" age of 10! How old is old? Healthy canines in general have a life expectancy of 10-12 years. Large breed dogs are considered "senior" at about 6-7 years of age. Smaller breeds become "senior" at a later age, usually in their early teens. The Ratshi terrier as a breed has perhaps the longest life expectancy among canines- listed at 20 years



# Meta della Metaurense

Judith Rabin-Schutzman

## Meta

At the age of four, Meta saved my life, and saw my husband Harold's life to its end. At 10 years old she is still going strong, facilitating healing in post surgical/stroke patients and comforting the terminally ill and just... well ...being 'Meta'.... my mushy, intuitive, sweet girl, who has a gift for knowing just what is needed of her. Born on Lorenzo Ciacci's truffle farm in Italy, Meta, along with her handsome stud boyfriend, Luigi, were brought to Connecticut by Bob Zimmel, one of LRCA's founding members. Meta was to live with Bob's Mother-in-law, Esther, as a pet and be mated with Luigi. In her early years she earned an ARBA championship, ate a lot, excelled with her trainer, went everywhere with Esther, had 13 puppies! (not all at once) and spent the last days of Ester's life in bed, by her side. Meta was clearly born with the gift of life and love that was meant to be shared. What next? While Meta was living and loving in CT, my husband and I were in the 15th year of his battle with constantly relapsing Non-Hodgkins lymphoma. We were looking for a puppy after losing our PWD to hemangiosarcoma. After a series of amazing fateful coincidences, we went to CT to see Meta's litter. More fate.....and Meta came to live with us a month later! Meta was just 3 at the time and it was September of 2007. Just two weeks after that, my husband nearly slipped in to a coma. We both took leaves from work and Meta NEVER left our sides. She just knew what to do



from day one. A year later she felt my husband's last breath and for the days, the months, close to a year more, she was my strongest connection to life. After a while I started to realize how tuned in she was to my trauma. She was my barometer. As she reacted to the slightest change in my breathing, I was able to counteract and my healing began. This is a gift that has to be shared...and so today we do just that! Meta, at 10 years old, is the love of her very large extended family, especially my fiancée, my two granddaughters and the neighborhood! Meta became a registered Therapy dog with TD, Inc, in 2008 and has since earned her AKC Therapy Dog title, Canine Good Citizen, and Community Canine titles. In 2009 we started her therapy work slowly, making

*Continued next page*

<https://photos-1.dropbox.com/t/1/>



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visits by referral to sick, or grieving octogenarians. Three years ago we started our work together at North Shore/LIJ University Hospital here on Long Island where Meta is the “Thursday” dog. There we arrive and go straight to see Shalini Madathil, in the patient relations department, who escorts us through the hospital and knows who needs to see Meta that day. With Meta’s signature wiggle and a continuous wag, we are on our way through the halls where doctors, nurses and staff stop us saying “I need some therapy too!” Her sweetness is evident and she is adored! The one thing that we hear over and over again about Meta “she just knows!” She knows to walk the halls responding only when spoken to, to walk to the back of the elevator and sit, she knows just who in the patient’s room is the neediest, where to step on the bed, that the patient’s food is not hers; whether to snuggle up or stay at arms length..and even when it is time to go... Nobody has to tell her these things...somehow, as if Meta were reading the patient’s chart, or consulting with the caregivers, Meta just has a sixth sense and this intuition is amazing! Meta can change the mood in a room in seconds. It’s as if her “sweet spot” connects right to the core of the patient or their family members. What happens during that connection is sometimes intangible and mostly it is overwhelmingly clear that that there is a “therapeutic Meta something” going on. Our experiences are varied and numerous. The ones that cut straight to my heart, where Meta made the biggest difference, are the triumphant story of a 24 year old stroke victim (see Emily’s note below) and the countless times in the Palliative Care/Hospice Unit where the mood was somber and Meta was able to effect a response, a ray of hope, fleeting we know, and like a rainbow. They say you have to go through the storm to have the rainbow, the pain and then the joy.... Frankly, I can do without the storm and the pain!! Since it clearly was the way it was though, I am so very grateful to have Meta through it all. I take pleasure and pride in sharing her with others. You’ll be happy u “Meta!”

***Below is Emily’s story:***

*Suddenly on New Year’s Day this year I suffered a massive left hemispheric stroke. I was brought to North Shore University Hospital and within five days I had life-saving brain surgery. My mom had arranged with the social workers and the nurse coordinator to relax the rules in the neurosurgery intensive care unit so that Meta the pet therapy dog could visit. Although I was not fully conscious I do remember Meta visiting. It must have reminded me of how my dogs snuggle with me at home. My mom helped me pet Meta and I responded. Within hours of the visit I said my first word in two weeks! Although I don’t remember much from the first two weeks after the stroke I do remember Meta visiting. My mom and I laugh about how she never left the hospital but I can’t remember her being there, but I do remember Meta’s visit. I luckily had a remarkable recovery including weeks in a rehab facility and another brain surgery in February to replace the piece of skull that had been removed. And I had many visits with pet therapy dogs throughout my rehabilitation. But the most precious visit was in March when Meta and I reunited. I had to return to NSUH for a 48 hour EEG. I was within minutes of discharge and in walked Judith and Meta. What a surprise for all of us! Judith was thrilled to see my progress and I was grateful to be able to thank Meta for her service! I truly believe that Meta is a special dog and aided in my recovery. Emily D.*

*From Emily’s mother,*

*Not sure where to begin to thank you for the work you do with Meta. I imagine that most often you aren’t afforded the opportunity to learn of patient’s recovery after their hospital discharge. What a welcome distraction Meta and the other therapy dogs provided during a most stressful time. When I first encountered Meta I was beyond distraught. Visiting with and petting Meta provided a brief respite from the anxiety and fear I was experiencing. Utilizing the pet therapy program has inspired me to explore becoming a volunteer. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Marianne D*





# Aysha

Denise Stalder (Switzerland)



Aysha was from the first litter of Lagotto Romagnolo here in Switzerland, her exact name is Aysha vom Richcastle, and her breeder's name is Hansruedi Lindner (died in January) and her birthday was the 24th of December, 1995

I brought her home with me on March 10. She was the only dark brown lagotto female in this litter and her breeder didn't want to give her up at first, but fortunately for me, he changed his mind!

