




In This Issue

<i>Poem</i>	1-2
<i>Poem</i>	3
<i>Holiday Safety Tips</i>	4
<i>NE Raduno</i>	5
<i>Santa List</i>	6
<i>Membership Reminder</i>	7
<i>Events</i>	9
<i>Greetings and photos</i>	

We want to wish you and your Lagotti the very Merriest of Christmas-es, a pleasant Hanukkah, and best of the New Year. We are devoting this issue to celebrating the holidays. This has been a great year for our breed and our club, and next year will be even bigger. Our breed enters the Sporting Group with the American Kennel Club in July of 2015. We have been competing in the Miscellaneous Group where the best of the breed could go on to compete in Best in Miscellaneous. After July, winners of our breed can go on to compete against all the other Sporting dogs, and if they win that group, they can go on to compete for Best in Show. If you like to watch dog shows, you will see the Lagotto in there with the Pointers, Spaniels, Retrievers, and the very large group of gun dogs.

This issue will be small but filled with good wishes from the editors of the Bollettino, the LRCA Board of Directors and Committee chairs. Our next year's issue will feature photos and stories about truffles, truffle hunting, truffle training and all things relating to that fragrant tuber. If your dog has hunted or trained, or even competed in Nose Work, be sure to send us stories and photos. 

Judith Martin - Editor

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

Deadline for next issue:
February 15, 2015

The Lagotti of Christmas *Therese Williams*



The Lagotti of Christmas, were all in the house.
They jumped and they played while chasing a mouse.
The truffles were dug, and stored for safe keeping,
In hopes there'd be more after a night of good sleeping.

The owners were resting, and snug by the fire,
The cat, she was thinking she might be Cheshire.
The lights finally out and all were at peace,
The snow would be falling whilst activity ceased.

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Continued

When all of a sudden, a noise in the midst,
All ran to the window to see the tree list.
The ground how it rumbled and made such a sound,
Whatever beneath must weigh a great pound.

Then when it happened we all gave a gasp,
A little old man and a great truffle he grasped.
He then gave a call, and they all came a running,
The Lagotti of Christmas, the wily and cunning.
Come Enzo, and Guido, and Waldo and Mocha;
Now Augi and Cosmo, and Cali and Nina,
To Luca, and Silvie and Teo and Lola;
Vando, Theo, Georgio, and Roma.

I call you all from your long night of slumber,
To dig the great truffle, in such a large number.
We must be quiet and also be quick,
This culinary delight will do the trick.

The little old man, he led them away,
His familiar red suit, there could be no delay.
Time passed so quickly, they were back in a flash;
The bags full aplenty, a marvelous cache.

The Lagotti, their paws, all covered in dirt;
The pride on their faces, a hint of a smirk.
The little old man, he gave just a wink;
His cheeks so rosy, his nose so pink.

The Lagotti stood, their tails a wagging,
They all did their jobs, not a one was lagging,
The Lagotti of Christmas, a wonder they are,
They work all night under the twinkling stars.

And then in an instant, the little man came,
The truffles were loaded in the sleigh of great fame.
The Lagotti acknowledged with a knowing bark,
The man and the sleigh, were gone in a spark.

This holiday remember, what ever you eat, The
Lagotti of Christmas, they bring you this treat. And
then it was time, to rush back to bed,
With visions of truffles, in all of our heads.
And if the Lagotti had a wish for you,
Be happy, and healthy,
and Merry Christmas too.



A poem by Shel Silverstein

Tonight's my first night as a watchdog,
And here it is Christmas Eve.
The children are sleeping all cozy upstairs,
While I'm guardin' the stockin's and tree.
What's that now---footsteps on the rooftop?
Could it be a cat or a mouse?
Who's this down the chimnvey?
A thief with a beard
--- And a big sack for robbin' the house?
I'm barkin', I'm growlin', I'm bitin' his butt.
He howls and jumps back in his sleigh.
I scare his strange horses, they leap in the air.
I've frightened the whole bunch away.
Now the house is all peaceful and quiet again.
The stockin's are safe as can be.
Won't the kiddies be glad
when they wake up tomorrow
And see how I've guarded the tree.





You've decked the halls, wrapped packages, and shopped till you dropped. But have you done everything to protect your dog from potential holiday hazards?

