

BOLLETTINO



Summer
2017



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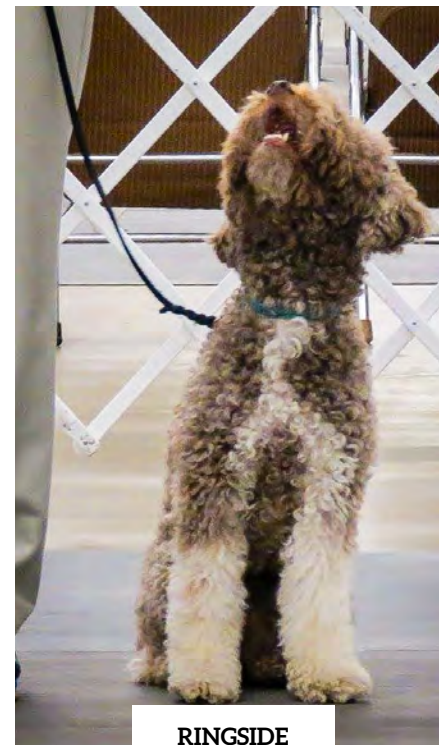
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Every dog that is
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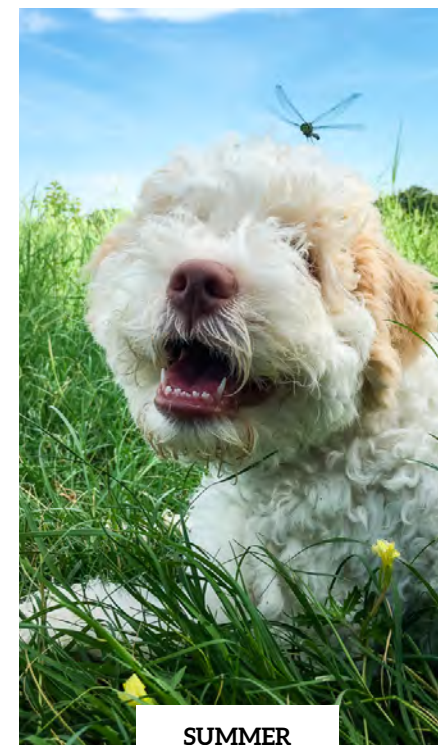
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SUMMER
FUN

Hanging out and staying cool
with our Lagotti friends from all
over the country

WELCOME

Would you like to submit an article for the Fall issue? Please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Tips on Training, Nutrition, activities or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dog's name, age, and a photo caption. Email your submissions to:

Bollettino@LagottoUS.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer with their precious Lagotti.

“LRCA is proud to have presented our first webinar that was of great interest to all who love the Lagotto breed”

...



We wish to welcome Julie Bailey who has offered to publish our newsletter and to Cat Dronen who has volunteered to edit this edition.

We honor two of our club members with President's Awards for this last year. Theresa Nehemiah received our **Tail Wagger Award** for excellence in advancing the cause of the Lagotto Romagnolo breed in the United States. She was selected for leading the club under the most difficult of circumstances, and did

Judith Martin
and Vando



so with great leadership until serious health issues caused her to step down from her Board position. **The Spark Plug Award** is presented to –a member who has stood out in helping promote our breed. Alvina Estes has worked for several years on the New York City Meet the Breed educating thousands of people about our breed.

LRCA is proud to have presented our first webinar that was of great interest to all who love the Lagotto breed. The webinar was on August 27th at 7:30 EDT. The first in our series of educational webinars was about ancient and current Italian breeds, featuring the fascinating genetic story of the Lagotto Romagnolo. See page: 24 for more information.

~ Judith Martin



TRUFFLE DOG

“Lagotti are a double-coated, non-shedding, breed. They have a heavy wool coat and should not be blown out.”

GROOMING



- Do not use conditioner or coat-softening products.
- Do use a good cleaning shampoo and do a brush or comb-out while dog is wet and in the tub. This will help with elasticity.
- B3 Protein shampoo is a perfect choice for tub brush-outs.
- B3 40:1 is perfect for regular maintenance not requiring tub brush-outs. Do not use an oil stripping shampoo.
- Do your bath and brush out in the tub use your shampoo to lubricate and slide that dead hair out. Rinse, Rinse, Rinse.
- Towel dry and put dog under cool fan or blow dryer until dry.

This little truffle dog takes a different approach to grooming. Let me introduce and review a few guidelines to help you groom and understand the truffle dog coat.

Lagotti are a double-coated, non-shedding, breed. They have a heavy wool coat and should not be blown out. They should not carry a lot of coat as pets or show dogs. They should not carry more than 1 1/2 inches of hair.

Pet owners and breeders will tell you Lagotto Romagnolo are groomed to look rustic, whether pet grooming or show grooming, the difference is length of coat and how much corrective work you will put into accentuating size,

balance, proportion and angles. The good news for you, do not fluff dry this truffle dog and do not do a tight scissor finish this is what "rustic" means.

This little truffle dog takes a different approach to grooming.

The bath. Do use a good finishing spray such as Cowboy Magic Super Body Shine for detangling in the tub. This product will help you work through matts, add elasticity, and help you get curl definition for the final finishing

