



# Lagotto Club of America



## Spring Newsletter and Annual Report

June 2010  
Volume 3, Issue 1

### In This Issue:

- Page 1.....Rose City Classic
- Page 2.....Truffle Festival Report
- Page 2.....Meet the Breed
- Page 4.....How to Find a Puppy
- Page 5.....Survey Results
- Page 6.....Name the Newsletter Contest
- Page 7.....Annual Meeting Reports from Board
- Page 12.....2010 LCA Board

### *Message from the Editor:*

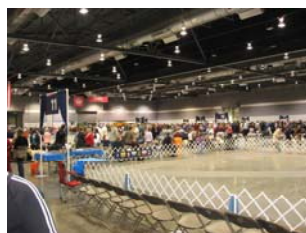
The spring 2010 edition of the newsletter is a bit later than planned this year, and for that I apologize. This edition includes the reports from the annual meeting, held back in January, as well as the results of the membership survey done in February. We also have updates from 3 Meet the Breed Events held In Portland, Arizona and Detroit.

Hope you enjoy this edition and thank you for your continued support of the Lagotto Club of America.

### *Rose City Classic – AKC FSS Booth*

*By Therese Williams*

For the second year in a row, the AKC has sponsored a Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Meet the Breed booth at the 4-day, Rose City Classic in Portland, Oregon. This was the first year that the Lagotto Club was in attendance, and dates this year were January 21-24, 2010, and held at the EXPO Center in north Portland. This is one of the country's largest shows and a great opportunity to show off our dogs. Thirteen rare breeds were represented and we all had rotating time slots throughout the weekend. The LCA was given a prime spot on Saturday, January 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and we played to a packed house. Sheri, Chris and Marissa Cornell from Tacoma came with their girl, Lilly and I also came with my two, Guido and puppy Ylianna. To help carry in supplies, a big thanks to my older brother John Boline. This was his first dog show, and he had a crash course in Lagotto history, temperament, etc. as we were all kept busy with visitors and lots of questions. The booth is always located next to the AKC Officials booth, so we wanted to be at our best. This will be an annual event, so hopefully we can get a few more dogs next year.



## Road Trip – Kate and Luca Hunt for Truffles in Oregon

By Kate Heim

Luca and I drove down to Eugene, Oregon for the truffle festival today. I opted for just going to stop in for the afternoon- the serious training seminar was absurdly expensive for my budget- and since I am only doing this recreationally just didn't make sense. Besides, I have done enough scent work with Luca that I feel like I could train her if I were so inclined.... but for now- not so committed. But I wanted to go, check out some truffles in person, and see what the local truffle scene was like.

Unfortunately it was a terrible year for truffles out here this year- so the marketplace portion of the event really didn't have much in the way of truffles. Ultimately Charlie did manage to round a few up for us though! yay! Boy they really are pungent.

We met a woman (whose name I can't recall) with Zara - a white Lagotto she is 3 years old, recently had her first puppy, and lives in Canada (although Zara initially came from Australia). A beautiful dog with great proportions. It was really fun to meet them, and Zara's tight curls put Luca's recently clipped coat to shame. She was, perhaps a tiny bit more shy with strangers than Luca- but a crowded hotel of new people makes me a little uncertain too.

Then we also met Jim and Tom (Tom is such an American name for an Italian dog!) I was interested to see that Tom is actually very compact-almost a little smaller than Luca, whereas the other two full grown males I've met have both been notably taller than she is.

Jim's presentation was good for most of the crowd who hadn't thought about tracking much, and a ton of people had questions (for both of us) about the breed.... I also spoke with another presenter woman, who has a Lab that does both truffle hunting and search and rescue- it was very interesting to talk to her- because the two, while similar, have some distinct differences.

Jim and Tom did a little mini demonstration next to the parking lot of the hotel- Jim had buried a couple little truffles, and brought tom and asked him to find them (he uses Italian search commands) its tough to perform as a dog under pressure like that, Tom did dig up the truffle, and then he ate one! (oops- this after my telling people that part of why they used dogs is that they can be

*Continued next column*



trained not to eat the truffles) it was pretty cute and kind of funny)

So anyhow, that's my report. Both Luca and I ate a little truffle butter.... yum!

-Kate and Luca

*Editor's note: Kate is not a member of the LCA but gave her permission to post this article. Hopefully more of us can make this event in the future and take lots of pictures.*

## Meet the Breed Events Abound Lagotto at the Detroit Kennel Club Show!

By Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

**What is FSS:** FSS is the foundation Stock Service, a program offered by AKC to breeds new to the USA. AKC offers recording services to these breeds thus ensuring the establishment and maintenance of an accurate stud book. Eventually the breed becomes eligible to compete in AKC events; first, companion events such as obedience, agility, rally, etc; then, when well-enough established, in conformation.

