

# BOLLETTINO

Spring 2016

Volume 1

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Sandy Mignogna

Our first National Specialty is almost here...A dream and vision that many have worked so hard for in the past weeks, months and years leading up to this event!! I want to thank all of our club members and board members, past and present, who have put in tireless amounts of work to make our specialty come to fruition. A special thank you to Jeff Fischer, who took on the challenge of being our club's first Show Chairman and proved sometimes the impossible is possible!

And, I could not be more grateful to have Dr. Morsiani coming here all the way from Italy to judge our first specialty, helping us to make history! It is an honor to be the LRCA President during the year of our first National Specialty and to be involved with so many dedicated people.

Good luck to all of the exhibitors, and I hope to see many of you there!



## JUDITH MARTIN, EDITOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, RETIRES FROM THE BOLLETTINO

Judith Martin, editor of the Bollettino for the past two and a half dedicated years, has decided to retire from her position as Newsletter Chairperson. As President, I would like to thank Judith, and her team of contributors, for their time and dedication in giving us some very informative Bollettinos and sharing all the great photos of our beloved breed.

Filling big editorial shoes, I would like to welcome Carolyn Talbert and Lynn Looper for stepping up to fill the resulting vacancy. Carolyn and Lynn will serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Bollettino going forward, with Cathy Dronen serving as their Board Member liaison. Welcome to the new Bollettino team!

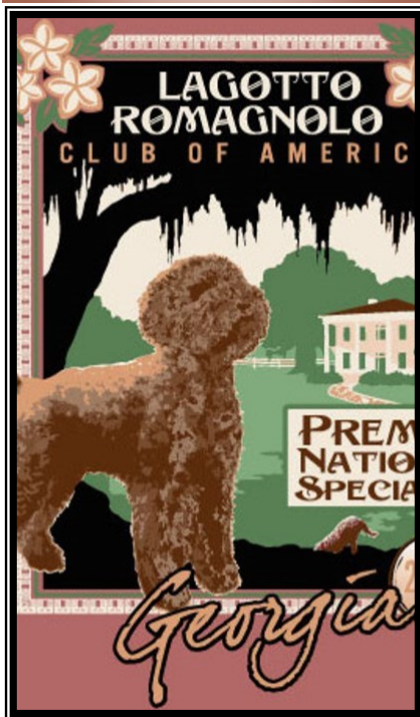


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# Premier National Specialty for Lagotto Romagnolo

Perry, Georgia

April 15-17th

April marks the second major milestone for the Lagotto Romagnolo in the United States within a year. Last July, the American Kennel Club formally recognized the breed as part of the AKC Sporting group, naming the LRCA as the official parent club. This year Lagotti from across the country and their humans converge in Perry, Georgia to participate in the first annual LRCA Nationals.

Festivities, held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds, open on April 15 and continue for three, exciting days culminating with the April 17 LRCA Specialty. Planned events include puppy sweepstakes, regular class judging, Junior Showmanship, Obedience, and many non-regular activities: such as barn hunt, lure coursing and dock diving.

This year's National Specialty is held in conjunction with the annual Peach Blossom Cluster. With multiple days of all breed shows providing conformation events, there will be no shortage of opportunities to pick up elusive majors in addition to the Lagotto National Specialty. At Saturday's Atlanta Kennel Club show, the LRCA is supporting our entry with beautiful rosettes as well as the chance for Lagotto competing in Obedience and Rally to win club sponsored awards as well for High in Trial (Obedience) and High Combined in Rally (Advanced B and Excellent B). Every Lagotto participating throughout the cluster in the companion and special events will receive a toy for their qualifying score. So there is something for every dog to strive for!

*"The National Specialty is for everybody, from those with a casual interest to the serious breeder and exhibitor."* per Jeff Fischer, LRCA National Specialty Chairman

## Dr. Morsiani, Founder of Italian LR Club (1988)

Dr. Morsiani is the founder of the Italian Lagotto Romagnolo Club (1988), the World Union of Lagotto Romagnolo Clubs (1998) and is acclaimed as being the most esteemed expert in the world of Lagotto Romagnolo. He is a prestigious international judge having participated in shows on 4 continents and in more than 40 countries including multiple World Dog Shows as recently as 2015.

Dr. Morsiani will be a featured judge at many specialty events. He will offer a *History and Future of the Breed* with opportunities for questions and answers.

## National Specialty cont'd. ~ Special Events

Who will benefit from attending the National Specialty? Jeff Fischer, LRCA National Specialty Chairman, promises something for everyone. "The National Specialty is for everybody, from those with a casual interest to the serious breeder and exhibitor."