Her deep brown colour stayed until the end of her life on July 28, 2011

I think she was also the first Lagotto with an Agility title in the world. She was so adorable in everything she did, always with all her energy. We did not do a lot of Dog Shows, because I am not very good at grooming. But at the Club Show celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Lagotto Club Switzerland, she was the Veteran winner at the age of 10. At the age of 14 years she won the Veteran Show in Bagnara Italy!

She was a fantastic truffle hunter even though she found her first truffle at the age of nearly 8 years. I am a dog trainer, and didn't know anything about truffles, but we started training with her and one day she found a wild truffle in the forest. From then on she was an excellent truffle dog; she even twice won the veteran competition in Italy (Brisighella); and one time second place.

In Switzerland at the first Competition, the judge, Mario Morara from Italy, was so excited about how she worked. She won the veteran competition and I think she would have won the whole competition, if veteran dogs were able to win (ha ha).... but she found 3 truffles and one wild under a big root... she never gave up in searching... I have a film about how excited Mario was about her at that age.

She was in such a good condition that we competed in a fun Agility Match when she was 14 years old. She made a 0 mistakes jumping, Hier klicken! I was so proud of her and her good condition until the end. In the end I think her life was over when she couldn't walk, and it was 4 days that she was like that until we had to let her go. Five days before she died she had eaten truffles and enjoyed a nice bath. She was always a happy girl and she was the reason for many Swiss people wanting to buy a Lagotto after seeing her.

For me my whole life changed because of her, Hier klicken! I am now a professional dog trainer with my own dog school and I give workshops for the education of dogs in truffle hunting... all breeds. So this dog was the reason for what I am doing now and I am so thankful that she was with me such a long time... I love her really soooooo much, Hier klicken!

Regards, Denise [www.lagotto.li](http://www.lagotto.li) 



## Luca (Little Dog)

Kate Helm

Luca, who is currently 15, comes from the Delle Farnie line of dogs, from breeder Bernabei Luciano. When she first arrived her name was Daisy Delle Farnie (this name seems to run frequently through their litters.) and I believe her father was Tao, and mother was Ledi. She now goes by Luca, and also by the affectionate nickname of Little Dog. Luca left Italy still just small enough to fit underneath the airplane seat and not having to go through the trauma of shipping. She grew up in New York City, an urban pup through and through, outgoing and loving of anyone, yours for cuddles or belly rubs at a mere glance. Also mischievous like only an overly smart dog can be, and always checking the gutters for tasty disgusting treats. Even as a New Yorker though, Luca had opportunities to get out of the city- she spent much time with her Yellow Lab friend Daisy up in Connecticut, and had opportunities to swim and run and learn to hike off leash with excellent recall and checking in. We now live in Portland, Oregon, a much better place to be a dog. We go hiking regularly, or to the coast where she can run on the beach. There is also a park right near our house with a very swimmable river, so she gets tons of fun and exercise. She also gets to put on her safety orange (there are deer hunters out there) and come with us as we hunt for mushrooms. Mushroom hunting makes perfect sense to this dog and she runs between our pack of people thinking “finally, you are all sniffing the ground and poking around in the dirt like you should!”

The Little Dog's health has been fairly stable overall. Her first major veterinary event was as a tiny puppy, she was run over by a large dog in the dog park and broke her leg- but she was little and resilient and only now as she ages is that old injury slightly apparent when her leg shakes a little as she stands on it after a really long hike. Her joints are good (I'm sure a lifetime of swimming helps that!) And while her eyes are beginning to show some age related cloudiness, I think her vision is not nearly as important to her as her nose anyhow. What with her long bangs and her nose to the ground tracking, she barely uses her eyes! At the age of 9 Luca had a tiny cancer deep in her front chest. They removed it, and there have been no recurrences. At the age of about 10 or 11 she began to lose some hair around her eyes and nose, and gained significant weight and became slightly lethargic (though lethargy in such an active girl is not very pronounced) She was diagnosed with thyroid deficiency (also very common in older dogs), and now takes regular pills, which have completely returned her energy and stopped the symptoms. She still has all but one of her teeth, and she certainly has all of her appetite! So the vet has inducted us into the AARP of dogs, sending me occasional missives in their newsletter for aging pups. But each time we go for her check ups he exclaims over again just how youthful the old lady is. Certainly people on the street are much more likely to think she is a puppy than an elder statespup. So she's got a bit more bianco in her maronne bianco fur, but all the character and cuddles of being herself and still going strong. 🐾



*Luca as a baby when we first got her*



*Luca (Little Dog) in her orange work vest, taken this fall.*

## Early Lagotti in the US

**From Ellen Mahar:** Betsy and Quenton LaHam were the first, although there was supposedly a rescue Lagotto in about 1987 or so, well before the breed was formally recognized by FCI. The story is that an airline stewardess brought him to the US but soon discovered that she didn't have adequate time or home for him. I don't have photos and can't recall now if that lagotto was male or female, although was neutered, so no breeding experiences there. Died at about 15 or 16 years old. Photo is of my boy Carlo, born January 1, 2000. He is an ARBA champion and is pointed with IABCA. I picked him up from Lorenzo Ciacci in Bologna after conferring with a Coton breeder with experience.



