

BOLLETTINO

Summer 2016

Volume 2



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Sandy Mignogna

For all those who attended our premier National Specialty, I am sure you will share my sentiments that the NS events were wonderful from start to finish. We enjoyed great dogs, camaraderie, venue, social events, auction items, Lagotto-ware and the list goes on and on. Our club has worked through the past several years to accomplish the many goals that AKC set before us to get us to the day where we could have our first National Specialty. As we got closer to the possibility of being able to hold a "National," I am sure many of us started to envision what that premier show would be like – I know I did! For all those who supported our first National Specialty, whether you competed with your dog, attended just to support the event and cheer for the dogs, worked on a contributing committee, or donated trophies, awards, time, money etc., each person was an integral part that made our premier event a huge success! My heartfelt thanks goes to each and every one of you! And of course, a huge congratulations to the winners as you are the first to make history for our breed! As you all know by now, Dr. Morsiani, regretfully was unable to attend at the last minute, and we were left scrambling to fill some very big shoes. Thank you to the generosity of Mr. James Reynolds for quickly stepping up to fill those shoes, we are all grateful to him for accepting a big responsibility at the last minute.

Looking ahead, I recommend for all Lagotto fanciers to start lining up your pet sitters for March 24, 2017 to attend our second National Specialty in Fort Worth, Texas; you won't want to miss it! Building on our success from this past year to make the NS even better, I hope to see you there! Happy and safe summer to you all!



AND THE WINNERS ARE....

Best of Breed: Dig'N Designer Bellini, Owned by Christine Mullen, Bred by Robin Morehouse

Best of Opposite: GCH Il Granaio dei Malatesta Adriano (aka Cannoli), Owned by Jim and Carolyn Talbert, Bred by Monica Benelli

Select Dog: CH Angelus Mei Cael, Owned by Andrea Shaffer Bred by Jozef Fodor,

Select Bitch: GCH CH Nostryffelns Ottima Opera RN BN, Owned by Adrienne Perry & Cubby Lash, Bred by Kristina Gustafsson Winners cont'd. on page 15.



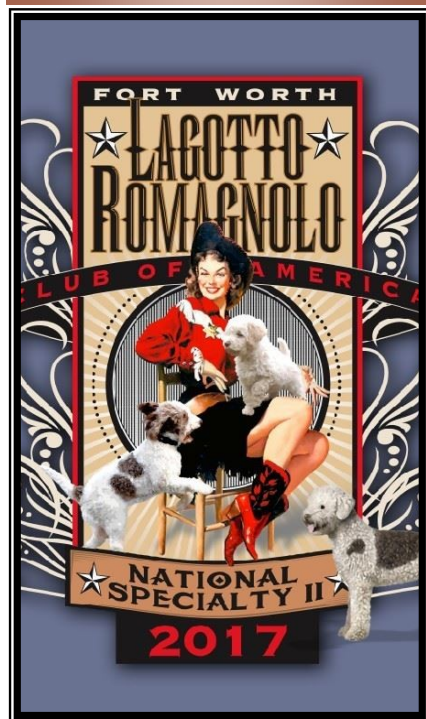
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A Behind the Ring View: Premier National Specialty 2016 by Adrienne Perry, Trophy Chairperson and Show Committee



*Lots of Bitches,
but No Bitchin'!*

James G. Reynolds Comes to the Rescue as NS Judge

Unfortunately just days before the National Specialty weekend, Dr. Morsiani sent his regrets that he could not attend our National Specialty. Many thanks to our expert show committee members, that were able to secure James Reynolds as a replacement to judge our first National Specialty. With over fifty (50) entries, Mr. Reynolds had quite a bit of work before him. He judged 14 regular classes, Best of Breed Competition, as well as Best Head, and Best Coat. In his comments to the exhibitors and club members afterwards, he encouraged club members to work together to better the breed, that all members & all dogs are important for the betterment & future of the breed.

Executing an event like a National Specialty is a huge undertaking. Planning the first ever – *Premier National Specialty*—in a club that just achieved licensed status, for a breed that only entered full recognition in July, 2015 is even more daunting. With a great deal of optimism, the support of the LRCA membership, and a fabulous show committee all sights were set on an April, 2016 Specialty and Perry, Georgia.

Off to a Great Start

When Dr. Giovanni Morsiani learned of the club's ambitious efforts, he generously offered to come to the US, lead workshops and judge the first national specialty. His father wrote the original Lagotto Romagnolo standard in the native Italian and Dr. Morsiani assisted the LRCA with the difficult translation of the very technical Italian Standard and adapting it to the AKC format. It was considered a major coup to have Dr. Morsiani accept the judging assignment. As a bonus he agreed to present a feature lecture on the breed. The show committee was ecstatic to have this world renowned authority on the program.

If It Can Go Wrong...!

Just when it appeared everything was falling in perfect order, the Murphy's Law of dog shows reared its ugly head. Without warning, the selected caterer dropped out. The wonderful show committee quickly recovered from the abrupt change by contracting a most capable replacement. Then came what could have been a fatal blow.

Just days after the entries closed, Dr. Morsiani delivered the message he would be unable to travel from Italy to the States. The show committee again pulled up their boots and went to work.

Negotiations to judge a future national specialty were underway with Mr. James Reynolds. When Mr. Reynolds learned of our plight he graciously stepped up to help the LRCA out. Lagotto began showing in Reynold's native Canada a year or so earlier than in the states, so the prominent judge was experienced with the breed. Mr. Reynolds joined Wayne Holbrook and Mary Ellen Macke rounding out the specialty judge's panel.

Katrien Van Gemert from the Netherlands, also a world-class breed expert, cleared her schedule on very short notice. She agreed to come to the National Specialty to present grooming seminars and provide ringside mentoring for judges. Katrien is recognized world-wide for her personal achievements; from World Winners, to Best Male and Best Female at some of the most important international shows.