Fischer emphasizes the importance of the event, "Attending the National Specialty is a revelation. It provides a forum for meeting people who have worked and created the great lines within the breed. It is an opportunity to network with those with similar interests, breeders who are influencing the direction of the breed, and experts on Lagotto Romagnolo history and culture."

Beyond the advantages afforded to those who attend the National Specialty, Fischer points to the long-range benefits for the LRCA and the breed as a whole, "Our club is in its infancy. We have the opportunity to come together to shape policy, establish rescue and health standards, and address other issues that ultimately affects the breed." The National Specialty is more than just an opportunity to showcase the Lagotto Romagnolo breed. "This event involves the coming of age of the club. It is a snapshot of the quality of the breed and the achievements of the breeders."

A major coup marking the premier LRCA National Specialty, is the appearance of Dr. Giovanni Morsiani. "We are extremely fortunate that Dr. Morsiani has honored us by accepting the judging assignment for our first National." confirmed Jeff Fischer, NS Chairman. After the presentation of Best of Breed on Sunday, Dr. Morsiani will offer a presentation and dialogue on the *History and future of the Breed* at the show grounds. Sunday evening, he will be the guest of honor at the Judges' Dinner and will share his thoughts on the day's entry.

Joining Dr. Morsiani on the specialty judging panel will be Wayne Holbrook who will be judging the puppy sweepstakes classes at the Sunday specialty. Mr. Holbrook is a prominent breeder of Clumber Spaniels, Sporting Group authority and officer of both the Atlanta Kennel Club and Clumber Spaniel Club of America. Mrs. Mary Ellen Macke, the guiding light behind the Peach Blossom Cluster and a lifelong dog fancier and AKC judge, will preside over the Junior Showmanship. Jack Onofrio Dog Shows is show superintendent. (Deadline for registration for Peach Blossom Cluster and LRCA National Specialty is March 30th at [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com))





*Apollo sports the wet look after dock diving.*

## “Diving-in” to More Fun with Your Lagotto

by Rebecca McKnight

You might not believe it, but I swear dock diving was Apollo’s idea, and not mine. We were spending a hot Texas day swimming at a family pond with—you guessed it—a dock. Apollo already had a strong ball drive, and loved to swim, so it didn’t take long before he launched himself off the dock, and then wanted to go again, and again, and again. At the end of the day we had a contentedly exhausted dog. After that, I knew if I didn’t get him back to the dock, I would never hear the end of it.

For Lagotto owners in hotter climates it can be challenging to keep our dogs active while at the same time keeping them safe from overheating. We have found dock diving a great way to beat the heat while staying active with our dogs, and to meet other dog lovers in a positive and encouraging environment. You can imagine the cheers as breeds from Chinese Crested to Rottweiler gain confidence and make their way off the dock. We hope to see more Lagotti getting involved in this sport soon.

### Getting Started

Before venturing off the dock, make sure your dog is a confident swimmer. Swimming generally comes naturally to our breed, but if your dog has had few opportunities to swim, she may need a little help getting comfortable in the water. Remember to be patient and keep things positive: this is supposed to be fun!

If you are able to find a dock diving facility that offers private swim time or even dock diving lessons, this can really help. Even for the most confident swimmer, peering over the edge and not really knowing what lies beyond is scary at first. Before urging your dog to jump, let her walk down the ramp into the water, swim around a bit, and get used to climbing back out. This can help reduce the likelihood she will panic after a jump. Some dogs are bolder than others, and don’t be discouraged if yours takes a while to warm up.

### North American Dock Diving

NADD has two “classes”: Open Class and Lap Class. The Lap Class is for all dogs under 16” at the withers, so most Lagotti will be in the Open Class, along with the “big dogs” like Labrador Retrievers and Belgian Malinois. But don’t worry; there are still goals to work toward even for a mid-sized breed like the Lagotto.

#### Open Class:

Novice Division – 0’1” to 9’11”

Junior Division – 10’0” to 14’11”

Senior Division – 15’0” to 19’11”

Master Division – 20’0” to 23’11”

Elite Division – 24’0” and above

You may hear people refer to a “splash.” A “splash” is essentially one round of competition. In NADD competition dogs get two jumps per “splash,” and the better of the two jumps is what will be counted as a “qualifying jump” toward a title.

You will need five qualifying jumps in one of the divisions listed above to earn an initial title. After that you can work toward an Advanced Title in the same division (25 additional jumps in a division for a total of 30), and after that you can work toward an Excellent Title in that division (25 additional jumps in a division for a total of 55). Or you can try to improve your distance to get up to the next class.