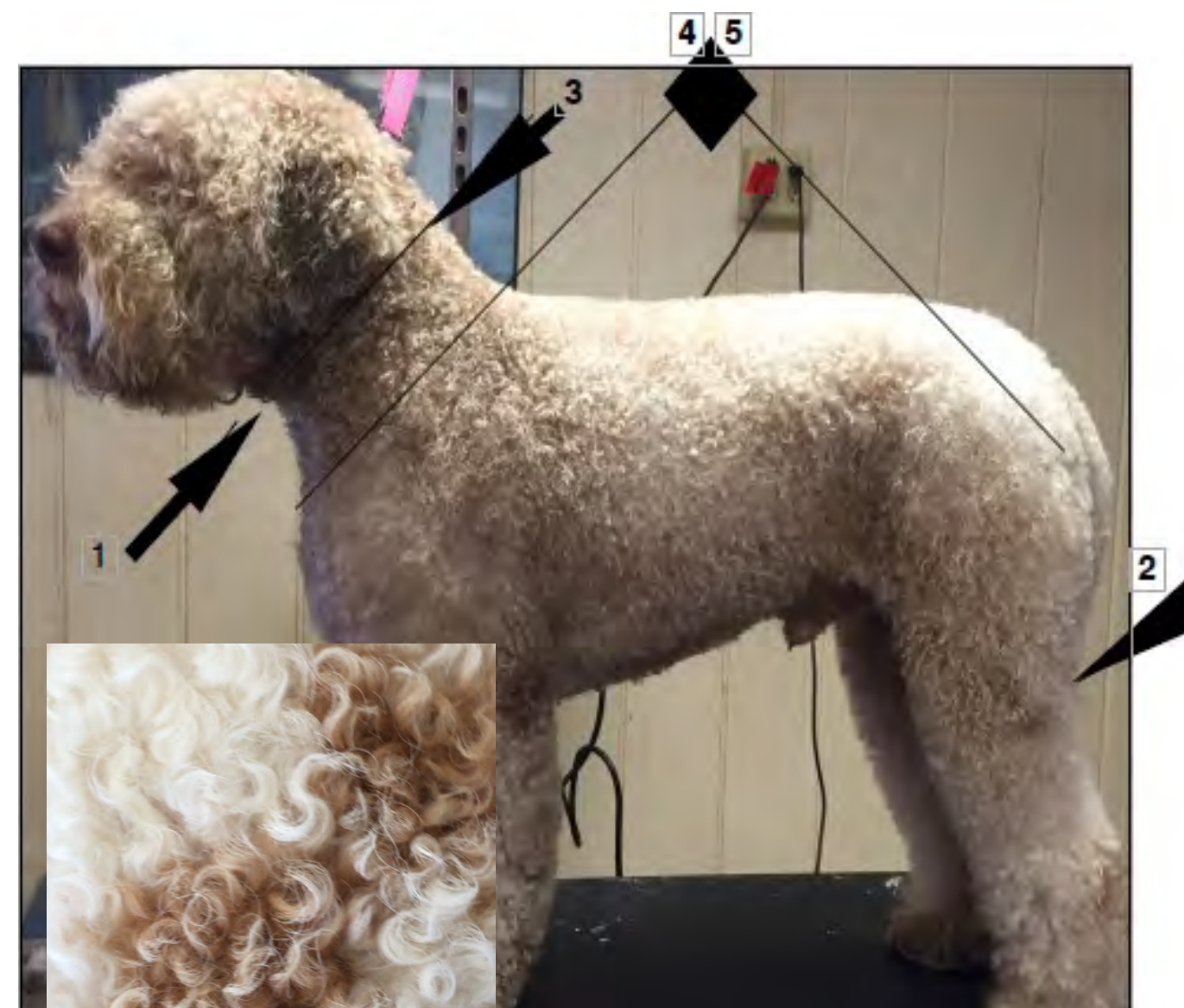
1. Throat latch (blade scoop)

2. Rear angle (blade scoop)

3. Scissor angle for establishing side profile of head and ear

4. Scissor angle for establishing layback of shoulder

5. Scissor angle for setting rear assembly (point of hip to point of rump) Line 4&5 converging to check for proper angles



steps. You can get through matts on a dry coat, however I find tub brush-outs to go smoother and show less coat damage.

The body. Other than an all over shave down, the typical pet will get a 7, 5, 4, 3/4 or 5/8 blade on the body and leg hair being one or two blade sizes longer or scissored legs. Use the same blade that you used on the body on the throat latch and rear angle as well as on the top and sides of the tail. Attachment combs can be used but are difficult to move through tight curls, scissoring leg hair is generally easier. A typical summer cut is a 5 on the body and 5/8 on the legs with a short scissored head. Winter cut 5/8 inch on body, scissor legs.

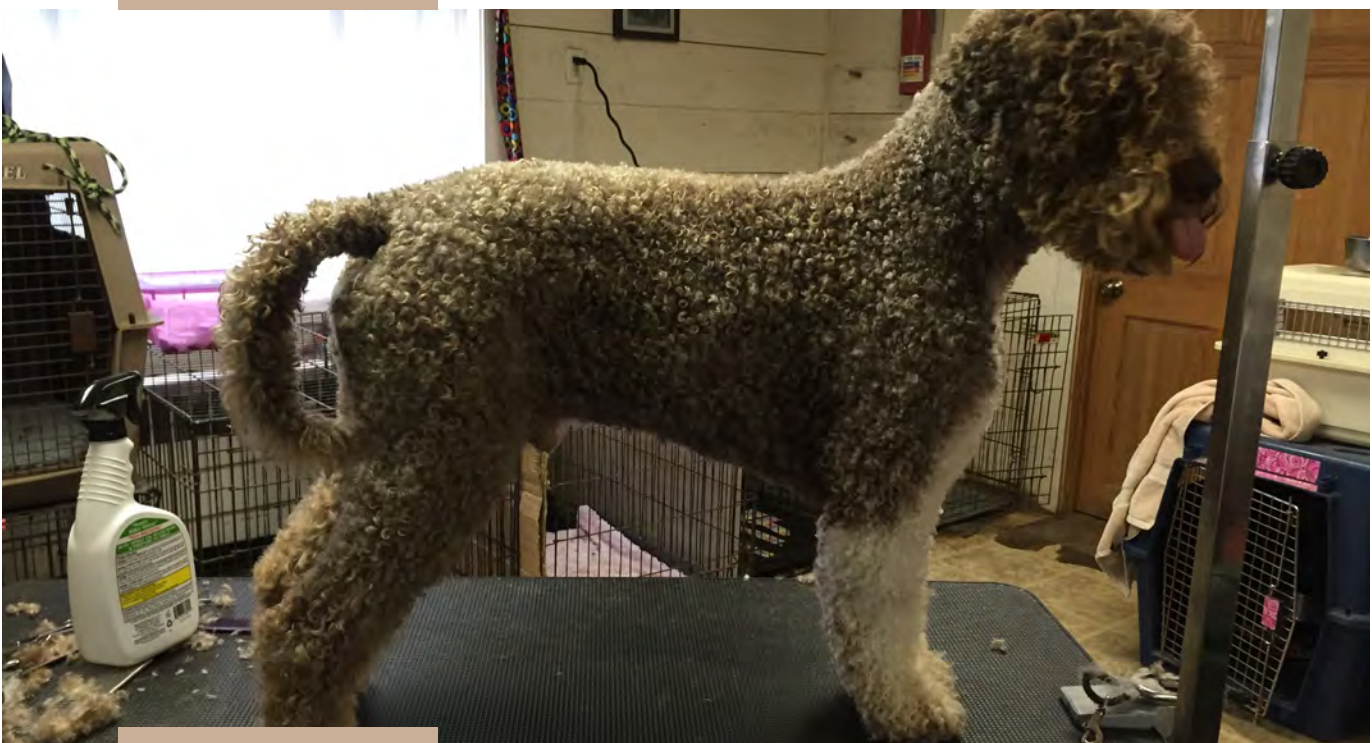
The head. Outline scissor from a side profile to show the length of skull, occiput to stop is longer then the length of stop to nose. The ears should lay flat on the head and show that they are curly. You can use a 5/8 inch blade to skim over and