**From Mel Sykes:** From what I know, and what is fairly well documented, the first person to bring a Lagotto into the United States was Betsey Laham. She, along with her husband, were AKC judges. Some years ago I read that she saw the Lagotto at the World Show (1997?) and fell in love with the breed. She imported Truffie from Italy shortly after that show.

In 1999 at an IABCA (International All Breed Canine Association) Show, Truffie won Best in Show. In a sad turn of events however, Betsey and her husband died in an auto accident in the year 2000 in Florida. Truffie was then given to Gail Sherman. She and Betsey were good friends. When Gail became ill with cancer, she wanted Truffie to have a good home. At the age of eight, Truffie was then given to Margaret O'Donnell-Imle and her husband Robert, another friend of the original owner, Betsey Laham. They resided in Spokane, WA. Last year, Truffie died of kidney failure. She is a special dog to all of us, and her legacy in the United States will be forever remembered.

Along about the same time, there were a couple others that became interested in the Lagotto. One is our very own Martha Schneider and her Gang. I was the other. My wife Hilarie and I have been breeders of Cavalier King Charles for many years. I began to look for a larger; more sporting breed in the late 1990's and just happened upon some information about the Lagotto on the Internet. After doing a bit of research and deciding that this breed was worth a serious look, we imported our first female Lagotto from Italy, Olympia. She was not quite what we were hoping for in that she had been a kennel dog, and was quite shy. We sent her to a friend in Michigan, and then began to seriously pursue the qualities we really wanted. After some other research and attempts at getting the "right" Lagotto, we purchased a male and female, but had still not begun a breeding program. We finally acquired a female from the Del Farnie Kennel in Italy. A lovely girl named Dina was bred to Lux, and in October of 1999, the first litter in the United States was whelped. Dina was the proud Momma of 7 puppies. She later received the R.O.M. (reproducer of merit award), and the del Tiglio Kennel was born. It should also be mentioned that in the late 1990's, I began the Lagotto Rogmagnolo Group on the Yahoo site.



**From Judith Martin:** Prior to being imported to the US, Mel and Hilarie's bitch, Dina, had litters in Italy. One of those puppies went on to win championships in many countries including World Championship in 1998; VID delle Farnie. VID stands for Very Important Dog. VID is special to me as he is the sire of my boy, Vando. I met VID in 2007 when we went to pick up his son, Vando. VID enjoyed a nice long life, sired 14 litters, natural breedings until age 11. VID was born January 30, 1996 and died December 5, 2012 at his home in Italy, almost reaching 17 years. Photo is of VID at 12 years. 🐾



# What Happens As Dogs Age?

## WHAT HAPPENS AS DOGS AGE?

Like people, as dogs age their bodies change. Certain normal physical characteristics may be expected such as

- Slowing down-subtle at first, owners notice changes in getting up or laying down, some hesitation, stiffness
- Arthritis-most common ailment as dogs age
- Graying around face and muzzle
- Reduced hearing-dogs may be harder to wake up, and startle easily
- Cloudy, bluish eyes-a condition known as lenticular sclerosis is common in senior dogs. The eyesight is not affected by the condition
- Cataracts-may develop which can affect eyesight
- Muscle atrophy-mild loss of muscle mass, especially in the hind legs
- Dental problems-gum disease, tooth decay



## SUPER SENIOR CARE

A dog may begin to slow down at a certain age but that does not mean his/her contribution to the family dynamic changes. The heart is just as full of love and loyalty. With a little extra care a senior dog will live a happy, contented life well in to retirement. A few tips for a long, health life include 1. Regular veterinarian care including body evaluations 2. Quality diet with consideration to age and health needs 3. Maintain optimal weight (many older dogs suffer from obesity and related illnesses) 4. Age appropriate exercise program 5. Good dental care 6. Mental stimulation (toys, games) 7. Special accommodations such as: Orthopedic beds, Elevated food and water bowls, Ramps and steps, Rugs over slick surfaces such as wood and tile floors, Lots and lots of TLC, attention and affection! 🐾



## Volunteers Needed!



***The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America is presently working to develop our non-profit rescue organization. We are in need of many types of skills to provide our beloved Lagottos the care that they deserve .***

Do you have experience in: non-profit organization, marketing and fundraising, secretarial, accounting, veterinarian/tech, legal, research, rescue and rehoming? Or are you willing to help us reach any Lagotto that is in need of help?

We need volunteers from all regions across the country. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please go to our website and click on the "Contact Us" tab at <http://www.LagottoUS.com>, or email Theresa Nehemiah at: [DirectorTN@lagottous.com](mailto:DirectorTN@lagottous.com)


## ***Meet the Breed***

### *Connecticut and Washington*

#### **Meet the Breed - Alvina Schuett Estes**

Meet the A.K.C. Breeds at the Pet Expo yesterday, October 27 (Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT) was well attended. A big thank you to our Lagotto Romagnolo ambassadors and their Lagotti. Ann Sweeting-Cipolla and "Gio" (2 years), Gail Cohen Keyes and "Luka" (1 year), JoAnn & Steve Weitman and "Lia" (10 months). Your participation at the event helped to educate visitors about the Lagotto Romagnolo breed history and if interested in this breed to contact LCA with inquiries regarding responsible breeders. Our Lagotto pups were well behaved and social as ever. It was nice to have a variety of ages. We all walked in the ring as they announced the Lagotto Romagnolo breed. It was a fun day had by all! Alvina & Geoffray Estes and "Camillo" (3 1/2 years)