You can find more details on the rules on the [NADD website](#).

As shown on NADD’s website, Apollo’s personal best is 13.5’ !





*Gelato gets some  
Hang Time!*



## What to Expect at a Dock Diving Event

Dock diving events can be a great place to learn more, and to improve as a team with your dog.

If you enter a dock diving event, make sure to bring a crate so your dog has a secure place to relax (there will be a lot of down time), a water bowl, towels, and something to toss (it could be a tennis ball, retrieving dummy or bumper, or any other toy that your dog gets really excited about, as long as it will float). At most facilities you will want to bring a chair for yourself.

Once your dog gets the fever, he will likely be so excited that he is whining because he wants his turn! So you may want to set up at a little distance away from the dock, and bring a crate cover. Be prepared for a lot of vocalization from all the dogs (if the Duck Tolling Retrievers are in attendance, be pre-

pared for the "Toller Scream").

### North America Diving Dogs (NADD)

There are several dock diving organizations that hold events around the country. "North America Diving Dogs" is one such organization, and titles issued by NADD are recognized by the AKC. This means if you earn an NADD title, if your dog is AKC registered you can pay a small fee and fill out a simple form, and AKC will issue you an AKC title certificate, which will look lovely in your dog's "trophy room," on your bulletin board, or even just on the fridge.

You may be thinking about dock diving just for fun, but if you've ever thought about "adding a title" to your dog's name, this is one fun way to work toward that goal. **Peach Blossom Cluster in Perry, GA** will offer dock diving events. Registration closes 4/11/2016.



## Perilous Plants of Spring

### Seasonal Plant Do's and Don'ts by Cathy Dronen

Spring is here! Something about spring awakens the sleeping gardener and the most dormant green thumbs in all of us. If realizing your planting passions results in acres of lush foliage, fragrant blooms and tender flower beds or a simple pot on the window sill – plan your garden to be a healthy, enjoyable oasis for people and pets!

The first place to visit for beautiful, safe garden ideas is not the local nursery, it's the ASPCA website! ([www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/non-toxic-plants](http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/non-toxic-plants)) The organization lists some 700 varieties of garden plants that are considered toxic for dogs. The worst and potentially deadly include **Yew (*Taxus sp.*)**, **Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)**, **Pieris (*Pieris japonica*)**

**Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*)**, **Lilly of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)**

**Tradescantia (*Skinimintation*)** among a few...

Designing a lovely, dog-friendly garden doesn't mean sacrificing color, line, texture, form or scale. There are plenty of excellent, safe plants that offer an array of composition, balance, variety and other benefits.

**Poached Egg Plant (*Limnanthus douglasii*)** – colorful ground cover, great organic pest control.

**Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja*)** – flowers last 4-6 weeks, attracts butterflies, moths, bees.

**Houseleek (*Sempervivum*)** – hearty medicinal herb, effective ground cover.

**Echinacea** – beautiful, showy blooms, no adverse effects.

**Lambs Ear (*Stachys*)** – Hearty cover, no adverse effects.

Research supports the theory that dogs possess the innate ability to self-medicate from plants. They eat grass for long fiber, silica, and to maintain gut health. Aloe provides healing and laxative properties. Consider planting a homeopathic canine herb garden that includes parsley, milk thistle, burdock herb, peppermint, and rosemary.

Then there are the lovely roses! *Rosa species* possess amazing healing powers. They contain astringent tannins, help reduce inflammations of the skin and digestive tract, provide a calming effect and are useful in a variety of topical applications. One special variety is even named *Rosa canina*... Dog Rose!



# Early Spay and Neuter— Considerations for the Informed Owner

by Therese Williams

As an owner of a new puppy, you want to be responsible, right? You may have discussed the age considered “safe” to spay or neuter with your trusted veterinarian. Your vet health care provider should also evaluate your puppy’s development age in terms of bone, muscle, and brain development, and factor these conditions into the optimal time to spay or neuter.

Veterinarians are responsible professionals but training and experience provides different perspectives when recommending the right time to spay or neuter pets. One big influence they factor is the incidence of unwanted canine pregnancies leading to animal overpopulation. Veterinarians are too often required to euthanize unwanted dogs. It is an agonizing decision, and something we all recognize spaying and neutering prevents.

There are reasons beyond unwanted pregnancies prompting pet owners to choose early spay or neuter options. Many seek spaying to avoid dealing with a female dog’s heat cycle. Owners of intact male dogs may believe neutering will eliminate the instinct to mark and ruin furniture. Both, absolutely valid concerns.