**The Detroit Kennel Club:** The Detroit Kennel Club holds one of the few remaining benched shows in the US. The dogs have to be on the premises all day long which give the public the opportunity to see some of the finest examples of every breed currently recognized by the American Kennel Club. Each breed is benched together – the benches being raised platforms on which their crates sit. Typical of benched shows, the public turns out en masse to see the dogs – over 60,000 people come to see the dogs at the DKC shows.

The DKC has a strong commitment to purebred dog education. The list of non-conformation events and presentations can be viewed on their website at:

<http://www.detroitkennelclub.com/spectator.htm>

The Detroit Kennel Club show FSS (Foundation Stock Service) exhibit was fabulous. Ken and Kathy Weiss came from Cleveland, Ohio with Waldo. Mariana and Sonny Cejic, from London, Ontario came with their 11 month old puppy, Teo, who is brown and white. I brought our 4 year old brown roan girl, Eppy.

The DKC was hoping to that perhaps a half a dozen or so breeds would participate, but there were actually 21 FSS breeds attending. The Club provided us with a lovely set-up in which to display our dogs Kathy was brilliant with the decorations - Ken had the foresight to bring crepe paper and tissue in Italian colors and Kathy made gorgeous green rosettes with swathes of entwined red & white crepe paper between them quick as could be!

We had the Cesky Terriers on one side of us, Spanish Water Dogs on the other side and beyond them the Cirneco dell'Etna, another Italian breed that is an elegant little hound from Sicily.

The dogs were wonderful with everyone that stopped to visit. Kids on foot, toddlers in strollers, folks with canes, in wheelchairs, on foot - nothing fazed them at all. I was so proud of our guys! We talked with hundreds of people each day to the point where we were all a bit hoarse at the end of each day. The dogs were tired by the end of Saturday, but by Sunday morning were back in fine form.

Some people asked if our Lagotto were "Obama" dogs, others thought they were "Porties". Most said "A what?!!" when we told them that our guys were "Lagotto Romagnolo", so we soon began explaining that they were Italian water dogs, called Lagotto Romagnolo, and then went on to explain the how the name originated. You can actually do this in about 2 and half sentences. And most surprising of all, there were any number of folks who said "Oh yes, we saw those on Animal Planet."!



LCA Director Ken Weiss and wife Kathy educating on the Lagotto at the Detroit Kennel Club Show

Each day we did two, 3-4 minute presentations for a seated audience of about 80 to 100 people. Ken did a super job of speaking, managing to cover the breed history, personality, energy level and health as well as the fact that the Lagotto is a working breed whose job is to find truffles. A lot of people expressed surprise that dogs would hunt for anything other than animals.

This show typically has a gate of 30,000 people each day so you can imagine how busy we were. There were quite a few people whose interest went beyond simple curiosity. All of us tried to give a balanced picture of the breed - as well as the intelligence and the sweetness we talked about the hole-digging and the activity level.

As for next year - this first undertaking was so successful that the DKC plans to establish the FSS exhibit as a regular educational event in conjunction with their March shows.



## Lagotto at the Fiesta Cluster in Arizona!

*By Judith Martin*

Meet the Breed was held at the Fiesta Cluster shows in Scottsdale, AZ on March 6. The weather was gorgeous; sunny and mild. We were fortunate to have good weather on Saturday, as it started to rain on Sunday and by Monday, it was so muddy and wet they actually cancelled the shows.

Owners and Lagotto representatives were: Adrienne Perry with Terzo, Faith Robb and her husband Kirk with their four dogs, Apollon, Dea Dei, Barbelo and Oma. Judith Martin and husband, John were there with their four, Adrina, Vando, new baby Ginevra and Wheaton Terrier, Lissi.

We had lots of inquiries, lots of questions, lots of doggy kisses, and the baby got to be held most of the time. We got to meet some folks from the public Lagotto list that wanted a chance to see our breed. It was a great day and we all had fun.

.....unfortunately, no one had time to take any photos.



## Finding the Right Puppy, Legally

By Mel Sykes

This is one in a series of articles on finding the right puppy. In this article, we look at changes in the U.S. Farm Bill 2008-2012 and how these changes affect anyone considering purchasing a puppy from overseas.

The portion of the Farm Bill that is referred to as the Animal Welfare Act has changed. Actually, the change took place with the passage of the Farm Bill of 2008 – 2012, but rules have to be written to enforce the law. Thus, it is just now coming to the attention of most Americans.

Specifically, the Act now makes it illegal for any person to transport any puppies into the United States *for the purpose of resale* unless the puppy is in good health, has all required vaccinations and *is at least 6 months old*.