Lots of Bitches, but No Bitchin'

The 4 shows leading up to the National Specialty Show attracted a larger than average number of entries and the numbers increased each day. The weekend drew a particularly large entry of bitches, many of whom were in heat. Dr. Dana Smith Massey actually stopped the judging one day in order to have the ring cleaned up. Lagotto, with their super sniffers and their owner handlers were not able to give a good straight down and back, as their "minds were elsewhere"...and their noses were pulling them all over. Such thoughtful judging and approach to new handlers was evidenced all 5 days in Georgia and it was much appreciated!

Take a Bow

The show did indeed go on and with impressive success. Spectators, exhibitors and AKC judges experienced the opportunity to observe the biggest entry of Lagotto ever assembled in the United States take the ring. Truly it was a once in a lifetime opportunity! On Saturday, Leslie Fetzer from AKC Judging Operations and her camera crew came and filmed 5 hours of Lagotto Romagnolo. The "virtual dog show" will become part of an online web learning platform for judges. It was an honor to be among the first breeds filmed and everyone eagerly anticipates the final product.

It is with sincere pleasure and thanks to show chairman Jeff Fischer and all the show committee and club members that I can say it was truly a "special" specialty. One of our judges commented repeatedly, "You've set the bar extremely high for your first National!" It was a fun week with Lagotto enthusiasts from around the country, puppy folks who came to help out just because their breeders asked, and the Lagotto-curious who came to see just what this "new breed" is all about. Going forward we eagerly anticipate the March 2017 Specialty in Ft. Worth, TX!





*Emma, Vinnie
& Wilma,
ready to work!*

Scent Training with My Lagotti by Christine Stenner

For best success, start scent training/object search at an early age. Emma was one year of age, and Wilma was just 8 weeks! Vinnie came to us later, and as a result, is still learning how not to quickly grab the item. He often thinks it's a retrieving competition instead of working towards a common goal. Dogs are not allowed to scratch, bark or grab the item. Imagine a police dog searching for something at a crime scene; you would not want the dog to destroy anything that could become evidence, nor to erase any scent traces.

Emma is now able to find even a small paper clip indoors. I prefer working with a cork the most since you can cut off little pieces. I get creative when hiding an item: in a drawer, behind a closed door, between books or even the great outdoors - anywhere as long as the item is not visible.

For prompt communication of correct marking, I use a clicker and treats. As soon as the dog brings the nose to the item, I immediately click and feed directly at the item. A clicker leads the dog to expect the treat and can be used as long as you are too far away to reward with your hand. Always reward the correct behavior and totally ignore the wrong. Remember to always finish a session with success for the dog!

“Object Search (ZOS)”

by Christine Stenner

Nose work is an essential part of my daily routine with my three dogs Emma, Wilma and Vinnie. It is so much fun and rewarding, especially for a working breed with such an excellent nose as the Lagotto Romagnolo! I train a method I learned in Germany where I lived until 2012. My dogs search for small items instead of scents. The training method, Zielobjektsuche or ZOS for short, is very popular in Germany, Switzerland and Austria where there are competitions as well. ZOS goes back to the German police dog trainer, Thomas Baumann, who also developed the sport for pet owners. Dogs can be trained on any item because every item has its own characteristic smell. A dog's trained nose can associate a scent to an item and then find it. Working police dogs used in crime scenes are trained to smell blood, tissue or bones, in the tiniest of traces. In correction centers, canines are trained to find hidden cell phones or more specifically their batteries. As a pet owner, you can train the same method to teach your dog to find anything you like. Even when you think an item has no discernable smell, a trained dog can smell the singularity of this item, and uses this information to search and seek. It is truly amazing to watch your dog actively working to find the item(s). The Lagotto is perfect for this specialty for not only are they equipped with an exceptionally good nose, but also have the drive to be a persistent searcher.

In the beginning, the training item should always be visible for the dog. After some sessions, start hiding it partially, and then continue to conceal more until it is no longer visible. Interestingly before long, a dog's brain switches from seeing to smelling! I started my training with a lighter and moved on to red wine cork – Italian of course! Then as we progress, the new search item becomes smaller and smaller. Also early on, the dogs should learn to combine each item with a hand signal and the “magic” word. These associations become critical when you work with several items, and the dog is supposed to find only one of them.

The notification or marking, is how the dog tells you he found the item, and this plays a major role in his/her training. The dog should be able to tell you exactly where the item is located and point his nose directly towards the source. Of course it is your challenge to teach him how to do so. Thomas Baumann teaches the dog to lay down to mark. If the item is higher, the dog can also sit or stand but he/she always needs to point his/her nose directly towards the item.

To achieve this goal, two things are very important: first and foremost take time to consistently teach the correct communication and notification. Secondly, no help is allowed, not even a hint to lure the dog in the right direction. Every dog will ask for help, looking at the handler in the beginning. Be patient and let the dog problem solve. You should ignore the questioning dog, don't even look back. If the dog scratches or grabs at the item, you quit the session without saying anything and restart until the dog figures out what to do. This is important to create an independent searcher and to improve the dogs frustration tolerance level. It is like with little humans, what one figures out by oneself is engraved in the memory forever!



“Hide and Scent Training”

by Jean Davis-Barger



Bugsy indicates the odor source!

The working titles and pre-qualifiers for trial entry are:

ORT #1 (Birch) for NW1™ and Level 1 Element Specialty Trials (L1C, L1V, L1E, L1I)

ORT #2 (Anise) for NW2™ and Level 2 Element Specialty Trials (L2C, L2V, L2E, L2I)

ORT #3 (Clove) for NW3™ and Level 3 Element Specialty Trials (L3C, L3V, L3E, L3I)

The designations for element specialty trials are
C=Containers, V=Vehicles,
E=Exteriors, I=Interiors.

These element titles can be earned before or after a level title. There is also an NW3 Elite title, with related elite titles of ELT1 and ELT2 for those with exceptional skills.

Before I received my lovely little eight week old Lagotto puppy, I would often find myself fantasizing about the pending adventures with a dog breed so well-suited for scent work. First, I imagined planting a truffière and harvesting a bounty of truffles and sharing the culinary arts with the help of my canine companion. Then I thought about saving lives through search and rescue work. Therapy dogs sounded nice too; all activities to make a positive impact on the world, right?