A medical benefit of spaying and neutering is supported by research evidence that it may reduce **some** cancers. Cancer is the number one killer in all dogs so preventative measures are warranted. But what does early spay and neuter really do? Consider what happens from a biological perspective.

## Even Dogs Do IT...



*“When is the “healthy” time to spay and neuter is a much different conversation than one you may have had in the past.”*

The reproductive organs, ovaries and testicles, are responsible for physical development through the release of estrogen and testosterone. Removing reproductive organs compromises the influence of the hormones and development is altered. For example, consider the historical accounts of young boys castrated (*castratos*) to retain their soprano or alto singing voices. The custom was banned by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the practice provided important medical documentation. Severe bone and joint problems were fairly common among the *castrato*’s. Specifically, epiphyseal plates were damaged. Unusually long limbs and exaggerated ribs were also a common result of the castration. Canine development, much like a human’s, is impaired by prematurely removing reproductive organs. Stopping the release of developmental hormones, causes growth plates to close prematurely. If bones are not fully developed, the incidence of injury and malformations in structure can be increased.

A canine’s bones and joints have different growth rates. Bones fusing together

and cartilage hardening into bone (*ossification*) does not occur all at once. For instance, the hip joint socket (*acetabulum*) closes on average at four months of age. The head of the femur or “ball” (*greater trochanter*) sits inside the acetabulum creating the joint and does not close on average until almost a year of age. One can then assume critical joints as well as bones, are not fully developed until a year or so of age. The referenced link lists the range for growth plate development in canines <http://www.provet.co.uk/health/diagnostics/growthplatedogs.htm>

There are great variances in the development rate among breeds (the larger the breed, the slower the growth plate closes is the general rule). A Chihuahua may be considered physically mature at 10-12 months of age; large and giant dog breeds such as a Great Dane may take a full 2-years to fully develop. Opinions among veterinarians and published results of research studies, promotes controversy among animal medical professionals. In many foreign countries, spaying and neutering is not as common as in the US. Recent years have

shown that there is a shift in some veterinary circles regarding recommendations, and more focus and research is being done on this particular subject. More detailed information is provided in links below.

<http://www.naiaonline.org/pdfs/LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterIn-Dogs.pdf>

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/news/health-implications-in-early.html>

The US, has long embraced the practice of spaying and neutering our pets when they are puppies. It might be of benefit to consider waiting until the animal reaches natural physical maturity based on breed and size. Research suggests by **NOT** spaying or neutering, cancer risk is reduced and not increased as previously thought. Some bone and joint problems may also be reduced by delaying the surgery. Another logical question; could the high incidence of hip dysplasia in some breeds be attributed to premature spaying and neutering? It is a good question to ponder.

Determining the appropriate time to spay or neuter requires due diligence.

**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 thoughts, interests, and how best to serve you!

**Treasurer's Notes**

Thank you to all those who supported this important club fundraiser through the purchase of calendars as well as to the Marketing committee members who made it possible: Lisa Sobon, Sandy Mignogna, Melanie Annacone and Christine Stenner.



## Early Spay and Neuter cont'd:

Discussing the proper development of your dog and determining the "healthy" time to spay and neuter is a much different conversation than one you may have had in the past. Consider the cancer risks within the breed, bone and muscle development, and the effects of spay and neutering on growth plates, and alas, don't forget brain development! Your dog's breeder should also provide important recommendations about spaying and neutering.

Still, what you do is ultimately your decision, but make it an informed one and consider the possible long term effects of that decision. Your dog's health and well-being should always be at the forefront.



*Cannoli at 9 weeks old.*

*"Make an informed decision, done with your dog's health and well-being at the forefront."*

### Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

#### Year to Date Income and Expense

January 1, 2016 – February 29, 2016

Income	\$ 4,787.27
Expense	\$ <u>3,081.22</u>
Net Income	\$ 1,706.05

#### 2016 Calendar Program November – December, 2015

Income	\$ 4,798.85
Expense	\$ <u>2,497.76</u>
Net Income	\$2,301.09

Submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, Treasurer



# Crate Training: Tips and Tricks

by Toni Kay-Wolff, dei Allegre Lagotto Romagnolo

## How to Teach Your Puppy to Run Happily Into His Kennel... Every Time!

Teaching your puppy to love his crate is one of the greatest gifts you can give him and yourself. Puppies who are happy in their crates are less stressed in the car, veterinary office, grooming salon, etc. All puppies and many dogs need real “down time” with no auditory or visual stimulation. Crating can give them this comfort, not to mention helping with house-training, travel, and safety. Here is what has worked for me and thousands of puppies I’ve trained.