GCHS IL GRANAIO DEI ADRIANO CM2 DJ CGC
"Cannoli"
Owned by Jim and Carolyn Talbert

blend the ears, then follow the far outside edge of ear with scissors on an angle to the ear leather. From the front view the ears will look triangle and fall and blend effortlessly into total look of the head. The stop and around the eyes is not shaved. The finish outline can be done roughly with scissors then chunk up with thinning shears or chunkers.

The rear. The final outline includes the rear angulation and the throat latch (I set the rear outline and the front outline in this step) to clearly set a balanced look. The 3/4 inch or 5/8 inch blade allows you to fix and define a rear assembly as well as set a front assembly to show a well laid back shoulder angle.



Joy Nachmias is the owner and founder of B3 Salon Products, LLC and a New York School of Dog Grooming graduate. Joy has been grooming, showing and hobby breeding dogs for over 25 years. Specializing in Poodles and recently adding the Lagotto Romagnolo to her family of dogs. Champion Perfetto Here For A Good Time was Best Of Opposite Sex in the 2016 Westminster dog show. Co-Owned and shown by Joy Nachmias and bred by Andrea Shaffer "Nuttella" was used at 2016 Hershey Groom expo at the B3 Salon Products booth as the Lagotto Romagnolo Breed demo dog.

I always use a 5/8 inch blade depending on body length to accentuate these important angles on the pets and show dogs alike.

The finish. Includes a light mist of Cowboy Magic shine, towel & run fingers through the hair and tuff. Scissor to finish final outline. Lay a damp towel over the dog's body and spray or drizzle with water to set in curls then use a damp wet towel to scrunch head and muzzle. Allow dog to air dry. Clean up all front angles, shoulder angles, and rear angles. Scissor finish a carrot tail including a nice finish on the top line and round feet. ~ Joy Nachmias



SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHTS

“Fort Worth certainly delivered a big ole, Texas-sized experience for guests attending the 2017 National Specialty Show.” ~Jeff Fischer



The LRCA National Specialty Committee’s tireless efforts reflected in every event, treating club members to an educational, entertaining, fun-filled, three-day extravaganza.

Jeff Fischer, LRCA National Specialty Chair reflects on a few crowd favorite events. “We knew from the start we had to step it up following last year’s successful premier Specialty in Perry, GA.” As it turns out, “step it up” was an understatement. The committee successfully “knocked it clean out of the park” in Fort Worth (and let’s be honest – it was a BIG PARK).

“One of our biggest concerns going into the Texas event was entries,” explained Fischer. “We actually did much better than expected by all accounts. There were sixty-one entries (a 20% increase over the previous year) for the various titles, an impressive number for a young club.” Fort Worth attracted Lagotto owners and supporters from all

To learn more about the 2018 National Specialty Show, accommodations, plan your events and make reservations, visit the Specialty Page on the [LRCA website](#).

over the country to the event. "The message was clear," Fischer confirms, "Lagotto people are passionate about the breed, and they brought that enthusiasm with them."

From the opening reception featuring an authentic Texas-style barbecue, dog (and human) dancing, and live music to the judge's dinner, this year's NS, delivered something for everyone. Fischer was especially impressed with Dr. Dayna Dreger's educational presentation. "Dr. Dreger's interest in the Lagotto Romagnolo is very fortunate. Everyone attending her session had the opportunity to learn something new about the health, DNA, and trends affecting the breed."

Some of the country's best judges came on board for the competition including; Judge Doug Johnson (Indiana), Judge Lynn Looper (North Carolina), Judge Bob Vandiver (South Carolina), and Judge Gloria Geringer (Louisiana).

"We were very fortunate to attract sponsors like Urbani Truffles and Chris Christensen Products,"

"Fort Worth attracted Lagotto owners and supporters from all over the country."

~ Jeff Fisher

Fischer said. "Thanks to their generosity we were able to offer exceptional auction items, ring-side Italian dessert delicacies (a big hit), and coveted swag bags."

Fischer is optimistic about continuing corporate support, "This year's sponsors were very pleased with the exposure and representation of their brands. I believe they will be ready to partner with the LRCA for future events."

Of course, the future of quality, diverse, LRCA National Specialties depends most of all on the support and participation of patrons. "Putting together a show of this magnitude is a labor of love, and it takes an enormous investment of time and resources," said Fischer. "We are already working

on 2019 and beyond."