Then I started reading a LOT and to surf the web—a LOT; but, where does one actually physically start the Lagotto adventure(s)?

Bugsy was almost 6 months old when we enrolled in nose work classes taught by Certified Nose Work Instructors (CNWI™), as designated by the National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC® (NACSW™). Following day one of nose work, Bugsy finally began to enjoy his car rides to the training center. This was proof positive that allowing a dog to properly exercise his innate ability creates a happy dog and a happy owner!

After my joyful little bundle arrived, my first goal was to socialize Bugsy. I first located a local training facility that offered

The training process begins with searching for an odor source (the hide) paired with food in a variety of locations – containers, interiors, exteriors and vehicles. Gradually, the hides are unpaired and the rewards are delivered by the handler once the dog finds the source. We progressed through 4 levels of training for odor detection and advanced to the “travel classes”, which allow visits to a variety of interior/exterior locations that more closely replicate real-life and trial searches. Our advanced sessions are organized and led by former Military Working Dog Handlers with experience in explosives and narcotics. Retired from their military service, these trainers and their associate instructors now train dog and handler teams to navigate all elements of K9 Nose Work® sanctioned by the NACSW™ (www.caninecopilots.com).

The NACSW™ is the oldest of the governing bodies for the sport of detection-style nose work in the United States. While they are the oldest, this competitive sport for pet owners is quite new. The first trial held by NACSW™ was in 2009. My experience and discussion herein is limited to the NACSW™. However, there are other organizations that conduct scent sport trials, including United Kennel Club, Sport Detection Dog Association, United States Canine Scent Sports, and Canine-Work and Games. There are also several police service dog competitions under various

“Imagine the intense pressure of clearing a bomb site – these working dog/handler teams must work quickly & accurately.”

weekly puppy socials, for free, as well as a variety of positive reinforcement training options, including K9 Nose Work®. Our collective exposure to all sorts of people, sights, sounds and other puppies, supervised by skilled trainers, was very important. I then later enrolled Bugsy in basic obedience classes. Although we faced some training challenges (i.e. loose leash walking – not his favorite), we had the obedience training basics down, and now felt ready to tackle the original goal of scent work training.

jurisdictions. Unfortunately, other than Search and Rescue titles, nose work titles are not recognized by the AKC.....yet! The first step in competing at NACSW™-sanctioned events requires membership in the association, followed by the dog earning a passing score at an Odor Recognition Test. The ORT is conducted as a 12-box container search using one of three odors – anise, birch or clove – at either an interior or exterior location. The dog must earn the passing score at least 14 days prior to entering a competition.

Article Continued on Page 15.

The Question of Health Testing: Owners Versus Breeder

by Therese Williams

We refer to it as “health testing.” We expect every good breeder will perform a battery of tests and examinations in order to make sure that their breeding dogs are “healthy” before they decide to produce any litters. Sounds good, but if you really think about it, health testing does NOT prove that a dog is healthy, it only determines that they may or may not carry a gene that can lead to certain diseases or conditions, and then, only the ones we know about.

While health testing is not a new concept, the mapping of the canine genome launched the ever expanding menu of genetic testing for various diseases and or conditions. Each year, various pure breeds are informed of a new test for this or that, and canine breeders are encouraged to incorporate it into the disease profile for which they test for. Do ALL the available tests, and the canine world will be a happy place, and every puppy produced will be perfectly “healthy”, right? Well, the answer surprisingly is no.



“Health testing does NOT prove that a dog is healthy, it only determines that they may or may not carry a gene that can lead to certain diseases or conditions...”

The truth is that while there are a number of conditions being researched and the specific genetic tests being developed, there will always be a condition that is never mapped, no test will be developed, and owners will always wonder if the breeders and researchers are doing all that they can to improve the breed and to help mitigate detrimental conditions and diseases (known and unknown).

That said, in order to improve the overall breed health and the Lagotto’s future, it is important that breeders conduct the following recommended tests on any dogs **prior to breeding**. Of the known and available health/genetic tests that exist for the Lagotto Romagnolo, a conscientious breeder will conduct the following tests:

Eyes should be examined by a board certified ophthalmologist for evidences of several eye diseases, and be done annually while the dog is used in any breeding program up until the dog is at least eight years of age.

Hips should be radiographically assessed for hip dysplasia, using either PennHip of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFFA) or the equivalent for foreign breeders. Only about 30% of hip dysplasia is caused through genetics, but still

should be assessed as some lines have higher incidences.

Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy (BFJE) is a brain disorder, and is caused by an autosomal recessive gene.

Lagotto Storage Disease (LSD) is another autosomal recessive gene that affects the brain, and is life threatening to any dogs born “affected” by this gene.

While not required, it is suggested that breeders also test for the following conditions: **luxation of the patellae, elbow dysplasia and incorrect coat.**

While the breeder may complete all these tests and examinations, it is also important for them to fully understand and explain to the pet owner what each test means.



Do You Have a Canine Topic that you would like more information & discussion on?

Shout out to the Bollettino Editorial Team & let the team know what you like, dislike, or want to know more about in your Club's newsletter. Send your suggestions and comments to newsletter@lagottous.com

We are eager to know your interests and how best to serve you!



Temperament Testing

You may also wonder about temperament testing. Although, there is no verifiable physical or genetic test that can truly determine the nature of a puppy's current or future temperament, breeders may use a variety of methods to assess temperament. Generally the best testing is done over time while the young puppy is introduced to new things during the first few weeks after birth. The savvy breeder socializes, stimulates and challenges the puppy and observes reactions over time and notes what they see.

Lagotto Romagnolo Health Testing cont'd:

For instance and in the case of BFJE and LSD, dogs can be clear, carrier or affected. To better understand what that means, explanations are below:

- **CLEAR:** The dog carries two copies of the normal gene and therefore has no predisposition to the condition.
- **CARRIER:** The dog carries one mutant and one normal copy of the gene. The dog does not develop the disease but *can* transfer a gene defect to approximately 50% of its offspring.
- **AFFECTED:** The dog carries two mutant copies of the gene and will likely develop the disease. If bred from the dog will transfer the gene defect to its entire offspring.