Place your dog on lead in a room with the door closed; this will keep him/her from trying to leave or get distracted. Maintain plenty of treats available, and several in your hand at one time. Use something outstanding, i.e. boiled chicken or small pieces of turkey, cheese, or whatever REALLY floats his boat. You can do this with your puppy’s meal if you like. A hungry puppy always works well. You don’t have to hold the lead unless your puppy is just not focused enough to stay in the game.

With treat to the nose, lead him to the front of the crate and toss the treat in, but not all the way, just to the front. Let him eat the treat and walk out. You should mark this with a “yes” or a clicker, whatever you like, if you’re familiar with marking and timing. Otherwise offer a smile and sincere **“Good boy!” while he’s IN the crate, and remain NEUTRAL when he’s out.** That means you say nothing; do nothing. Repeat this exercise at least 10 times. Then take a break, always ending any training on a positive note.

Repeat the crating exercise later in the day, and I do this several times a day, just random amounts of time.... 2 reps, 5 reps, 3 reps, done. By the end of the day if he’s comfortable going in and coming right back out you’ll know it’s working. As you progress with the crating exercises, start tossing the treats further into the crate towards the back, still letting him come right back out. You will notice him going in, starting to come out but looking at you while seriously considering staying inside—since that’s where the good stuff is! At this point, I still don’t close the crate door.

Once he is hanging in the crate, most likely at the front of it, start tossing the treats in from the side of the crate, towards the back. He will have to be all the way in and hanging in the back to get the treat. At this point, you can start naming the command. I use “kennel,” always in a happy tone, never angry or upset.

In another day or so, you will want to progress towards closing the crate door, treat from back of crate, walk away, come back, and release him. Remembering to always be NEUTRAL when he comes out. If he wants attention and a treat, he has to be inside and at the back of the crate.

At this stage of the game, you will start to feed him meals inside the crate. While on lead, let him watch you make up his meal. Encourage him to come with you as you walk to the crate and put his bowl inside. Then allow him go in to eat it, don’t close the door, and allow him out again. Then, ignore when he is out. Repeat often!

Remember to make it fun...whoop and holler like a goofball when he’s running into the kennel for everything! I applaud and congratulate them. This upbeat encouragement makes us both laugh!!

By the time you reach the stage where your puppy is looking for something in his crate, or hears you preparing a meal for him, and starts running towards it (or into it!), and is looking at you, because clearly the meal service is too slow, you are ready to close the crate door for every meal! From here you are building up the length of time your puppy will stay clean, calm, and happy inside his crate! Soon enough you will have a puppy who looks forward to being in his crate (his special den) and will beat you to it every time!! This routine behavior equals crating success and mastery of an important life skill.

Toni Kay-Wolff lives with her husband, Larry, and their 4-legged crew:

Tillie and Volo, Lagotto  
Carter, Labrador  
Glory, English Shepherd  
rescue.

Toni has been training dogs for 27 years in NY and CT.



*Notice the  
“Happy Tail!”*



*Tillie is a natural!!*



### Vet's Vice II

If a cardiac abnormality is detected by auscultation at any age, referral to a veterinary cardiologist may be recommended. Further investigation may entail performance of an echocardiogram (ultrasound study of the heart), electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) or 24-hour Holter (ambulatory ECG) monitor. Once a diagnosis is obtained, the cardiologist can provide information regarding prognosis and make a medical plan. Once a diagnosis is obtained, the cardiologist can provide information regarding prognosis and make a medical and monitoring plan that is appropriate for the patient.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

LRCA Board Meeting  
**7:30 PM (EDT) April 10, 2016**  
via Teleconference

LRCA Annual Membership Meeting  
**April 16, 2016 (EDT)**  
Perry, GA

LRCA Premier National Specialty  
**April 17, 2016 (EDT)**  
Perry, GA

LRCA Board Meeting  
**May 08, 2016**  
7:30 PM (EDT)

## Veterinarian Counsel—Cardiac Health

Merrilee T. Small, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM (Cardiology)

Lagotti are very hardy dogs and cardiac disease has not been reported as a common problem. However, approximately 0.2% of pure breed and mixed breed dogs are born with congenital heart disease and up to 20% of all dogs will acquire heart disease as adults. Certain kinds of congenital and acquired heart disease have been proven to be heritable in specific breeds. Monitoring for the incidence of cardiac disease is an important part of health screening in any breed of dog.

The simplest screening method is by thorough auscultation of the heart with a stethoscope by a veterinarian. The veterinarian will listen for a heart murmur that could indicate abnormal blood flow within the heart or its associated blood vessels. The veterinarian will also listen for abnormal heart rhythm that could indicate disease to the electrical conduction system of the heart. At minimum, careful auscultation over all regions of the heart should be performed in all puppies during their general health exams and at least annually as the dog matures.