How does Fischer measure the success of the efforts? "If participants have a good time, they leave wanting more, and they look forward to the next year, I'd say we had a winner."

Considering Fischer's criteria, it is safe to declare the 2017 National Specialty a 'grand sweep' triumph!

~ Cathy Dronen



Sponser Urbani Truffles Italian dessert delicacies were a big hit!



Custom leather luggage tags were part of the coveted award swag.



We were very fortunate to attract sponsors like Urbani Truffles and Chris Christensen Products. Thanks to their generosity we were able to offer exceptional auction items and swag bags.

~ Jeff Fisher

RINGSIDE SEATS



WINNERS SPOTLIGHT

Mack



BIS BISS GCHS Rozebottel's Big Mac at GrandCru

Mack's breeder is Katrien Van Gemert. I became interested in the breed when a neighbor of mine asked me to help him find a Lagotto puppy to ride in the quail wagon at his plantation. I started doing research and found Katrien through a fellow Greyhound breeder in Italy, Gilberto Grandi. Katrien's partner, Saskia had Greyhounds and she was interested in a dog from me, so we agreed to trade. As soon as Mack arrived, he went to Rindi to be trained on how much fun it is to show! We both think she created a monster! He adores being in the ring.

~ Melanie Steel

During his time here, the following people have been owned/loved by Mack:

Bonnie Jeffrey Chase

Julie Bailey

Mary Wood

Melanie Steele

Rindi Gaudet, professional handler

**MACK AND RINDI
ON THE MOVE**



Please check our BLOG for full results for the 2017 National Specialty including, Sweepstakes, Junior Handling, Obedience, and Rally

A BOOT SCOOTIN' FOUR-PAW QUICK-STEP

In early 2017 Ziva and I received an invitation to perform a dance routine at the annual Lagotto Romagnolo National Specialty in Fort Worth, Texas. LRCA President Judith Martin saw our video on Facebook and thought the membership would enjoy the performance. I graciously accepted and choreographed a routine to Jason Aldean's "She's Country" to fit the theme of the special event. Next, I worked to design costumes to go with the music. I threw in Ziva's Cruella Devile outfit and Greased Lightning music – just in case an encore was requested.

Ziva and I danced for the group at the legendary Pearl's Saloon. We were part of opening reception's entertainment which included a real Texas Barbeque, silent auction, and a live band. Attending the National Specialty offered us a wonderful opportunity to meet other Lagotto owners, breeders, and of course make lots of Lagotti friends!

Ziva is a four-year-old Lagotto Romagnolo. Our dancing career started two years ago, in my home state of Michigan. We enrolled in several trick classes at my trainer's facility. We learned how tricks could be transformed into dance

routines. I knew Ziva could dance once she was willing to do several tricks in sequence. She loves dancing (and so do I).

Soon, we were invited to become members of the facility's All American Dog Team. Several times a year we perform dances and skits to raise money for the "War Dogs Foundation."

Ziva has earned her AKC Canine Good Citizen, Community Canine and Urban Canine titles as well as UKC AGI AGILITY AND AGII AGILITY TITLES. According to Ziva, dog dancing is just another of the many talents of this incredible breed!

~ Maggie Andreau

"I threw in Ziva's
Cruella Devile
outfit and Greased
Lightning music
– just in case
an encore was
requested."

...



INSIDE THE RING

Body, Coat and Mind A Judge's View



I had the honor and pleasure of judging the second annual LRCA National Specialty Sweepstakes this March, 2017 in Texas. With this breed being fairly new to the AKC ring, I wanted to make sure I had a clear understanding of its origin and of the AKC written standard.

I also felt it was important to translate the concerns of long time breeders from Italy in to my ring. There is nothing more important than listening to committed breeders, of any breed, that have been through the sweat, tears, time, money and years to learn how to produce the best specimen according to their history and their standard. During my studies and preparation there were a few things brought to my attention that seemed very pertinent. Long time breeders were adamant I pay attention to certain unique parts of the Lagotto standard; one being the single word, "rustic". The dictionary states this

"Shyness in young dogs is common. Judges should be patient and use a soft hand when going over such participants."

"Long time breeders were adamant I pay attention to certain unique parts of the Lagotto standard; one being the single word, 'rustic'."



word means, simple, rough, of the country. Certainly this would lead us to believe there should be no over grooming or over sculpting of this dog. The standard does state, "Excessively groomed dogs (sculpted or blown out so that the curl may not be assessed) should be so severely penalized as to eliminate from competition." The coat on the body must not be longer than a maximum of 1 ½ inches in a curled state. Already in the US we are seeing dogs being campaigned with much longer coats and without the proper curl. A judge should be concerned about this type of presentation for two reasons. One is, they cannot tell if the dog has the inherent unique tight curl to the coat. And the other is, it

is being presented longer than the standard calls for. A maximum of 1 ½ inches means it can be shorter than, but no longer than that amount! Ask any of the original breeders of the Lagotto Romagnolo and they will tell you one of their biggest fears of this breed coming over to the United States to be shown to their American championships is for them not to remain rustic in appearance...for them to be over groomed and sculpted. Showing a Lagotto that resembles that of a giant Bichon Frise is a big insult to the devoted breeders from the land they originate.

I also learned it is important to remember the Lagotto is square in body. Therefore it should move like a square breed...no extreme reach and drive. I believe this is difficult for typical Sporting judges to grasp as there are so many other breeds in this Group that are the exact opposite. It is good advice to keep in mind how unique the Lagotto breed is to the Sporting dog world...their special head piece, lamb-like coat, and moderate angles.

Shyness in young dogs is common. Judges should be patient and use a soft hand when going over such participants.

The Lagotto Romagnolo may become a much desired breed to both the AKC arena and to the pet buyer in this country. Their medium size, non-shedding coat, and fun loving devoted personality is very attractive. It is of the most utmost importance that breeders protect them by selling to spay/neuter homes while keeping tabs on their show dogs and their pedigrees.