Christmas Trees

Keep your dog from toppling the Christmas tree by securing the tree to a wall, ceiling, or drapery rod with sturdy fishing line, Chiaramonte suggests. Make tree water, which can harbor dangerous bacteria and chemicals, a no-drinking zone by covering the tree stand reservoir with aluminum foil or a tree skirt. Pick up fallen pine needles, which can injure your dog's intestines if eaten, and tape down or cover electrical cords to prevent shocks, burns, and other serious injuries.

Packages and Gifts

Keep dogs away from wrapped packages as well as wrapping supplies, since eating string, glue, rubber bands, staples, ribbon, plastic, cellophane, cloth, and even wrapping paper can lead to intestinal blockages or choking, Chiaramonte says. Keep in mind that some wrapped packages may contain dangerous edible items, such as dark chocolate or macadamia nuts. Ask the gift giver whether the package contains food before placing it under the Christmas tree

People Food

Many holiday foods such as fatty meat, garlic, onion, some nuts, gravy, poultry skin, dough, raisins, coffee, bones, chocolate, artificial sweeteners, and alcohol can cause illnesses ranging from vomiting and diarrhea to pancreatitis and other toxic reactions, says Steven Hansen, DVM, senior vice president of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Designate a family member to guard unattended plates and glasses, or place your dog in his crate or a quiet room until the meal is done or guests go home..

Toxic Plants

Some of the most popular living symbols of the holidays are toxic to dogs and can cause symptoms from gastrointestinal irritation and diarrhea to cardiac problems, even death, Hansen says. Plants to avoid include Christmas cactus, holly, lilies, mistletoe, poinsettia, hemlock, and ivy. If you can't ban these problem plants altogether, keep them far from your pet's reach, and immediately pick up and discard fallen leaves, stems, and berries.

Excerpted from an article: Maureen Kochan, the former editor of DOG FANCY, is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Southern California.



NE Raduno

Kerin Jacob-Schwartz



On November 8, 2014, 61 people gathered with their Lagotti in Montgomeryville, PA to participate in the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America Raduno. It was a very special day, organized by Sandy Mignogna for both current and future owners of a Lagotto. Everyone expected to have fun, but it is fair to say, all of our expectations were exceeded. There is something about this special breed that instantly warms your heart, especially when you see a Raduno come to life. During this day, new canine friendships were formed, as well as the human ones, and even some liter-mates were reunited. One would heartedly swear these liter-mates remembered each other as they frolicked and romped around with one another. Beyond an opportunity to socialize our Lagotti and allow them some time to play, Sandy arranged for two demonstrations that helped to introduce current and future owners to activities our Lagotto would enjoy, and possibly excel at. The first was a Nosework demonstration by Christine Stenner. Not only was it exciting to watch Christine and Sandy's dogs find the hide, but all owners were given a chance to work their own dog. The second demonstration was focused on agility. I am not sure who had more fun, the dogs or the owners, as we practiced going through tunnels, catwalks, jumps, etc. The day was a wonderful opportunity for people to share experiences, ask questions and learn more about the Lagotto and the Lagotto Club of America. I think all who gathered can say they walked away from the day with a warmth in their heart, and an exhausted Lagotto happily resting in the back of their car. A big thank you and congratulations to Sandy Mignogna and all those that helped to make the Raduno a huge success!



Over Santa's Shoulder

The Season is upon us and I had an opportunity to peek over Santa's shoulder. Wow, what a list he has to work from!! I hope everyone gets what they are wishing for. Before Santa noticed my presence, I did get a chance to jot down a few things from his list.



For the **LRCA officers and directors**, a 2015 calendar with July as the first month. Alternatively, all months as in a normal calendar except that each month only has one week!

And committee chairpersons were on the list as well!!

For **Theresa Nehemiah**, a "real find" in a volunteer to assist her in setting up a 501c3 non-profit Lagotto Rescue Trust.

For **Jacki Barbieri**, better health.

For **Kathleen Correll**, her voice.

Bollettino Editor **Judith Martin** promised Santa that she would "be a Good Girl all year" if he would help her explain the meaning of "deadline" one more time.

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Skipping down the list....

For **Benni Beckman**, front page on the LRCA calendar.