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) is the most widely used registry in America to document dogs that have been cleared of evidence of congenital / heritable heart disease or that have been diagnosed as affected. Dogs may first be deemed free of evidence of congenital heart disease by the OFA at one year of age. A baseline OFA examination may be performed by a veterinary cardiologist, internal medicine specialist or primary care veterinarian. In most cases, a simple auscultation is recommended, but further testing is recommended for certain breeds. For breeds known to develop heart disease with maturity, continued monitoring is recommended to maintain breeding status throughout life. OFA registry is optional and many affected dogs are never registered. Sadly, this practice can be detrimental to investigators who attempt to identify a predisposition of heart disease in a certain population. The OFA recently established an Advanced Cardiac Database that offers a two-tiered clearance for puppies and adult dogs. Only registered, Board-Certified Cardiologists may clear dogs by this method. Clear and affected individuals will be registered anonymously.

*Approximately 0.2% of pure breed and mixed breed dogs are born with congenital heart disease and up to 20% of all dogs will acquire heart disease as adults.*

## AKC Updates

submitted by Melanie Steele, AKC Liaison

At the AKC Delegates Quarterly meeting held on March 8, 2016, in Newark, NJ, the Board of Directors election resulted in the following Directors being elected: William Feeney, Pat Cruz, and Karolynne McAteer. The proposed amendment before the Delegates, which would allow Delegate Judges to charge a stipend of \$150, failed. The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America's member status has not been brought to the board for a vote to date. The next board meeting will be held in April.

The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America continues to wait on Board approval to attain member status.



## Groomer's Corner: Happy Tails for You!

Robin Morehouse, Professional Groomer & Breeder

It must be very frustrating to want your dog to look like a Lagotto but not really be able to "get her done." I enjoy helping people get a haircut that looks authentic while removing the mystery of how to properly groom a Lagotto. So, here goes the tale about tails!

Is a Lagotto that looks like a "Doodle" a bad thing? It really comes down to your personal view of the matter and whether or not you are competing in an official, sanctioned event. Hair styles are a large part of what makes a breed recognizable. Doodles commonly have a long flag of hair on their tails; it is part of their charm! Doodles were bred with a purpose in mind, a job if you will, and that job is to be fluffy and cute!

On the other hand, our beloved Lagotti should be trimmed to reflect their heritage. The Lagotto is bred to move smoothly, freely through the forest and wild, thicketed areas. A long fluffy tail would quickly get stuck, entangled in brush, and full of debris, and more importantly, hinders the dog's movement. Therefore, the Lagotto does not, may not, and shall not have a flag (or feathers) on the tail!



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*"Our beloved Lagotti should be trimmed to reflect their heritage. The Lagotto is bred to move smoothly, freely through the forest and wild, thicketed areas. "*

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The following is some professional grooming language that will help your groomer to understand and to get it right:

The Lagotto breed does NOT have a flag on the tail.

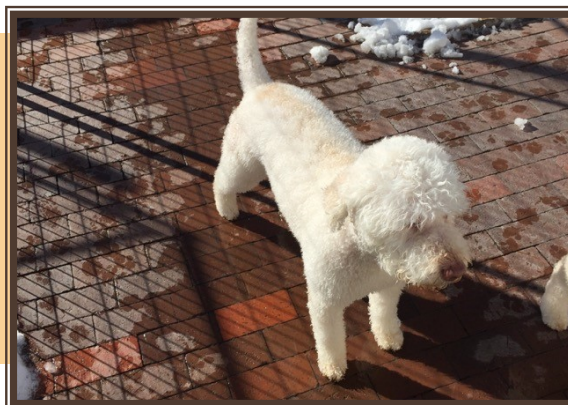
Trim my dog's tail hair the same length as the body length will be.

Use either a #4 fine blade or #2 clipper comb for the proper equipment.

When finished, the tail should look like a Labrador's tail (carrot shaped, narrow at the tail tip and gradually widening to the base/rear).

Or if you're feeling courageous, the tail is a great place to start learning how to groom your own Lagotto! Due to the Lagotto's size, invest in a small grooming table (~24w"x36L", you'll be glad you did for many reasons!) and a good, sharp pair of straight grooming shears. The shears need not be the top of the line, but they do need to be sharp! The underside of the tail should have the shortest hair, keeping the hair clean and close around the anus. You'll scissor all sides of the tail, in the round, widening the diameter towards the rear, remembering to keep the overall tail hair length about the same as the body length. Use your fingers, to spread out the tail hair, revealing potential "feathers" and gingerly trim this hair in line with the tail. The tail is very forgiving, so as long as you don't cut the pup, you need not fear! Happy Trails and Tails....