Hugs to yours! ~ Lynn Looper

HEALTH FRONTIER

Digging Deeper

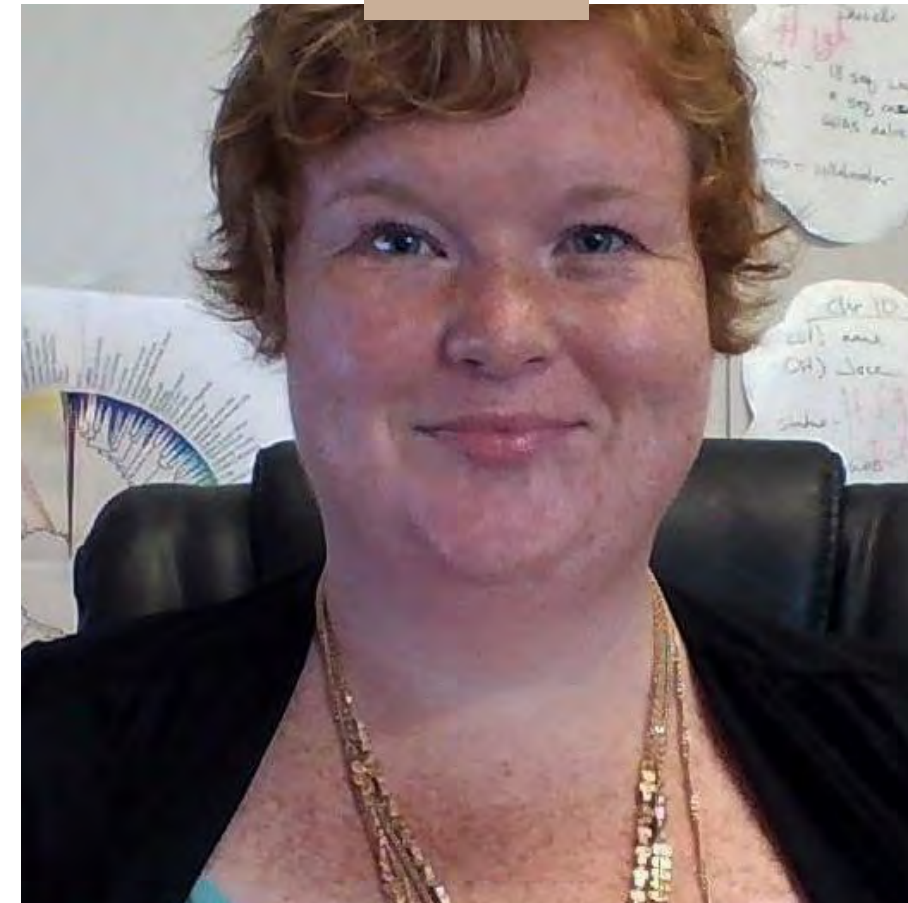
LRCA members and guests attending the 2017 National Specialty were treated to an educational seminar by Dr. Dayna Dreger. Dr. Dreger is a senior post-doctoral fellow and staff scientist in the Comparative Genetics Section at the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health. Her studies are of particular interest as her research specializes in how human migration and culture are reflected by dog breed development.

"Our lab researches genetics within the domestic dog to identify drivers of heritable cancers, diseases, and physical morphology," Dr. Dreger explains the work. "I personally have a history in pigmentation genetics, which I was heavily involved in during my graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. Since joining the Dog Genome Project in 2012, my research has revolved around the population genetics of dog breeds, defin-

ing the genetic parameters of what makes a breed, and elucidating breed-to-breed relationships and the human-canine overlap in population formation."

On a personal note Dr. Dreger adds, "Outside of the laboratory, I'm deeply involved in the dog community as a judge, trainer, and competitor in multiple dog competition events."

A member of the prestigious Ostrander Research Team, Dr. Dreger has accomplished significant work in the field of DNA studies involving the Developmental Path of Common Stock Refined. The Ostrander research states a first goal as, "expanding the vocabulary of growth control related genes." As such, the researchers are building on the extensive genomic infrastructure developed for the dog to identify genes associated with breed-specific differences in morphology. The team seeks, secondly, "to find genes associated with



"I'm a senior post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Elaine Ostrander and the Dog Genome Project at the National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute. Our lab researches genetics within the domestic dog to identify drivers of heritable cancers, diseases, and physical morphology. I personally have a history in pigmentation genetics, which I was heavily involved in during my graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. Since joining the Dog Genome Project in 2012, my research has revolved around the population genetics of dog breeds, defining the genetic parameters of what makes a breed, and elucidating breed-to-breed relationships and the human-canine overlap in population formation."

cancer susceptibility in dogs, where breed predilection likely reflects the selective pressures used to develop and enhance specific traits. Their interest in cancer extends beyond dogs to human prostate cancer (PC), where they are working both independently and within consortia to find genes associated with susceptibility and progression to aggressive forms of PC."

Aside from the medical significance of the Ostrander study, Dr. Dreger's research is particularly interesting as it centralizes much attention on a canine group identified as "The Fonni's Dog." The Fonni's Dog characterizes an endemic dog population on Sardinia, [that] has not been subjected to an intensive system of artificial selection, but rather has developed alongside the human population of

Sardinia, influenced by geographic isolation and unregulated selection based on its environmental adaptation and aptitude for owner-desired behaviors. The extensive study led to the inclusion of 28 dog breeds, originating from regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea -- including the Lagotto Romagnolo.



The far-reaching applications of Ostrander's studies are significant. For more information about Dr. Dreger's critical research visit www.labome.org & www.genome.gov

The extensive study led to the inclusion of 28 dog breeds, originating from regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea -- including the Lagotto Romagnolo.

THE POOP ABOUT DIET

You would think the discussion would be largely about nutrition - things like protein content, mineral ratios, digestibility, minimum daily requirements, and those sorts of things. But no. The discussion is strongly ideological, with several camps that firmly believe that what they feed their dogs is the only right way and everyone else is wrong, and of course the commercial dog food companies are just plain evil.