For **Bob and Zoila Einham**, a Best In Show at the closest AKC show.

For **Mary Lynch**, judges that know the Lagotto "comes in white".

For **Toni Kay-Wolff**, more really nice wins and another nice litter, too!

For **Alvina and Geoffray Estes**, another Lagotto as nice as Camillo.

For **Andrea Szegeti**, SNOW!!

For **Arlene Diamante, Mary Lynch, and Darlene Colmar**, whatever comes next on their respective lists.

It is a lengthy list, but the last entry I saw was made by Santa himself. With a Candy Cane pen (of course) the old boy had written..

For all who have lost a Lagotto this year, Understanding. And if they can't have Understanding, then Acceptance...and precious memories.

For all mankind, Peace Best Wishes for this joyous Holiday Season, **Mel Sykes and Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes**



Ho, ho, ho, and a Merry Christmas to all from Jennifer Dowdell and family



"I have been good all year" says Marco Reese. Please tell my mom Liz!

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.



Membership Renewal

It is the time of year for club membership renewals. As our club continues to grow it is important for us to make some adjustments to member management and collection of some key information that is required by the AKC.

In order for the Membership Committee to update the membership list and update information for AKC the following changes have been made:

- To renew please go to the web site and fill out the "Renewal Application"
- We are no longer accepting multi-year payments for membership. This will allow us to better track renewals and notifications.
- Payment may be made via the PayPal link located at the end of the Renewal Notice. Mailed check can be sent to: LRCA, PO Box 155, Valley Center, CA 92082

Renewals need to be completed by February 15, 2015. Members that have not renewed by March 1, 2015 will be removed from the membership list.

Thank you for taking the time to update the information. If you have any questions send them to LRCAmembership@yahoo.com

PS - Thanks for your patience with this new process



Brielle (Paula Wilson) sends greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Enzo will be playing the role of Santa's elf this year as Jennifer Davitt and her family make the move to Cleveland over the holidays. Best wishes to all our Lagotti friends.



Our next issue will focus on Everything about truffles, truffle hunting, and training. In addition, please send us information about your Nosework experiences. If you have any stories or photos please send them to Bollettino@LagottoUS.com. Also new faces; photos of puppies born after January 2014



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Club Member yahoo group:
If you haven't subscribed to the member-only
yahoo group, here is the link:
<mailto:lrcofa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>

Therese Williams Health Education Chair

**Don't forget to mail back your votes on the
By-laws change.**

Upcoming Events

- **Jan. 16 to 19 Napa Truffle Festival** – <http://www.napatrufflefestival.com/>
(There are photos of Lagotti on their website)
- **January 21-22 Joriad Truffle Hunting Competition**
Eugene, Oregon - <http://www.oregontrufflefestival.com/announcing-the-joriad-first-of-its-kind-sporting-event>

- **July 2015**

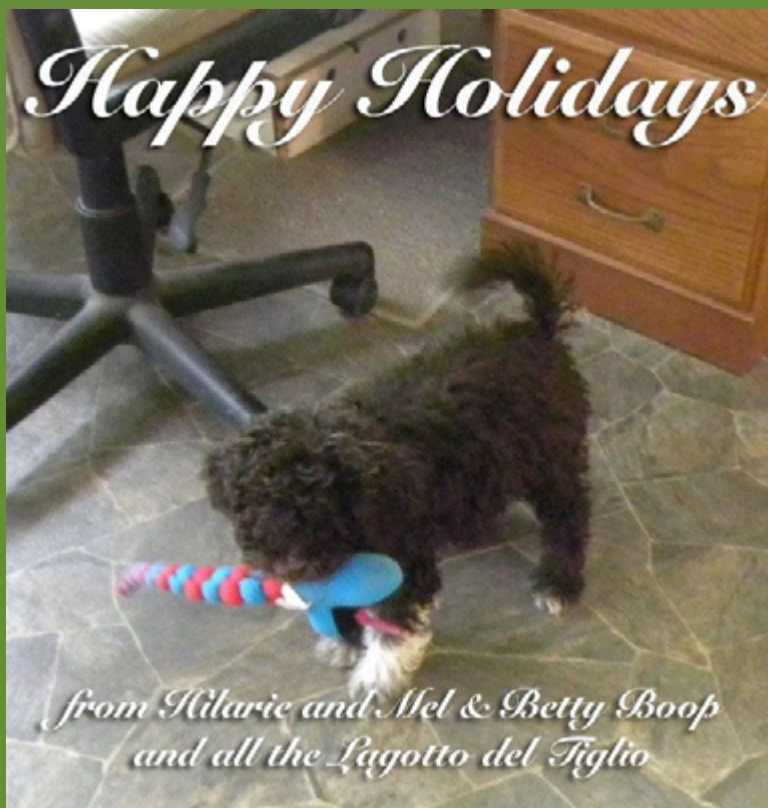
The Lagotto Romagnolo enters the Sporting Group with the AKC.