#### **Fiesta Italiana - Dawn Meiklejohn**

This was the 27th Annual Fiesta Italiana at the Seattle Center in Washington. It is an Italian culture festival held for two days, the last weekend in September, free admission. They have many Italian musicians performing, Italian cooking demonstrations, wine tasting, a grape stomp, bocce tournament, pizza toss, kids' activities, many Italian food vendors, Italian Car Show, and an Italian Dog Show. The Cirneci dell'Etna, Italian Greyhounds, Cane Corso, and Spinoni Italiani were all there (we were just lucky to be assigned the spot underneath the sign). In the photo are Paul Meiklejohn with Lidia, Mark Oliveto with Jake, and Cindy Oliveto with Fia. During the weekend the booth was also manned by the Turella family with Kate and Dino, the Wilsons with Guido, and the McGrews with Enzo. 



## ***Awards, Honors and Recognition***

### *Out and About with our Lagotti*

Here is Apollo enjoying the North American Diving Dogs / AKC dock diving program this summer. The events provided a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment to enjoy spending time with your dog. For any Lagotto with ball drive and who enjoys the water, I think this is a great activity! He worked his way up from novice to a NADD/AKC Dock Junior title.

UKC GRCH IABCA Nat/Int'l CH Il Granaio dei Malatesta Ivano CM DJ CGC

Photos by Melissa Sheehan.

Breeder: Monica Benelli

Owners: **Rebecca & Reese McKnight**

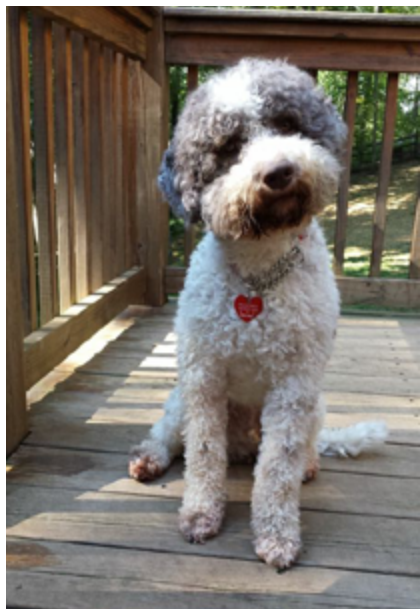


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**From Darlene Colmar:**

Here's our 2014 update on my three Lagotto! I have been focusing on one at a time, and have Izze through 5 of the 10 legs for her RAE, though won't be competing her again until spring. It might look like she didn't accomplish much, but that's a tough title requiring a qualifying score in both Rally Excellent and Rally Advanced at the same trial 10 times! Most titles are only 3 qualifying scores. Vito is working on Rally Excellent, Obedience Beginner Novice and Obedience Novice.



*Faustino Vittorio Del Tiglio (Vito)*  
Rally Advanced (RA)  
Therapy Dog Registration - TDInc.



*Ragazza Dolce Isabella (Izze)*  
Community Canine (CGCA)



Faustino Vittorio Secondo (Fausto)-  
Canine Good Citizen (CGC)  
Therapy Dog Registration- TDInc.

**Website: Changes in Breeder Listings**  
*Therese Williams, Health Education Chair*

Over the course of the past year, the LRCA board has been discussing making some changes to the listing of breeders on the LRCA website. These discussions have been somewhat a result of changes to health testing and the new test for Lysosomal Storage Disease (LSD) as well as inquiries received from individuals seeking information about the Lagotto Romagnolo. With many other changes and the impending full recognition into AKC, the discussions had stalled and are now in the final phases of becoming fruition. The Board had voted, once the LSD test was considered a valid test, that requiring at least one dog in a breeding pair be tested clear for LSD, and this would be included in the health requirements and recommendations for breeders listed on the LRCA website. This is much the same as is currently the requirement for Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy (BFJE). To add a bit more teeth to the new requirement, there will be a new application process for any club member breeder desiring to be listed on the website. Why you ask? One of the most common questions that are received by the LRCA is where to find a Lagotto and what breeder to recommend. The static answer has always

*Continued next page*

**AKC Titles Awarded Oct. 2013-Oct.2014 to LRCA Member-owned dogs**

*First dog in breed to be awarded title \**

**Canine Good Citizen (CGC)** Della Luna's Juno at Yorkridge CGC (Roberta and Alex York) Dig'N Cavaleri Sippin' Whiskey CHC (Lee Knight) Faustino Vittorio Del Tiglio CGC (Darlene Colmar) Nicoli Con Amore Da Giada CGC (Erca and William Grantmyre) Per Fortuna's Zeta Del Tiglio RN CGC (Mary Lynch) LK Benedetto CGC (Jean Davis-Barger)

**Canine Good Citizen Advanced (CGCA)** Metta Della Merautense THD CGCA (Bob Zimmel) \*Ragazza Dolce Isabella CD BN RE THD CGCA (Darlene Colmar)

**Therapy Dog (THD)** Metta Della Merautense THD CGCA (Bob Zimmel) Ragazza Dolce Isabella CD BN RE THD CGCA (Darlene Colmar)

**Agility \*AXJ, \*MXJ, \*OA** Excellent Agility Jumper and Master Agility Jumper and Open Agility \*Bella II OA MXJ (Sonia Jay)


*Continued next page*

been that while no breeder on our website is endorsed over any other, those that are listed have agreed to abide by the Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and Constitution of the club. We do maintain a disclaimer of the same sentiment on the website, but it appears no one actually reads it, or they still feel that we should be making recommendations. It is not appropriate for the club to make endorsements of breeders.