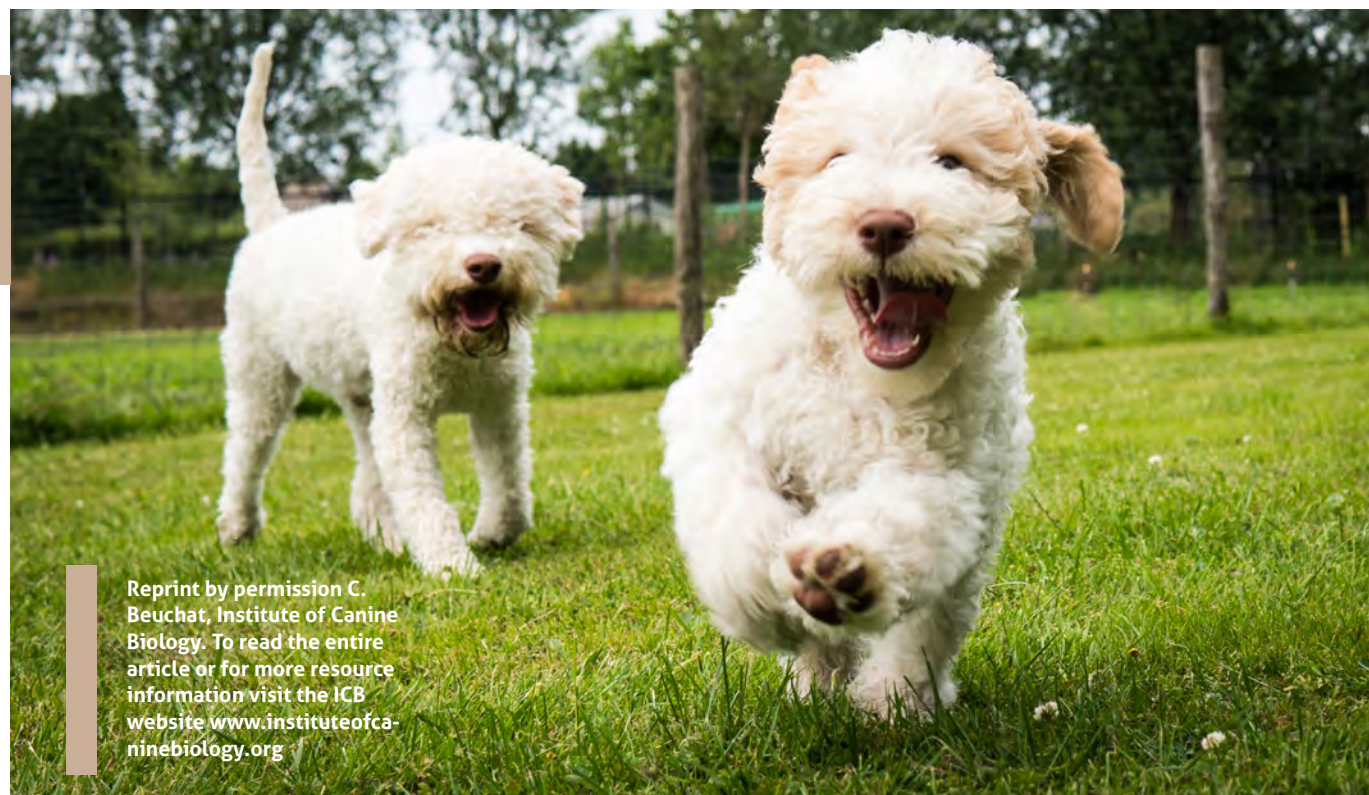
The religions are many: Prey Model Raw, BARF (which is a registered trademark!), Meat With Bone, the Ultimate Diet, the Volhard Diet, and others, and proponents of each vigorously debunk the claims of the others. Much of the discussion centers on whether dogs are carnivores (facultative? obligate?) or omnivores (with "carnivorous tendencies"?), and the arguments are largely based on personal perceptions of the biology of the wolf (many of which are incorrect)

and opinions about the diets of dogs during domestication. This is addressed in a recent paper evaluating the benefits and risks of raw meat-based diets (Freeman et al 2013):

"A founding premise in popular lay publications and on the Internet regarding RMBDs [raw meat-based diets] is that these are the diets that wild, nondomesticated dog and cat species ate during their evolution into pets, which may provide an important rationale for some owners to feed these diets to their dogs and cats. Cats have remained obligate carnivores during domestication, and their natural diet includes a range of small prey species such as mammals, reptiles, birds, and insects that can be hunted, captured, and eaten by the cats. Conversely, dogs have adapted to eating an omnivorous diet and can consume a variety of plant and animal products to meet their essential nutrient requirements. However, both

cats and dogs are able to digest and metabolize many nutrients provided from plant-based ingredients. Additionally, dogs have undergone an incredible variety of selection pressures resulting in large phenotypic differences from their ancestors and among current breeds. In fact, it was reported that there are 36 regions of the genome that differ between dogs and wolves, 10 of which play a critical role in starch digestion and fat metabolism. The authors of that study conclude that these genetic differences in the genome between dogs and wolves and hence the ability to digest starch and fat constituted a crucial step in the early domestication of dogs. Therefore, even if the typical diet eaten by a wild, non-domesticated dog or cat can be considered optimal for reproduction and survival in those animals, in which the lifespan is typically quite short, these diets may not be optimal for domestic dogs and cats living in

"If I learned anything from my last article, it's that if you want to talk to dog people about what they feed their dogs, you had better be prepared to step in some poop."