When it comes to hips, OFFA recommends dog's hips with the **excellent**, **good** and **fair** ratings as suitable for breeding. PennHip uses a different rating scale that assesses laxity in the hip called the "distraction index" where the lower the number, the tighter the hip socket. On a scale of zero to one, PennHip notes less than a 0.30 distraction index will have a much less likelihood of developing hip dysplasia. Foreign countries use a different rating scale where "A" and "B" hips tend to be preferred for breeding.

Breeders are expected to do due diligence when selecting a breeding pair. What does this really mean for the pet owner? First, good breeders will be forthcoming in providing exam and test results, but also have the responsibility to educate the pet owner on why testing is important. Some breeders may ask the pet owner to have some tests performed and share

the results as the breeder will have an interest in knowing the long-term outcome of that breeding pair. Having the updated data on successive generation(s) may prove very beneficial as we work to improve the overall health in Lagotto Romagnolo breeding programs.

Additionally, it is important to remember that there will be health conditions that are considered "chance" and can occur in even the healthiest dog. Heart problems, cancer, diabetes, etc. may or may not have a genetic link, and currently, no specific tests to determine if a breeding pair will produce puppies with a multiple diseases or health conditions has been developed. DNA panels indicate a likelihood of developing various disease states, but as there is still so much to learn, they are not fool proof. As research continues to expand and develop, better testing processes will isolate genetic defects that breeders will need to stay current on, and help pass that knowledge forward.

Remember, it takes both pet owners and breeders together to be open and communicate about health concerns as they arise. If an unknown and seemingly new condition does develop in the breed, then it takes the sharing of information regarding the signs, symptoms, veterinary tests and research results to examine if another medical condition is becoming apparent. This is how BFJE, LSD and incorrect coat became known to the Lagotto community, and hence specific tests were developed. It is through this cooperative effort of researchers, breeders, and owners that we shall keep the Lagotto's future a healthy one!



Wet, Wonderful World of Water

by Carolyn Talbert, Co-editor of Bollettino

Proceed Slowly, Make It Fun, and Be Safe!

We all know that *LAGO* means “lake” in Italian, so naturally our Lagotti should be natural born swimmers, right?! And many of them are; however, it is wise when first introducing your pup to the wonderful, wet world of water, that you always proceed slowly, allowing your Lagotto to explore the water at his/her own pace, and graduating inch by inch into the water depths.

For their first encounter, it is most helpful if you can find a natural shoreline of a bay, lake, or river and allow them to play along the edges, gradually wading in deeper as they become more comfortable. Having a favorite toy handy (that floats) is most beneficial to tossing and tugging along the water’s edge. Remember to always keep it fun with no pressure or expectations for performance. Before you know it, your Lagotto will be chest deep and swimming like an otter!

When swimming in recreational areas with boaters, tubers, jet skiers and the like, a high-viz floatation device (doggie life vest in bright orange, yellow, etc.) will keep your Lagotto more visible to water traffic, and deliver them safely to the shoreline should they happen to tire. Many boating and pet stores carry these, and you’ll want to try the vest on your Lagotto in the store for a snug fit, as they loosen quite a bit when the dog gets wet. Most doggie life vests have adjustable velcro fittings that can be re-positioned during swimming.

Just like small children, the safety guidelines are similar for our canine kids. Brief yourself with the AKC’s guidelines below and remember to NEVER, never throw your dog into the water. To do so could jeopardize their love of the water, and what a pity that would be for a “water-dog!” Have a blast and be safe this summer!!

Water Safety from the American Kennel Club June 2015

Most dogs enjoy swimming, but some cannot swim, and others may hate the water. Be conscious of your dog’s preferences and skills before trying to make him swim.

- If you're swimming for the first time with your dog, start in shallow water and coax him in by calling his name. Encourage him with toys or treats. Or, let him follow another experienced dog he is friendly with.
- Never throw your dog into the water.
- If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.
- Don't let your dog overdo it; swimming is very hard work and he may tire quickly.
- If swimming at the ocean/ivers, be careful of strong tides/currents.
- If you have your own pool, make sure your dog knows where the stairs or ladder are located. Be sure that pool covers are firmly in place; dogs have been known to slip in under openings in the covers and drown.
- Never leave your dog unattended in water.

Beach Tips from American Kennel Club June 2015

- Make sure your dog has a shady spot to rest in and plenty of fresh water.
- Dogs, especially those with short hair, white fur, and pink skin, can sunburn. Limit your dog's exposure during the day and apply sunblock to his ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside.
- Check with a lifeguard for daily water conditions. Dogs are easy targets for sea lice and jellyfish.
- Running on the sand is strenuous exercise. A dog that is out of shape can easily pull a tendon or ligament, so keep a check on your dog's activity.
- Do not let your dog drink seawater; the salt will make him sick.
- Salt and other minerals in ocean water can damage your dog's coat, so rinse him off at the end of the day.
- Not all beaches permit dogs; check local ordinances before heading out.

Carolyn Talbert lives with her husband, Jim, and their two “dessert dogs,” Gelato and Cannoli in Virginia.

Both boys are Lagotto that would rather be in water than on land. “The boys” are avid swimmers, dock divers and bow riders. ALL the family agrees that there’s nothing better at the day’s end than watching the sun set over the water (salt or fresh)!



Gelato lake swimming.

Notice the high-viz life vest.



Dog Safety Vest from local pet store.