Submitted by Robin Morehouse, Full-time Professional Groomer for 27 years and Breeder/Exhibitor of Multiple Champion Lagotti



# Breeder's Bench: Perspective of a Breeder

by Adrienne Perry, Allegro Lagotto, Tuscon, AZ

## Q & A #1

### *Is my precious pup too pudgy?*

The best way to tell if your dog has proper weight for its size is to lay your open hand centered over the spine, thumb to one side and fingers to the other. At the end of your fingers you should be able to feel each rib. You should feel a thin muscular cover, but be able to count the ribs. If the ribs feel sharp, the dog is too thin, if the ribs are indistinct, the dog is too plump for its size.



When you get down to it, I really think a working dog (or in our case a sporting dog) ought to be able to work. I've titled dogs in Obedience, Tracking, Carting, and Conformation, about 65 titles when last I counted. So I'm looking for the temperament, and the correct structure to hold up over time. By the time you get into sport competition with a dog, you're asking a lot mentally and physically, and when you've put in years of training, you want to invest in a dog that is not going to fall apart physically when he has reached his prime mentally. My idea of a really great dog is one with the ability to earn an abundance of titles both before and after his name. I will say that the part of the standard that drew me to the breed in the first place was the reference to "the ability to work all day." I've worked with many different breeds of dogs and very few can live up to that standard! That said, the following are a few of my standards for professional breeding of the Lagotto Romagnolo.

- ◆ **FOCUS**—what kind of dogs are you breeding? Are they being used for the job for which they were developed? Or utilizing similar skills? Or if you are doing something outside the realm of the dog's skill set, are you changing the breed in order to achieve it? If so, is it ethical to do so?
- ◆ **STRUCTURE & HEALTH**—Poor structure is as much of a problem as poor health. Lack of balance front and rear will break down a dog and keep him from working or competing. There is no excuse for breeding a dog with unknown health clearances.
- ◆ **TYPE**—The dog ought to look like what it is. Understanding that the proportions and measurements described in the standard are there to build a blueprint of a truffle dog. The standard is not a suggestion! As a breeder, I must be able to discern between cosmetic and structural faults and know why any aspect of the dog's description is a requirement. This enables me to make good decisions on where to give, or not, in my breeding program.
- ◆ **BE A RESOURCE**—Know up front, that as a breeder, you will need to provide ongoing assistance and mentoring to your puppy people. This includes counseling on training, grooming, nutrition, health, AKC events, and how to become a LRCA member, to name just a few!



Adrienne has served on the LRCA board from 2010 as Director, Vice President and President. Currently she is the Judge's Education Coordinator for the club. She is an AKC Breeder of Merit from her 25 years spent in Rottweilers. Her "bred-by" Rottweilers have achieved Best in Show, Best Senior in Futurity (ARC National 2006), Producer of the Year (2006), Grand Championships, UDX's, TDs, RAEs and carting titles, and Hall of Fame status. She is currently approved as a permit judge for Lagotto and is pursuing more sporting and working breeds in the near future. She and partner, Jane Lash, breed under the name Allegro Lagotto and 4 of their 6 original dogs are now AKC Champions. She teaches competition obedience as well as working with service dogs.



## ADRINA's Conformation Dog Showing 101 with Help from Her Pack Leader, Judith Martin

Hi, I am Adrina, and you may remember earlier issues of the Bollettino where I am the wearer of many hats. As a veteran of the conformation ring, I am wearing my "show dog" hat and teaching my little sister dog, Giuditta, some things about dog shows. As the first Lagotto in Arizona, it wasn't easy to find places to show 10 years ago. Now our breed is showing in the Sporting Dog Group with the AKC, I am going to explain a bit about conformation dog shows to Giuditta who will be starting her show career very soon.

So Giuditta, when you sign up to be in a show, you are given a time and a ring into which you will meet a judge. The boys (Dogs) get to go in first, starting with the puppies; 4 to 6 months (at some shows), 6 to 12 months, and 12 to 18 months. The adult boys show in classes such as Novice, American Bred and Bred by Exhibitor, Owner Handler and Open Classes. First place in each of those classes are judged and the first place becomes the WINNER'S DOG and gets Championship points based on how many boys were judged. Not all shows have entries in all of these classes.

The girls (Bitches) show in the same order, so Giuditta, you will compete in the 6 to 12 month puppy class at this time. If you win your class, you will compete with other class winner girls for WINNER'S BITCH.