Reprint by permission C. Beuchat, Institute of Canine Biology. To read the entire article or for more resource information visit the ICB website www.instituteofcaninebiology.org

a home environment, with owners who anticipate that their pets will have long and healthy lives.” (Freeman et al 2013)

So the arguments rage, not about verifiable facts, but about opinions, perceptions, anecdotal experiences, myths, and folklore. If you look up “raw feeding” on Wikipedia, you will see an odd caveat at the top of the page: “This article contains weasel words: vague phrasing that often accompanies biased or unverifiable information.”

Yep, that about sums it up. One meme that appeared in the discussions of my post that unfortunately included the word “diet” in the title was the oft-repeated notion that “we don’t know much about ____ diet

because nobody wants to pay for the research, least of all the commercial dog food companies.” Well, in fact, there IS information about non-commercial diets for dogs if you take the time to look.

A 2013 study performed a nutritional evaluation of 200 home-made diets made from recipes published in books (including pet care books and veterinary textbooks), on the internet, and other sources. About 65% of these were written by veterinarians. Of these, only four (4!) were nutritionally complete, and those were designed by veterinary nutrition specialists.

“Most (184 [92%]) recipes contained vague or incomplete instructions that necessitated 1 or more assumptions for the

ingredients, method of preparation, or supplement-type products. Supplement-type products were not included in 58 (29%) recipes. Most (169 [84.5%]) recipes did not provide specific feeding instructions; instead, some included general instructions to modify amounts on the basis of each individual pet’s size and body weight (including any patterns of weight gain or loss). Similarly, most (171 [85.5%]) recipes did not provide calorie information or the target body weight for a pet. Additionally, some sources provided recipes that differed widely in calorie content for the same-size pet. Thirteen (6.5%) recipes included garlic or onion, which are foods associated with hemolytic anemia in dogs.

Many proponents of less structured recipes for home-prepared diets assert that although each day’s meal is not necessarily complete, rotation and variety will provide a balanced diet overall. Our analysis indicated that this assumption was unfounded because evaluation of 3 recipe groups, each of which comprised 7 separate recipes, did not eliminate deficiencies. In addition, many recipes had similar deficiencies, with 14 nutrients provided at inadequate concentrations in at least 50 recipes. Thus, even the use of a strategy for rotation among several recipes from multiple sources would be unlikely to provide a balanced diet. A greater number of recipes written by nonveterinarians had deficiencies, those recipes had significantly ($P = 0.001$) more nutrients that were deficient, and the deficiencies were more severe, compared with results for recipes written by veterinarians (Table 2). The lower number of deficiencies per recipe in those written by veterinarians may have been associated with a better understanding of canine nutrition by veterinary professionals, although most of the veterinarian-written recipes had at least 1 nutrient de-

ficiency. Only 4 recipes written by board-certified veterinary nutritionists were available for evaluation; all 4 had nutrient profiles that were within the AAFCO-recommended ranges for an adult canine maintenance diet.” (Stockman et al 2013)

Note that the authors state that while 129 (65%) of the recipes they tested were written by veterinarians, only 4 were nutritionally complete. If the veterinarians aren’t getting it right, it’s clear that there is a need for better, more accessible information for both owners and their veterinarians.

So, in the interest of education (ICB loves education!) and the belief that if you want to make progress you have to start somewhere, we’ve included some links (below) to places you can get information (both free and fee-based) about canine nutrition. You can get assistance in evaluating the diet for your own dog, whether you feed a commercial diet or your own custom blend of moose, kiwi fruit, almond butter, carrot, collards, and canned pineapple (really!).

I don’t know if those already wed to their diet philosophy will have any interest in doing some research about their diet, but here

are some great places to start.

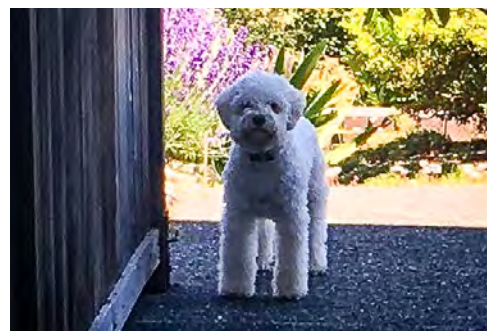
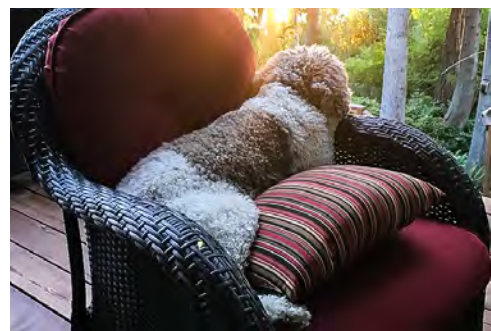
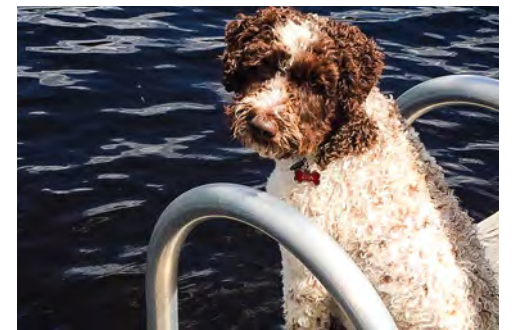
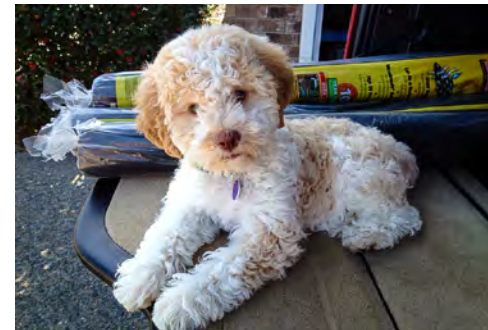
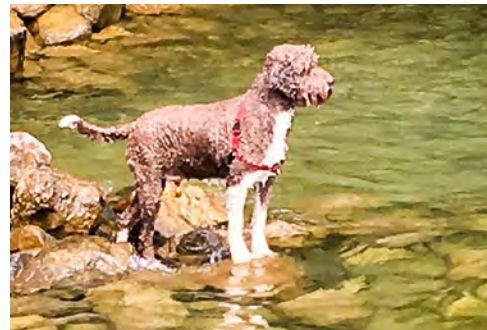
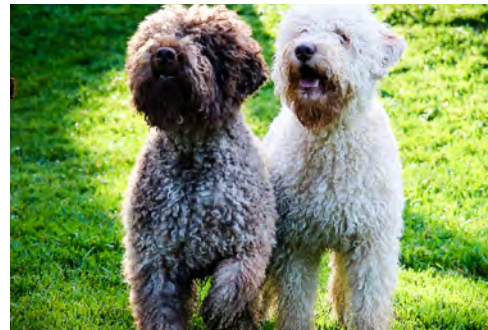
Resources: Veterinary schools have board certified nutritionists that offer both free and fee-based information and consulting to both dog owners and veterinarians. They can provide general information about commercial and home made diets (e.g., what should you feed a nursing bitch?), and they can also design a custom diet specific for your dog’s age, medical conditions, allergies, and your personal preferences about feeding. There are links to these resources at the bottom.