The most important aspect of managing an allergic pet is consistent, year round, quality flea control.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**MONTHLY
BOARD MEETINGS
7:30 PM (EDT)
Via teleconference**

- ⇒ July 10th
- ⇒ August 14th
- ⇒ September 11th
- ⇒ October 9th

**Always Second Sundays
Unless Otherwise Noted**

Veterinarian Counsel—Allergic Dermatitis

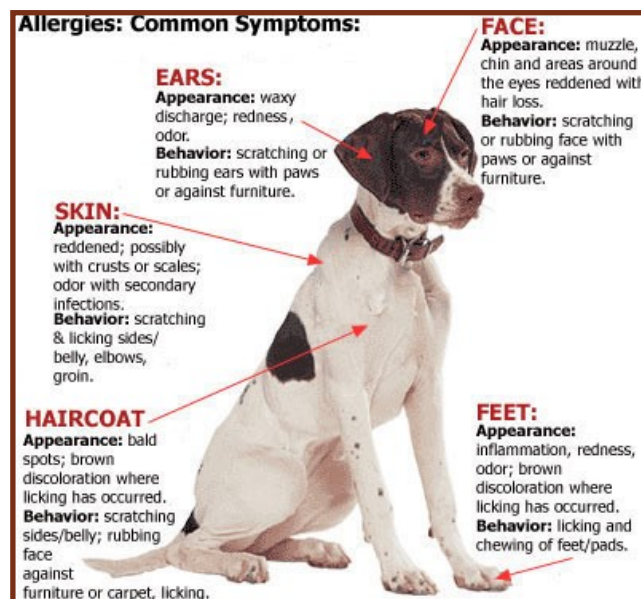
Christina Long, DVM (Specialties in Dentistry and Dermatology)

Allergies in dogs can be a very frustrating and expensive condition to manage. Note I did not say “cure” in regards to allergies, as unfortunately, this is not possible. We humans often express our allergies in the form of watery eyes, a runny nose, and sneezing. Our canine companions usually suffer from their allergies in the form red and itchy skin, hair loss, paw licking, and recurring skin and ear infections.

There are many triggers of allergies in dogs including indoor and outdoor allergens, parasites, and diet. Many dogs that experience allergies have a combination of the above mentioned allergens and it is near impossible to prevent exposure to all of the allergens. What we can do is minimize the additive effect of this allergic response and control what we can about the dog’s environment, such as diet and flea control.

The most important aspect of managing an allergic pet is consistent, year round, quality flea control. If a pet has a hypersensitivity to flea saliva, it only takes a few bites to trigger an allergic event that leads to intense itching, self-mutilation, and secondary infection. Many effective flea preventatives are available today, including oral and topical therapy. Oral products such as Nexgard offer a convenient, fast-acting treatment in a monthly chewable. This product is ideal for flea allergic pets that benefit from the rapid kill an oral systemic product offers. Numerous effective topical products exist including Frontline, Advantix, and the Seresto collar. Avoid relying on flea shampoo or less effective monthly topicals such as Bio-Spot and Hartz as your primary defense against fleas as efficacy is reduced due to developed resistance.

Treatment options for allergic pets often require a multi-modal approach such as antihistamines, steroids, oral immunomodulators, hyposensitization injections, medicated baths, hypoallergenic diets, fatty acid supplements, oral antibiotics and antifungals. If you suspect your pet has allergies, visit your veterinarian for a complete workup and make sure to mention all food and treats your pet receives, is there a seasonal component to the allergies, if any other pets or humans are affected, and any topical products you have applied. Just a reminder, if your pet has active lesions, do not bathe your pet prior to the veterinary visit. This may remove vital information on cytology as to the nature and degree of infection as well as void skin culture results!



Groomer's Corner: Hot Weather Grooming

by Lynn Looper

Summertime brings hot temperatures and hot Lagotti! Many owners choose to clip down their Lagotto's coat. This can be done with a clipper blade sized anywhere from a number 4 (longer coat length) to an 8 ½ (shorter coat length). Any closer and the skin could become sore in sensitive areas. Scissoring the head longer than the rest of the body will keep your dog looking like a true Lagotto.

Maintaining a show coat throughout the summer can be more challenging. If Lagotti can find water, they will usually be in it; so wet and muddy paws tramping through the house with a full coated dog must be tolerated if showing is on the summer calendar.

On a good note, visiting the pool or a puddle can help keep the curls on the Lagotto in the proper ring-shaped curls...of woolly texture. Keeping mats combed out and scissoring the coat to proper show length (which is no longer than 1 ½ inches in the curled state) in between water playtimes will help keep up with the summer show ring competition.



"Visiting the pool or a puddle can help keep the curls in the proper ring-shaped curls."

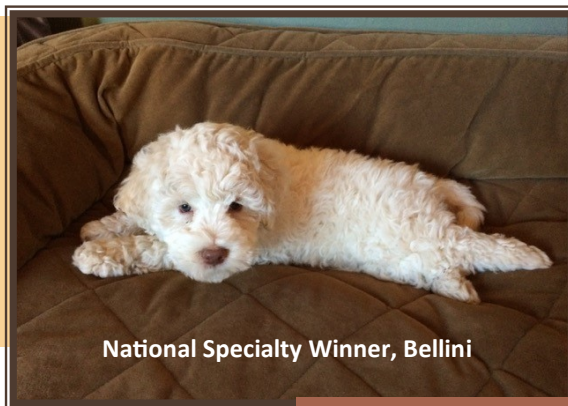
Breeder's Bench: The Joy of Breeding Lagotto

by Robin Morehouse, Fino Lagotto, Santa Fe, NM

Breeder/Exhibitor of Multiple Champion Lagotti and This Year's National Specialty Winner

Humans have attempted to develop dogs to fulfill certain desirable attributes since pre-historic times. Dogs were traditionally bred to develop their natural instincts to hunt, herd, protect; in a word – to WORK. Given our dog's participation and integration into family and social settings, I maintain it is perhaps even more important for owners to be able to choose a dog with predictable characteristics. Harmonious human-dog relationships are most successful when the dog's traits are considered and those predictable traits fit well with the human's needs.