If you win Winner's Bitch, you will then go back into the ring with the Winner's Dog and all the other entries who are already Champions for BEST OF BREED. Some dogs earn Grand Champion points, also.



*"It wasn't easy to find places to show 10 years ago. Now our breed is showing in the Sporting Dog Group with the AKC."*

Dog shows are fun and your handler will take you into the ring where you should look as perfect as you know how. The judge will look quickly at all the entries in the ring with you. You will run around in a circle with the others in your class. Then the judge will take a good look at you; will feel your head and body, check your feet and make sure you have all your teeth. After that, the judge will tell you to go "down and back" to see how well you move, and then you will trot around the ring with your handler. Then the judge will ask everyone to run around the ring again and pick the best ones. When you win one of the first 4 places, you get a pretty little ribbon and everyone congratulates you.

Later in the day, if you are the Lagotto Best of Breed winner, you will go back into the ring with the best of all the

other Sporting Dog Breeds. It is a very big show ring with lots of beautiful breeds. The judge in that ring will award the Group Winners; 1, 2, 3 and 4. If you win the Group 1 award, you then get to compete in the Best In Show. You will represent the Sporting Dog Group and compete against the other Group Winners (total of 7) for the highest honor in the whole show, BEST IN SHOW! For that win, you get a pretty fancy ribbon and usually a special prize. Everyone will hug and kiss you and want to pet you. You will have lots of photos taken and your owner will smile a lot. It is a lot of fun.

Submitted by Judith Martin (founding President of Lagotto Club of America and past Editor of Bollettino). Kan Trace Adrina at Shivaree was imported from Zagreb, Croatia 11 years ago, and our 9 month puppy is Shivaree Giuditta del Tiglio.

**Do you have a fun, unusual or educational story to share about adventures with your Lagotto???**

If so, we would love to consider your story for our next issue of the Bollettino! Just email a "Word" document (or similar) with your article and digital photos to suit to:

**[newsletter@lagottous.com](mailto:newsletter@lagottous.com)**





### Membership Summary

ASSOCIATE	125 members
HOUSEHOLD	58 (116) members
REGULAR	92 members
INTERNATIONAL	10 members
JUNIOR	2 members

**TOTAL 287 (345 Members)**

## Welcome New Members

by Liz Williams

### Membership Summary

Associate Membership	125
Household Memberships	58 (116 individuals)
Regular Membership	92
International Membership	10
Junior Membership	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>287 (345 Individuals)</b>

### Members Voted since 1/1/16

Shana Rodriguez, Shirley, NY	Geomar Wells, New York NY
Sandra Lovett, Trufant, MI	Kevin Hopkins, Redmond, WA
Michael Schreiber, Wayland, MA	Richard Mulligan, Norman, OK
Beth Prudence, Ithaca, NY	Ruben Ihuit, Lompoc, CA
Bella Roppolo, Brockton, MA	Julie Prendergast, Scotsdale, AZ
Barbara Livieratos, Ellicott City MD	Jerry Altman, Paradise Valley, AZ
Marike Brady, Bethesda, MD	Diane Mazzagatti, Media, PA
Frank Chiu, Decatur GA	Bob Virzi, Wayland, MA
Kathy Kowalski, Chesterfield, VA	Laurin Howard, Salvisa, KY
	Lynne Spencer, Berea, KY

**Check out the LRCA website at [www.lagottous.com](http://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

***We have intact males that have been known to mark inside homes, hotels, vet offices, etc. What can we do to help mitigate "the boys" embarrassing habit?!***

A wonderful little devise, aptly named a belly band, can save your relationships with friends and family! This is a fabric bandage with heavy duty Velcro on both ends. For Lagotto, they need to be about 5" wide and 16" long. Just simply wrap it securely around their mid-section, being sure to cover the penis, & secure the velcroed ends along their backside. If you have a heavy marker, stick a feminine maxi-pad on the inside middle section to collect the urine!!

## Board Highlights

by Liz Williams

- Membership renewal is complete for 2016.
- March 2017 National Specialty location will be Ft. Worth Texas.
- February 2018 National Specialty location will be San Diego, California.
- Judges Selection Committee has sent out a survey to all voting members for input of judge names to be reviewed for future specialties.
- Newsletter Committee – Co-chairs Carolyn Talbert & Lynn Looper have been appointed.
- Bylaws review—Jack Steele has been appointed chair of the Bylaws Committee
- Web Site Committee—Kim McBee has been appointed Chair.

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### 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!



**LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO  
CLUB OF AMERICA**