There is a great online tool, “[Balance IT](#)”, for assessing the nutritional quality of the diet you’re feeding your dog, and it will recommend how a diet should be modified to be nutritionally balanced. Or, you can use it to design a custom diet for your dog, using the specific ingredients you select. This tool uses the same algorithms the veterinary nutritionists use to evaluate diets, so it’s a great (and free!) resource for dog owners. They also sell some supplements to fill in the gaps of your recipe if necessary.

~ Carol Beuchat PhD

The religions are many: Prey Model Raw, BARF (which is a registered trademark!), Meat With Bone, the Ultimate Diet, the Volhard Diet, and others, and proponents of each vigorously debunk the claims of the others.

HOT FUN



MARS OPTIMAL SELECTION DNA TESTING

“DNA testing along with other health testing is an invaluable tool for breeders wishing to promote the health and well-being of our breed.”



Genoscooper Laboratories in Finland has partnered with Mars Veterinary in the US in an exciting new approach to genetic testing.

What do they test for?

Optimal Selection tests your dog's DNA for known health issues - BFJE (Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy), LSD (Lagotto Storage Disease), and HUU (Hyperuricosuria), as well as for morphology, coat color, coat length, coat type, and furnishings. The DNA is tested for 150+ genetic diseases, reported in terms of known relevance to the specific breed evaluated.

What is the cost? Currently the cost for Optimal Se-

lection testing is \$129.99. The typical cost from companies that charge a fee for each separate test is \$40 to \$100+ per test.

What type of DNA sample from my dog is required for testing?

Your sample is submitted via cheek swab. The kit includes the swabs along with clear, concise instructions so the owner can do the sampling themselves if they wish to.

How long does it take to get the results? It takes about four weeks to get the results, which are provided by email via a link to your dog's record on their website. Following the link will take you to



your dog's testing results as well as additional information. There is also a link to instructions on submitting results to OFA/CHIC listings.

What other information is provided?

Optimal Selection also provides information on your dog's genetic diversity (as well as that of the breed), detailed information on the known genetic disorders in the breed, and a breeder tool to help breeders find a mate for your dog that is more apt to provide healthy and genetically diverse puppies.

I don't plan to breed; should I get my dog tested? Hopefully, your

breeder has provided you with a copy of the test results of known disorders in the breed for your dog's parents so that you know that your dog will not be affected with any of these disorders. However every dog that is tested increases the knowledge base for our breed and helps ensure a healthier future for all Lagotti.

Where can I learn more and order the testing?

Go to www.wisdompanel.com for more details and to order the Optimal Selection test kit.

~ Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes



Photo: Julie Bailey

2017 LRCA Board Highlights

2017 LRCA Board Highlights
Mel Sykes

January

- The president announced that the board would focus on bylaw revisions as suggested by the AKC to fulfill our requirements as a member club.
- Three judges education presentations were given in 2016
- The Board voted to purchase a power point projector for use in judges ed

February

- Gwen Hubbs reported that the Meet the Breeds booth at the AKC Championship show held in Orlando in December 2016 was a huge success with many more visitors than in past years.
- AGM to be held March 25th at 3:30 PM at the host hotel
- Debi Fischer appointed to chair Judges Selection Committee

March

- The AKC delegate body voted to approve the LRCA's application as an AKC Member Club
- Membership retention rate for 2017 is 83%. This is the first time that the club has approached this level of retention.
- Hopefully many of our members will be on hand for the LRCA's 10th birthday celebration and second national specialty in Fort Worth, TX

April

- 88 new AKC titles were earned by Lagotti last year!
- Hats off to Allison Baker for the beautiful work she did in designing our trophy table at the second national specialty. It received many favorable comments

May

- Roberta York has been appointed to Vice-President. She replaces Susan Sholar who resigned due to health issues

June

- The board voted to continue our participation in both AKC's National Championship Medallion program in conformation, obedience and agility and to host a Meet the Breeds booth at this show
- The Board approved the Celtic Cluster in York, PA as the host event for the 2019 National Specialty

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Currently we have positions that need filling:

- **Bollettino** - contributing writers and editor (co-editors)
- **AKC Delegate** - Must be willing to travel to AKC meetings. Any club member, including associates may be considered.
- **Board Director** - must be a regular/voting member.
- **Health Committee Chair, Education Committee Chair, Website support.** Any LRCA member may be considered.
- **For more information or to apply, contact: Judith Martin president@LagottoUS.com**

Notice

The items in the Bollettino are submitted by club members, or other persons with special information to share with the membership. These are strictly the opinions of the writers and do not reflect an official stance of LRCA. Items submitted are edited by the Bollettino team. Official club information from the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will be signed with their name and Board Title.

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Official Minutes and Committee Reports from Board Meetings can be found in the members section of the club website: www.LagottoUS.com

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