My specific interest in breeding Lagotto Romagnolo is the concept that this ancient breed overall remains true to the original "*Lagotto-ness*." Dogs in my breeding program must be a "type" that meets my goals in addition to the breed's official standard. I strive to breed Lagotti that bring joy and enrich the lives of their humans—dogs that will grow old with good health. What is the desired "type" of Lagotto? According to the American Kennel Club a breed type is determined by, "*Qualities that distinguish dogs of breed (breed type) or dogs from one kennel (kennel type) from others.*"



National Specialty Winner, Bellini

Breeder's Bench: Continued

by Robin Morehouse, Fino Lagotto, Santa Fe, NM

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Income:
All sources \$ 14,358.50

Expense:
All programs \$(13,974.67)

Net Income \$ 383.63

2016 National Specialty (Included In above figures)

Income: \$ 10,198.21

Expense: \$ 8,865.35

Net Income \$1,332.86

Submitted by Hilarie
Gibbs-Sykes, Treasurer

To determine a breed preference I believe it is necessary to see, touch and observe as many Lagotto as possible. I frequently request the opportunity to touch and closely examine the physical attributes of Lagotto at shows. When someone asks to examine my dogs I am always thrilled and happy to oblige. It is this exchange of ideas and experiences that will serve to continue make our breed strong.

I will admit, a Lagotto with a big nose, short muzzle, proper under-jaw, small ears and a super curly coat makes my heart flutter! I love the beautiful head characteristics. All are part of the distinct physical attributes that signify *Lagotto*. Lagotto were originally developed to hunt; therefore they needed a brave temperament. Friendly, outgoing, and affectionate qualities were not necessarily important to the hunter.

Today, most family dogs are expected to fit a variety of roles. Their social acceptance of people and other pets demand attributes never anticipated in early breeding programs. I hold to the theory that temperament is both an inherited AND learned trait. Simply mating two dogs with good dispositions is not enough to give their offspring the tools necessary to become solid, socially adaptive pets. I learned that by selecting super friendly stud dogs and strategically keeping the best females from litters for future breeding, I am able to improve my program and prioritize the breeding goal of delivering solid family friendly pets.

The physical construction of a dog (the conformation) is intricately linked to how well the animal will age. A dog that is well-built is active. A dog that lacks sound structure will not have the benefits of a healthy, active life. It is important to produce dogs that live long, healthy lives, and conformation becomes a critical consideration in achieving this goal.

Many popular breeds exhibit serious health problems. Responsible breeders test every mate before producing a single litter. Good breeders often make hard decisions to cut a dog from their breeding program if there is a potential problem. We aspire to produce the next Grand Champion or other celebrated show dog, and we should be equally concerned with producing predictable dogs capable of working, training, playing or simply becoming a child's best friend. That is the real purpose of breeding solid purebred dogs!



LRCA Calendar 2017: Send in Those Photos!!!

DEADLINE AUGUST 15TH

Submit photos (5 photos maximum) to
lagottocalendar@gmail.com Photos must have:

- High resolution
- Landscape (horizontal) format
- Include Owner's name(s) & Lagotto's name(s)
- Provide the copyright and make sure you have permission to publish without compensation.



The Fear Factor

by Cathy Dronen

My puppy has always been a sweet, confident, social dog, now she is scared of EVERYTHING – what’s wrong with her? It’s a common question heard by veterinarians, trainers, behaviorists, groomers, handlers, and breeders. The answer is pretty simple; nothing is wrong – in fact everything is right with a puppy experiencing the stages of growth and development called “Fear Stages.”

To understand and effectively help your dog process the fear stages it is important to identify the various periods of normal development.

Birth-13 Days

A newborn pup can’t eliminate or regulate their body temperature, the eyes are closed and they are unable to hear. Infant puppies crawl and squeak to locate their mother. Research shows the EEG of an awake and an asleep newborn pup reads the same. Puppies in the wild can’t move from the den so they avoid perils

Transitional Period 13 to 20 Days

At about 2 weeks of age, puppies open their eyes but they cannot see fully. Teeth begin to appear, and they start to stand, move more and wag their tail. During the transitional period they may react to objects and sounds.

Awareness Period 21- 28 Days

During the awareness period senses are fully developed and the puppy can walk. They are learning at an extremely fast rate, playing with littermates and becoming less dependent on their mothers. They can thermoregulate, begin eating by means

other than nursing and eliminate waste.

Socialization Period 21-49 Days

At about 21 days old a puppy will begin learning socialization behavior. They have facial expressions and postures. They exercise mouthing, chasing, barking, playing, and they start to exhibit status behaviors. The dam will leave for longer periods, begin the weaning process and the puppies must begin to assess danger-**FEAR**.

Human Socialization Period 7 – 12 Weeks

Puppies have the brain waves of adult dogs at this period. Deep bonds with trusted humans begin at about 7 weeks and they are typically fully weaned. At about 8 weeks puppies experience what is considered the first fear stage. Anything that traumatizes can potentially be carried their entire life. Despite the fear stage, puppies should be comfortably exposed to new objects, people, objects, other animals, and situations. This is an excellent period to begin

puppy classes. It is important to make every situation a positive reinforcement experience. Experts agree a puppy should be exposed to 100 different people by 12 weeks of age.

Seniority Classification Period 10 - 16 Weeks.

At about 10 weeks old puppies begin to establish their status within the pack/household. They become more independent and begin to display oppositional mouthing/biting. A controlled environment during this period is critical. Firm, consistent handling is important for conditioning.

Flight Instinct Period 4 – 8 Months

Around 4 months of age your puppy begins to test his boundaries. He may resist when called, venture off on his own, and explore places and things he has previously shown no interest in. Teething, chewing and mouthing intensifies. During this stage your puppy is a flight risk. Reinforce appropriate behavior by redirecting, and providing consistent training. ANYTHING that is within reach is a potential chew toy during this developmental stage!

Second Fear Impact Period: 6 – 14 Months

This period intensifies a dog’s awareness of danger. They become sexually mature, males will begin lifting their legs and exhibit marking behaviors. Females will have their first heat. At this critical stage lifelong reactive behavior patterns (growling, food aggression, storm phobia etc.) can form. Learned training and behavior modification skills will be most important in getting a pup through this critical period. NEVER punish a fearful puppy, instead redirect and reassure. Make new experiences fun, reward with toys, treats, games and affection. These measures will instill confidence and establish bonding.

Maturity 1 -2 years

Some smaller breeds reach maturity at one year, others may take up to 2 years to fully mature. If resource guarding, reaction to strangers or other dogs/pets, food aggression, and other dominance-related issues are not addressed they will be increasingly more difficult to resolve. The need to train, build positive relationships with people and other pets, reinforce trust and mutual respect continues for life!