So what are we now asking breeders to do? It is very simple. To be listed as a breeder, if you have one dog, two dogs, or more that you plan on using that year in a breeding program, and want your breeder listing on the website, you will fill out a new application and submit along with photocopies, all required and completed health tests on the dogs you will use that year. You will send these directly to the Health Education Committee Chair. As breeder listings are only good for a year anyway, a renewal form will be required each year and any new test results for breeding dogs. New tests would be an OFA Eye exam, which is done annually and any hip preliminary tests changing to permanent. If a dog is retired or otherwise no longer breeding, then you can send that data as well and those records will be removed from your file. Any foreign breeder will have to send tests considered to be the equivalent of those in the US. Once you send in your test results, they will be scanned in a PDF file and maintained in yearly breeder database under your name. They will not be posted to the website and no information will be released without owner permission. A disclaimer will still be listed on the website that we do not recommend any particular breeder but that they have met the requirements for website listing. Breeder listings will also increase in cost from \$15.00 per year to \$50.00 per year. Along with the application, breeders will have a listing of where to get tests, what they mean, as well as other breeder links and resources. This is a process that is meant to help reputable breeders and club members. In checking with several other clubs, this is not an unusual process, and some have much more stringent requirements as they work diligently to protect the breed, as well as the reputations of breeders and the breed club. As the Lagotto Romagnolo is developing more popularity and recognition with the move into full AKC status, and knowing that there are other breeders out there not tied to the club and may or may not follow good health and testing standards, this is just one thing we can do to help maintain the integrity of our breed.

If you have further questions, please direct them to the “contact us” section of the club website:

<http://www.lagottous.com/index.php/contact-us-mainmenu-3>.

More information will be coming soon and all upcoming changes should be in place by January 2015. 

**Agility \*OAJP and \*AOP** Open Agility Jumper Preferred and Open Agility Preferred \*Diamante Luminoso VCD1 CDX RAE OAP (Arlene Diamante)  
**Obedience Companion Dog Title (CD)** Per Fortuna's Zeta Del Tiglio RA CD CGC (Mary Lynch)  
**Rally: Rally Novice (RN)** Larcan's Bringer of Light (Lisa and Robert Sobon) Rally Advanced (RA) Faustino Vittorio Del Tiglio CGC (Darlene Colmar) Per Fortuna's Zeta Del Tiglio RN CGC (Mary Lynch)  
**Rally Excellent (RE)** Oohlala's Gucci Guilty RE (Robin Morehouse)  
**Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)** \*Diamante Luminoso VCD1 CDX RAE OAP (Arlene Diamante)  
**Tracking Dog (TD)** Fly Girl RD (Leslie Arner and Jacki Barbieri)  
**Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)** \*Larcan Reggio A Finisterra TDX (Leslie Arner)  
**Certificate of Merit** Comes cordis Orcia CM (Sandy Mignogna) Dign Beautiful Dirty Rich CM (Robin Morehouse) Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Adriano CM (Carolyn and James Talbert) Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Ivano CM CGC (Rebecca and Reese McKnight) LK Kara Bella CM (Bill Wilson) Cuore nel Cielo Aurora CM (Rebecca and Reese McKnight) Two by Two Steal the Spotlight CM (Nikki Woller) Della Luna's Allegro Con Brio CM (Adrienne Perry, Jane Lash and Mary Heacox)  
**Certificate of Merit 2** Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Augusto CM2 (Bridget Flynn) \*Pannetone Di Terra Incognita CM5 (Lisa Sobon and Jacki Barbieri)  
**Certificate of Merit 3, 4, 5** \*Pannetone Di Terra Incognita CM5 (Lisa Sobon and Jacki Barbieri)

Congratulations everyone! Out of the 41 titles earned during this time period, 36 of them were earned by LRCA club members with their dogs!

And this year we have the first dog invited to participate in the Eukanuba Agility Invitational Competition: Special congratulations to Sonia Jay and her dog Bella !!!!!!!



# ***LRCA Annual Meeting***

*Leslie Arner, Secretary*

## **Unofficial document LRCA Annual Membership Meeting- 2014 Unofficial Notes of meeting The sixth annual membership meeting of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America was held via teleconference on Sunday October 18, 2014.**

**ROLL CALL** Present- President Adrienne Perry, Vice President Melanie Steele, Treasurer Kathleen Correll, Secretary Leslie Arner, Directors Jacki Barbieri, Sandy Mignogna, Lisa Sobon, Incoming Directors Andrea Szigeti, Theresa Nehemiah. Members Jan Cole, Michelle Cross, Cathy Dronen, Kerin Jacob-Schwartz, Cubby Lash, Mary Lynch, Judith Martin, Mike Mignogna, Jane & Vincent Purpura, Faith Robb, Robert Sobon, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, Mel Sykes, Carolyn & James Talbert, Liz Williams, Therese Williams, Paula & James Wilson, Roberta & Alex York. International member Roz Rickard.

**CALL TO ORDER** by President Adrienne Perry at 7:40 PM eastern time

**MINUTES** of the last board meeting- Motion to approve with revision by Michelle Cross. Approved unanimous. The minutes will be posted on the club website under "member's only" section.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Adrienne Perry** This has been a busy year for the club! Some of our highlights include: Holding our first Open Show (Scottsdale 3/2014), Doubling our # of AKC titleholders to date, Updating the club's name to the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America to be inline with AKC requirements, Which in turn required one of the biggest membership mailings to date!, Publishing a series of articles about the breed in the magazine Show Sight, Becoming an AKC sanctioned club (as well as being the Parent Club), AND achieving one of the founding members' dreams: FULL AKC RECOGNITION! I'd like to read some of the comments that were submitted about the club to the AKC board back in May when our application for full recognition was first read for consideration: Membership and Registration stats: Required 100 members in 20 states with good geographic distribution: "They have 296 households residing in 41 states! Total dogs in FSS when we entered Miscellaneous Class on 1/1/13: 400, total recorded to date (3/1/14): 625 Total litters since entering the Miscellaneous Class: 34!