Board Meetings are held on 3rd Sunday of the month at 5:30 EST

Minutes from past Board Meetings can be found in the members section of the club website: www.LagottoUS.com

CALENDARS

- American Rare Breed Association Calendar: http://www.arba.org/show_calendar
- Canadian Kennel Club: <http://www.ckc.ca/e/default.aspx?tabid+87>
- International Canine Kennel Club: <http://www.internationalcaninekennelclub.com>
- United Kennel Club Calendar: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/Upcoming.nsf/EventView?Open&Group=DogEvents&Type=M>
- International All Breed Canine Association: <http://iabca.com/calendar.html>
- Federation Cynologique Internationale



Betty Boop says "My mom told me Santa brings all good little Lagotto new toys. This is my favorite toy, but I'm going to leave it for Santa. He can give it to someone who doesn't have toys, like that little terrier up the street. Then Santa can leave me a BIG NEW toy."



Lolo and Lidia taking a break on their truffle hunt. Found Christmas dinner delicacies. Dawn Meiklejohn

LCA Board Members for 2013

President:	Adrienne Perry
Vice President:	Lisa Sobon
Secretary:	Leslie Arner
Treasurer:	Kathleen Correll
Director:	Theresa Nehemiah
Director:	Andrea Szegeti
Director:	Sandy Mignogna

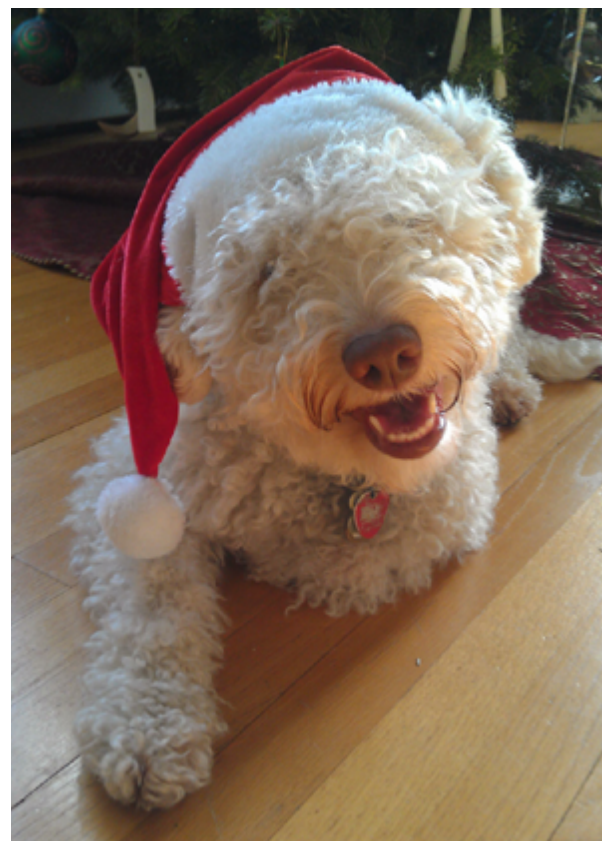
LCA Website: www.lagottous.com

AKC: www.akc.org

Bollettino Editorial Team:

Judith Martin, Alana McGee, Toni Kay-Wolff, Dee Gregory, Hllarie Gibbs-Sykes, Mel Sykes, Cathy Dronen:

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Luna, affectionately referred to as "Lunatic" sends greetings from Barb Jackaky and her family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Rosalie being photobombed by our Yorkie, and Baci and Rosalie wondering if Santa left those packages for them. Merry Christmas from Kerin Jacob-Schwartz