Catherine (Cat) Dronen lives in Tennessee with her husband Steve, 4 dogs, 2 cats, 2 canaries, & other transient critters. Cat sits on the board for the LRCA and is a Bollettino team member. She is also a published author of 2 children’s truffle dog books!

Dog Title	Dog Name	Date Titled	Owners Name
Champion	CH Lk Peter Pan CM	13-Apr-16	Toni Kay-Wolff
Champion	CH Dolce Vita Livia	15-Apr-16	Sandra Mignogna
Grand Champion Bronze	GCHB CH Nostryffelns Ottima Opera CM BN RN	15-Apr-16	Adrienne Perry & Jane Lash
Champion	CH Dig'n Saintly Assisi NA NAJ	16-Apr-16	Robin Morehouse
Champion	CH Duccio Da Buoninsegna	16-Apr-16	Laurin Howard & Lynne Spencer
Coursing Ability	Perfetto Piccola CA CGC	16-Apr-16	Barry Wagner
Champion	CH Teofilo Gorska Fantazja	17-Apr-16	Kendal L Walters & David Wal- ters
Coursing Ability Advanced	Mystic Swirls White Shadow CAA CGC	17-Apr-16	Gail Keyes
Canine Good Citizen	Ciappi Del Tiglio CGC	18-Apr-16	Jill Shuck
Grand Champion Bronze	GCHB CH Rozebottel's Big Mack At Grandcru	24-Apr-16	Melanie S Steele & Julie Bailey
Beginner Novice	Perfetto Piccola BN RN CA CGC	30-Apr-16	Barry Wagner
Rally Novice	Perfetto Piccola BN RN CA CGC	30-Apr-16	Barry Wagner

Q & A #1

My puppy has eye boogers, what should I do?

The gooey or dried residue that collects in the corner of your dog's eyes is normal. "Eye boogers" are the result of the body working to clear debris like dust, pollen, and other irritants. When your dog sleeps and is not blinking the residue collects. Eye discharge should be removed with a damp (not wet) cloth. If the booger is tangled in hair you may need to soften it with the damp cloth before gently removing it with your fingers, then wipe. Normal discharge collecting in the corners of the eyes may form a white, milky, or pale yellow goop, or a dark crust. If however, the eyes are bloodshot, lids crusted together, smelly, or dark yellow-green discharge, see your local veterinarian ASAP!

New Merit Award Approved by LRCA

Your Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America has approved a new merit award that honors the All-Around Lagotto. The Special Award will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting in March 2017. So now is the time to get in gear and rally your team performance to the next level! The application and details will appear soon on the club's website.

The LRCA Special Award program is designed to honor Lagotto that have distinguished themselves in the conformation ring, and/or other recognized performance events (tracking, agility, obedience, nose-work, etc.). These dogs possess the structure, temperament, intelligence, talent, and endurance which represent the essential characteristics of our breed.

There will be three (3) levels of the Special Award (name to be determined):

1. Special Award Certificate (SC), 30 points required
2. Special Award Excellent (SX), 40 points required
3. Special Award Champion (SCH), 50 points required

The LRCA will award a certificate signed by the Club President to any qualified Lagotto owned by a club member or a club member's immediate family in good standing with the AKC. Each successful Lagotto fulfilling the requirements will be listed in the permanent records of the LRCA. We hope to make our first awards at the next annual National Specialty in Texas...So get busy training!!

Membership Summary

ASSOCIATE	152members
HOUSEHOLD	58 (116) members
REGULAR	92 members
INTERNATIONAL	10 members
JUNIOR	2 members

TOTAL 314 (372 Members)

Welcome New Members

by Alana McGee

Members Voted in Since March 1, 2016

William Johnson, Germantown, TN	Virginia Stygar, Scottsdale, AZ
Cindy Van Wyk, Mill Spring, NC	Samantha Peterson, Hahira, GA
Diane McCarthy, Ann Arbor, MI	Robert Sigel, Mashpe, MA
Floranne Ethridge, Raleigh, NC	Barbara Ferrari, Phoenix, AZ
Kathleen Snyder, Chantham, NJ	Christy Jeresko, Willoughby, OH
Charleen Boucher, Camarillo, CA	Stephen Zerwas, Summerfield, NC
Sandra Buckery, Wilmington, NC	Julie Baliey, Highland Village, TX
Bari Horisberger, McKinney, TX	Bobbie Halfin, New York, NY
Christy Hand, Meggett, SC	Janet Ingram, Radford, VA
Brenda Muir Federalsburg, MD	Pam Nashman, Falls Church, VA
Judie Posner, Ocala, FL	Rebecca Nelson, Macon, GA
Emily Edwards, Germantown, TN	John Salvo, La Canada, CA
Lindsay Shepherd, Westport, CT	Marie Van Iderstine, Depew, NY
Mary L. Partridge, Fort Mitchell, AL	Richard Weinhaus, Watertown, MA

Check out the LRCA website at www.lagottous.com for updates and to find out more about the new General Trophy Fund & other opportunities to support your club!

Q & A #2

What is the best way to remove hair from my dog's ear canal?

Lagotti are water dogs and have hair that grows in the ear canal to protect from water. That hair also is a great breeding ground for the bacteria and fungus that cause painful ear infections. To avoid the problems of infection, the ears should be checked regularly and the hair removed. To remove ear hair, pull back ear flap and inspect the ears, then:

1. Apply medicated ear powder to absorb moisture and dry wax .
2. Grasp small amounts of hair between fingers and wiggle & pull.
3. Continue removing hair about ½ inch down the ear canal.

Board Highlights

by Liz Williams

- 2017 Nationals to be held in Ft. Worth, TX in conjunction with the Texas Combined Specialties.
- Jack Steele approved as the Bylaw Committee Chair.
- Submitted application to AKC to become a Member Club.
- Jeannine May approved as the Committee Liaison.
- Awards and Recognition Committee approved to launch the Special Merit Awards Program.
- Allison Baker approved to join the Trophy Committee.
- Pam Nashman, Norman Kellershon and Ruben Ihuit approved to join the Marketing Committee.