So what's next? Licensed Status: Club is working toward moving from Sanctioned status to licensed status so that we can hold our own national specialty shows and events. One of the requirements to do this is to hold a second Open Show. Our second Open show is being held during the Eukanuba week in Florida this December. We are also at work on retooling various committees to make them work better and more efficiently. One example is the newly minted Membership "committee". Often this has been the work of just one person. The committee will now have the time to work with new members on volunteer assignments and questions as well as having the time to research more fully any comments from the membership during the comment period (30 days after application)

I'm working with Alvina Estes on our Meet the Breed events and needs. Currently we are purchasing materials to be dispersed to different parts of the country to use for these events. Items will include: club aprons for people working at the MTB tables, Italian flags, "Menus" that contain drop in sheets of breed information. Also included will be club brochures and business cards for handouts. The website update is one of the biggest projects that is in the works. The Board has made a decision to have the website redesigned professionally and we are in the process of looking for just the right person to take over this task.

The website will continue to be managed by our own website committee whose experience is so greatly appreciated and whose insight will be welcomed (and sought!) during the re-tooling process! If you are a website designer and interested in this project, we welcome you to submit your information to us. We would like to have the process begun as soon as possible. None of these projects or goals would have been achieved without the hard work of many club members and board members who have come before us. As we move forward into another busy and event filled year I invite us to give a "cyber standing ovation" to our outgoing board members Jacki Barbieri, Melanie Steele and past president Therese Williams. We would also like to thank former committee chairpersons: Mel Sykes, Hilarie Gibbs Sykes, and Christine Gornick. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done to bring us to this point in our history!

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY (Interim) Leslie Arner-** I came onboard as secretary in July. I have spent the last 3 months learning how the club works and learning about what the AKC needs from the club to keep it moving forward towards their licensed status. My primary routine responsibilities are recording club business, preparing reports for the AKC and interacting with the membership committee to process new membership applications. For the remainder of this year my big project will be mailing out the ballot to the membership for LRCA bylaws changes. The committee is putting the finishing touches on those revisions now and I expect to get them mailed out in the next several weeks. I believe the membership will be pleased with the proposed changes, as they will help the club comply with AKC guidelines as well as improve processes for the long term health of the club. Keep a look out for the mailing from the LRCA, and please vote! Finally, I would like to thank those who have made my transition into the position so much easier- Mel Sykes for hours of phone conversations and transferring of club documents- a big thank you! Thanks also to the board and committee members who have answered my endless questions and have responded to my constant nagging for reports and votes. Thank you all.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Kathleen Correll-** entire report is on file Treasurer's Report Summary - As of August 31, 2014 There are two outstanding checks from the blood draw refunds that have not cleared and the members need to be contacted (Faith Robb and Jackie Barbieri). Unofficial document Balances as of 8/31/14 are: PayPal \$3,952.00 Checking \$8,769.60 Savings \$20,972.63 for a total of \$33,694.23

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

*Continued next page*

**AWARDS COMMITTEE** - Chair Adrienne Perry read the list of LRCA member's dogs earning AKC Titles Awarded October 2013-October 2014. Congratulations everyone! (See pages 13 - 14 for list)

**BOLLETTINO COMMITTEE** - The Bollettino is back on schedule of 4 publications a year. We have updated the look to compliment our new club name and logo. We will continue to include news from the Board of Directors, upcoming and past events, and recognition of our dogs' awards, health, training, and any item of interest to our membership. We like to highlight new Lagotto members to our families with photos. We will be highlighting our senior dogs and their lives, in our Fall issue, which will be published after the annual meeting. We welcome stories, photos and contributions from any of our club members. The Bollettino Committee consists of Toni Kay-Wolff, Alana McGee, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, Mel Sykes, Cat Dronen. Committee members Kerin Jacob-Schwartz and Robin Simi are inactive at this time due to family constraints. Submitted by Judith Martin, Chair

**BREED STANDARD COMMITTEE** - Since completing our initial work on the AKC Standard, the committee has been "on holiday." We are gearing up to join forces with Judge's Education on materials and an Illustrated Standard in the next year. Because the Standard cannot be changed often we take under advisement all comments made by judges and fellow exhibitors. Among those comments are multiple requests to make the Lagotto a breed that can use the "ramp" (not the table), as well as comments about making an incorrectly presented coat a disqualification. As we move toward AKC full recognition in July 2015, we will consider these and all other comments on the standard. Please feel free to forward comments to [president@lagottous.com](mailto:president@lagottous.com). Submitted by Adrienne Perry, Chair

**HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** - In February, Dr Lohi's Canine Genetics Research Group announced discovery of the mutation responsible for Storage Disease in the Lagotto. Those submitting samples through the end of September 2014 could do so at no charge (except shipping). The test is still offered for a fee through the University of Bern in Switzerland, and it is expected that in January 2015, Genoscooper will begin to offer the test commercially. Dr Lohi and his team are continuing their efforts to find a genetic marker for cerebella abiotrophy. In January 12th meeting, the Board voted to disallow the breeding of dogs carrying two copies (affected) of the BFJE gene until more data can be learned. The Health Education Committee will continue to monitor findings and present any data to the Board that would allow any change of this breeding rule. The Board approved the Committee's recommendation for a blood draw clinic for Storage Disease testing to be held in conjunction with the Arizona open show in March. At the July 13th Board meeting, the Board voted to "require that at least one parent in any breeding as of the July 13th date forward, be tested clear for Lysosomal Storage Disease. Failure to comply with these testing requirements will be considered a violation of the Code of Ethics of the Club." Notice was sent to the membership on July 14 and a revised health recommendation will be published to the website. After the July resignation of Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, the Board voted in September to split Health and Education Committee into separate committees; Breed Education and Health Education. Sandy Mignogna will chair Breed Education and Therese Williams will chair Health Education. Judges Education, while separate, will interface with both these committees on an as needed basis. Submitted by Therese Williams, Chair (taken from the report submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes)

(Therese explained new requirements for participating on the Breeders List. The changes will be posted to the web site soon, along with the new application form. Mel Sykes asked if one dog had to have health tests completed to be given (yes) Faith Robb asked if all personal contact information would be made available to the public on the web site (No, if you don't want all your contact information posted let us know). Paula Wilson asked who to send the information to (Therese Williams- packet with all information will be posted on web site) Mary Lynch asked if all dogs in a breeding program need to be tested (yes) Roz Rickard asked why Improper Coat test is not required? (It is not a health issue, but it is a recommended test) Hilarie Gibbs Sykes asked for clarification on requirement of one dog tested to participate on Breeders list. Discussion followed. Clarification will come soon with printed guidelines for application process and qualifications necessary.)

**HISTORY COMMITTEE**- No report submitted

**JUDGE'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE (part 1)** A new power point that is an in-depth presentation of the standard for judges' education has been completed. The presentation was given at a judges' education seminar held in Arizona in March and in Michigan in April and was well received. Shortly after the March presentation the Board decided to make the power-point presentation available on the Club website. I look forward to seeing it when it becomes available on the website as I have not yet been able to obtain a copy. I resigned from this committee in July, 2014 having served from its inception in 2011 when we did an "Introduction to the Breed" presentation for the Dog Judges of America at the Eukanuba show. Submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, former Chair

**JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE (part 2)** Materials have been completed for awhile now, and tweaks and adjustments are being made. Graphic artist Damon Jennings, and Marcie Wolf are working on some color changes to demonstrate eyes and noses on multiple colors. I have a list of all the upcoming events for 2015, Our first large one is in January 2015 and lining up several more. The main goal in 2014 was creating the material and it was received with great response during seminars. The goal for 2015 is to create a larger committee and new ways to educate presenters with YouTube and test taking. We need more presenters, with good speaking ability and presentation skills. Peggy Hauck has been an incredible resource for me. Although not her job she has her finger on the pulse and has been amazing at guiding me to new opportunities and techniques used by other clubs. Submitted by Jacki Barbieri, Chair

**MARKETING COMMITTEE** The Marketing Committee started the year with it's original 3 members: Lisa Sobon, Chair Sandy Mignogna Melanie Annacone Recently we were thrilled to add a new member just in time for our annual Calendar project- Welcome to Kerin Jacob-Schwartz We held off on new club merchandise while waiting for the conformation of the new Logo and in hopes that a new Marketing Chair would be found.... We do have 2 committee members looking into new items to bring on with pricing. The new



Calendar for 2015 will be ready for the printer soon and ready for shipment starting Nov. 1. The price will be increased by \$1.00 this year to \$15.95, foreign will be \$19.95 again... both prices will include shipping. Kerin has agreed to the mailing project of the calendar this year... this is a huge job and we are grateful to her for stepping up. We are looking for a new chairperson to take over at the beginning of the year when the current chair steps down Report submitted by Lisa Sobon, Chair

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Liz Williams, Chair, reported on changes made in the way membership applications are being processed and there have been some transitional delays as we work through the new process. Previously when applications arrived they the membership received a Campaigner notice giving them 2 weeks to comment to the Board about the prospective new member. This timeline has changed to 30 days for feedback before the names go to the Board. After the 30-day time frame the Board will vote on the applicants at the next scheduled meeting. Members As of September 30, 2014 46 Associate 77 Dual 114 Regular 18 International 255 Total Membership Other 7 pending Board approval 10 pending membership comments 5 pending payment notification Submitted by Liz Williams, Chair


**RESCUE AND REHOMING COMMITTEE** 2014 18 Applications, 2 Rehoming  
Chair position- Open, Northeast - Giora Liran, Southeast - Christine Anne Gornik, Midwest - Kimberly McBee, Southwest - Open, West - Lisa Sobon, Submitted by Christine Gornik, former Chair  
Adrienne Perry commented that the club is in need of a volunteer to Chair this committee.

**WEBSITE COMMITTEE**- no report received Adrienne reported that our current web master, Cody Hilton, would like to stay on as administrator after the web site is redesigned. The club is currently searching for a web designer to revamp the club site.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Election of new Board of Directors- Per LRCA bylaws, as no valid additional nominations were received by the Secretary on or before August 1st, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the time of the Annual Meeting and no balloting will be required. Slate of Officers: President- Adrienne Perry, VP - Lisa Sobon, Treasurer- Kathleen Correll, Secretary-Leslie Arner, Directors-Andrea Szigeti, Theresa Nehemiah, Sandy Mignonga. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee's slate as proposed, Melanie Steele. Approved unanimous. Welcome new board members Theresa Nehemiah and Andrea Szigeti.