Going on Vacation? Pros & Cons of Boarding

by Lynne Looper, Owner of Hideaway Kennels, NC for 30 years



There are numerous opinions about boarding kennels...a lot of them negative. But for many dog owners, kenneling becomes a necessity.

The average dog lives approximately 12 to 16 years old. During this time owners will find times when their canine companions are not able to accompany them. Vacations, weddings, funerals, graduations, reunions...dogs are not always welcome. It is very important to plan ahead and have your young dogs become accustomed to their, "home away from home."

remember that dogs are creatures of habit, and as soon as the biscuits come out and the sweet chatter is shared f

from the staff, each day gets better and better. The dogs soon develop confidence and a quick positive relationship with the members who care for them.

Many kennels offer, "extra cares". These can consist of long walks, ball toss, pool time and TLC (tender loving care) time with the employees. Signing up for these special offerings will help your dog fall in love with their "camp experience."

Make sure the staff persons are welcoming, and more importantly, that they allow you to tour their facility.



It is important to visit the kennel where you are considering leaving your pet. Make sure the staff persons are welcoming, and more importantly, they allow you to tour their facility.

It can be emotionally difficult to leave your dog in the hands of a boarding kennel; dogs can worry that they are being left at a veterinarian's office and vaccines are on their way! However,

Another acknowledgement to ensure you are leaving your dog at a reliable boarding kennel is, when returning your pet to the same place many times over, check to see if your dog wags its tail upon entering and recognizes the staff member's with a positive reaction. There are many "tell-tail" signs that can make you feel very comfortable leaving your pet at a boarding kennel so the time away from them can be enjoyed without worry or concern.

With today's technology— websites, face book entries, etc., it is easy to research which choice is best for your favorite canine companion.

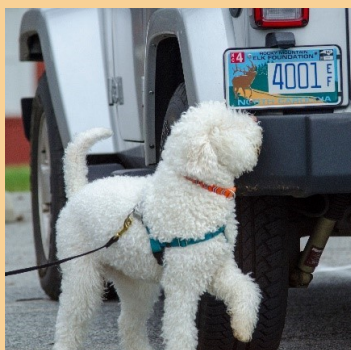
Have a wonderful summer!



Lynne Looper lives in North Carolina where she is President of the Greater Hickory Kennel Club. She is an AKC judge for Border Terriers where she has 30 years of breeding and exhibiting experience. Lynne is the breed columnist for Border Terrier and now Lagotto Romagnolo for the AKC Gazette. She is lovingly owned by 2 female LR & 3 BT dogs!!



Continued from Page 4.



Bugsy searches a vehicle

“Hide & Scent” Training, continued

In order to enter a nose work trial, a team must enter online within a prescribed period. Actual acceptance into the competition is through a random draw of qualified entrants. Due to the limited number of slots available for the handler/dog teams, gaining acceptance into a trial may require multiple tries and driving considerable distances.

For each trial entered, contestants must pass all four elements, including containers, vehicles, interiors and exteriors, in order to earn a title.

During a trial, handlers keep dogs crated in their vehicles and bring them to each element per the running order of the day. At the conclusion, all human contestants gather together to hear the judges and certifying officials relay their observations of the day's competition, followed by the presentation of awards and titles. For more information on the association, its events and rules, visit their site at www.nacsw.net.



Jean Davis-Barger lives in Maryland with her Lagotto, Bugsy. Bugsy earned his NWI title in January 2016. Jean and Bugsy are currently enrolled in advanced level training with NACSW.

Check out the LRCA website at www.lagottous.com for details on a new, Special Merit Award Program, coming soon!



National Specialty Winners continued

Best of Winners: Teofilo Gorska Fantazja, Owned by Kendal & David Walters, Bred by Beata Radomska

Winner's Bitch: Allegro's New Era Crescendo, Owned by Jim and Amy Dickey, Bred by Adrienne Perry and Jane Lash

Best of Sweepstakes: Teofilo Gorska Fantazja, Owned by Kendal & David Walters, Bred by Beata Radomska

Best of Opposite Sweepstakes: Two by Two Just Because, Owned by Joy Kohler & Sonia Lopez, Bred by Sonia Lopez

Best Head: Teofilo Gorska Fantazja, Owned by Kendal & David Walters, Bred by Beata Radomska

Best Construction: Dig'N Designer Bellini, Owned by Christine Mullen, Bred by Robin Morehouse

Best Coat: GCHB Nostryffeln Ottima Opera BN RN, Owned by Adrienne Perry and Jane Lash, Bred by Kristina Gustafsson .

AKC Update:

The LRCA was published in the *AKC Gazette* in June for the second and final time. We now await the vote of the Delegate Body in September in order to become a member club.

Submitted by Melanie Steele, AKC Liaison for LRCA



Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Canada

Sponsors Inaugural National Specialty

Sunday, August 28, 2016

LRCC will be hosting an inaugural National Specialty in conjunction with the [Stormont, Dundas, & Glengarry Dog Association's All-Breed Show](#) in beautiful Long Sault, Ontario.

The [Stormont, Dundas, & Glengarry Dog Association's](#) show will encompass 4 all-breed conformation shows, 19 specialties and much more.

Judges: *Sandy Mignogna - Sweepstakes*

Esther Joseph - Regular and Non-Regular Classes



Check out the LRCC website at

<http://lagottoromagnoloclubofcanada.ca/specialty/>



Jean, Lynn & Kendal
ready their pups.

2016 LRCA National Specialty Pre-Game Photos

Teo gets a hair cut.



Reese and Aurora
ready and waiting.

Lisa and Adrienne
ready their pups.



Notice

Bollettino articles are submitted and published to provide entertainment, opinions and features of interest regarding the health, enjoyment and well-being of the Lagotto Romagnolo breed. They are not written as a substitute for medical advice or to diagnose, treat, or provide guidance. ANY article, regardless of the source, is subject to effectiveness for a specific dog under certain conditions and environments. It is the responsibility of the owner to decide the benefit to their pet and use all information, herein, SAFELY!