**NEW BUSINESS – President's Awards:** There are two President's awards presented each year. The Spark Plug award is given to the member(s) who has done the most to advance the club. That award was given to Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes and Mel Sykes for their tireless efforts on behalf of the club over many years, including serving on various LRCA committees, on the Board and much, much more. The Tail Wagger award is given to the member who has done the most to advance the breed. This year the award was presented to Jacki Barbieri for her work promoting the breed by educating judges, competitors and hobbyists at dog shows all over the country.

Melanie Steele commented that the strides taken by the board this year have been remarkable. President Adrienne Perry invited all present on the call to stay on the line and join the regular board of directors meeting which directly followed the annual meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** by Therese Williams. President Adrienne Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM eastern time. Leslie Arner Recording Secretary, LRCA 

### **Cathy (Cat) Dronen has joined the Bollettino Committee.**



*I have spent more than 20 years as a marketing executive working with some of the top consumer brands in the world. I chose to leave the fast lane for a "real life!" Now, I consider myself something of a corporate refugee living and working as a freelance writer in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. My husband Steve and I became interested in the Lagotto Romagnolo after reading an article in the Knoxville News Sentinel about the importation and breeding efforts of a pair of Lagotto at Blackberry Farms. As we researched the breed our fascination intensified. We drove out to the Farm one spring day to meet the dogs and their offspring. Like the song says, one look was all it took! We were enchanted and the feeling never left! Four years later, four of the magnificent dogs are members of our immediate family. A motivating reason to become a part of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club initially was to learn everything we could about the breed. When we began our search for a dog, Lagotto puppies were very hard to come by. We made the unfortunate mistake of buying a dog from an unscrupulous broker. When we discovered our problem(s) we turned to the LRCA. Through those contacts we received invaluable direction and support. The organization continues to educate and*

*guide our efforts to become better owners and breeders. Participating with the communications committee provides me with an opportunity to learn from the "experts" and give a little back to this impressive group. I currently write features for a broad range of clients and have published two books including the award winning children's book "I Am A Truffle Dog". My passions include the environment, literacy, healthcare, mountain life, family, friends, and my amazing pack of Lagotto Romagnolo!*

## Volunteers

Mel Sykes

### I'm a member, am I allowed to help?

The LRCA is a non-profit dog club. The strength of any non-profit lies in the membership, not in the Board of Directors. The Board takes care of the day-to-day business of the club, however, it's not the job of the officers and directors to fill the committees, not even to serve as committee chairpersons. Those jobs fall to the membership.

The club has as the AKC Parent Club for the Lagotto Romagnolo and has many tasks that lie before us. So, if you've ever asked yourself the question, "Am I allowed to help?" I think you can safely say that yes, you are "allowed" to help, in fact your help is really needed!

How do you volunteer? Start by contacting the officers and directors. Tell them what you are interested in doing, ask if there is an opening now on a committee that does the work you enjoy. If you don't get a reply, ask another officer or director. As it happens, some of them may have more time to devote to answering emails and phone calls.

Don't have any idea where you want to serve? Go to the club website and look at the committees. They are listed at <http://lagottous.com/index.php/membership/board-of-directors>. If there is only one person listed for a committee, there is a good chance that committee needs volunteers. Even if there are several members listed on a committee, it won't hurt to let the chairperson know that you are interested!

On occasion you will get emails from the club, read those. The club uses email to communicate with the membership and often the email will include a request for help in a special club project.

Also, the Lagotto discussion group at yahoogroups tries to post news about the club whenever we hear of it. If you aren't a member yet, sign up by writing the group owner at [lagotto-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:lagotto-owner@yahoogroups.com). In short, there are several specific tasks that need to be accomplished. Your help is needed. Let someone know of your interest, then roll up your sleeves and dig in! 

## NEW MEMBERS

### August members:

N/A

### September members:

Joyce & William Becker- Tucson AZ  
Evan Shuster, Minneapolis MN

### October members:

Lisa Erdekian- Chatham MA  
Cynthia and Sam Parker- Gatlinburg TN  
Barry Wagner- Fishers IN  
Kristin Scardelette- West Chester PA  
David and Claudia Handley- Elk Rapids MI  
Christina Graziano- Rochester NY

### November members:

Timoth Clark- New York, NY  
Paul & Ruth Ellen Kuhnel- Roanoke, VA  
Loria Eastridge- French Lick IN  
Lisa DeLuca- Thornton PA

*We hope your membership in the LRCA brings you many learning opportunities and happy Lagotto experiences!*

## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 7, 2014** LRCA Board of Directors' Meeting - 5:30 pm EST

### Dec. 12, 2014

LRCA Open Show at Eukanuba. Orlando, Florida

### Jan. 21-22, 2015

Joriad Truffle Hunting Competition in Eugene, Oregon. For more information: <http://www.oregontrufflefestival.com/announcing-the-joriad-first-of-its-kind-sporting-event/>

### July 2015

The Lagotto Romagnolo enters AKC Sporting Group





*Lidia (Meiklejohn) getting down and dirty (and smelly) on the beach at Arch Cape, Oregon.*

***Our next issue will be greetings of the season; Christmas, Channuka, New Year and winter fun. Please send your holiday greetings and photos of you and your pets!***

***Deadline is Dec. 14 (hurry!)***

***send them to***

***Bollettino@LagottoUS.com. Also new faces; photos of new puppies born after***

***January 2014***

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## Tail Wags



*Era and the dragon. Allegro's New Era Cresendo born 5/16/14 lives with Amy Dickey in Tucson, AZ*

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**LCA Website: [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com)**

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### Bollettino Editorial Team

***Judith Martin, Alana McGee, Toni Kay-Wolff, Dee Gregory, Mel Sykes, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes and Cathy (Cat)Dronen:***