### Q. What is the purpose of the law?

A. When a breed is popular in the United States, it often attracts the attention of those people that, frankly, are driven by the bottom line. As a puppy seeker, you might think of one as a breeder, or a broker. In fact, some will even boast of the fact that they will find you a puppy if they don't have one on hand. The result has been disastrous for some breeds. Testimony before Congress indicates that many times the puppies were unhealthy, and often the parentage was not as stated. There were enough people that suffered heartaches for the Congress to amend the law.

### Q. Does this mean I can no longer buy a puppy from overseas?

A. You can still buy direct from breeders in a foreign country. However, a breeder/broker in the US cannot buy a puppy for you and resell it to you on their contract. Your purchase must be between you and the foreign breeder.

### Q. Is it legal for the foreign breeder to ship the puppy to me and I can pay someone here in the US for the puppy?

A. No, that would be considered an indirect transfer of ownership, or resale.

### Q. Will all puppies imported have to be over 6 months of age?

A. Only if they are imported for the purpose of resale.

### Q. When does the law take effect?

A. The effective date of the law was May 22, 2008. The penalties have been established by Congress. The rules on enforcement are the responsibility of the Dept of Agriculture and Department of Homeland Security.

### Q. Where can I read the law?

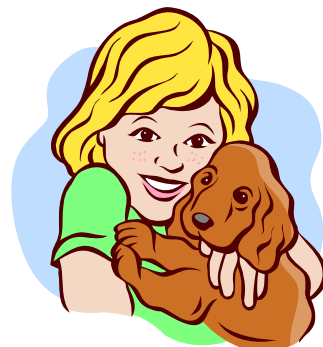
A. <http://uscode.house.gov/download/pls/o7C54.txt>

### Q. Where could I find the names of breeders?

A. The breeder listing at [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com) contains a number of US and foreign breeders. While the listing in and of itself is not a guarantee, it does give you a starting place with breeders who have pledged to abide by and uphold the Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the Lagotto Club of America.

It is important to note that there have not been a huge number of problems associated with the importing of Lagotto puppies, yet. However, as the breed is rapidly becoming more popular, it is only a matter of time before we would be faced with some of the nightmare stories we have read of other breeds. This bill is timely in that sense, and we should all welcome it as a tool to help us find the perfect puppy.

Please feel free to direct questions to any officer or Board Member. We all stand ready to assist you in finding your puppy.



# What You Said – Survey Results

In February, a survey of who you are and what you expect from the Lagotto Club of America was sent out to all members. While we cannot publish all the verbal responses in this newsletter, please note the general responses below. As you can see, we are currently made up of pet owners, but certainly dedicated ones who wish the best for our breed. Thank you to all who took time to do this survey, and look for more in the future as we are here to serve you.

<b>Please check those items that you feel should be priority goals/activities of the club?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Member and Public Education of the Lagotto	85.5%	59
Mentoring New Breeders	53.6%	37
Reports on Health Issues	82.6%	57
Working with the AKC to Protect the Breed	69.6%	48
Fund-raising for Club Activities	20.3%	14
Other (please specify)	17.4%	12
<i>answered question</i>		<b>69</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>
<b>Do Club sponsored conference calls, Skype chat or webinars interest you?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes	58.8%	40
No	19.1%	13
No Opinion	22.1%	15
<i>answered question</i>		<b>68</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>
<b>If you were to participate in a seminar, what topics might interest you?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Breeding	32.8%	21
Behavior Issues	56.3%	36
Grooming	64.1%	41
Training	65.6%	42
Nutrition	56.3%	36
Health	76.6%	49
Other (please specify)	7.8%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>64</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

Continued next page



Would you participate in a club sponsored Raduno (gathering)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	59.1%	39
No	4.5%	3
Maybe	36.4%	24
<b>answered question</b>		<b>66</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>
If you would like to attend a gathering, how far would you consider traveling?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 hour drive	3.0%	2
1-2 hour drive	25.8%	17
2-4 hour drive	31.8%	21
Longer than 4 hours	25.8%	17
I am not interested	3.0%	2
Other (please specify)	10.6%	7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>66</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>
Are you primarily:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pet Owner	69.1%	47
Breeder	13.2%	9
Interested in the breed, but do not own one	17.6%	12
<b>answered question</b>		<b>68</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>



### Hey – I Need a Name! An Editor’s Request

This newsletter has no identity, have you noticed?! As the editor of such a publication, I guess it seems a little boring to refer to this as “the newsletter” day in and day out. How exciting it would be if it could have a name, such as “The Truffle Tribune” or perhaps, “The Literary Lagotti.” So, in the grand scheme of things, I propose a little “name the newsletter” contest. I have no idea what the prize will be, but guaranteed, we will have one. Please send your nominations for a “NAME” directly to: [therese1256@yahoo.com](mailto:therese1256@yahoo.com) by July 10<sup>th</sup>. I will compile these and we will vote for the favorite via Survey Monkey the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Get creative!

# Annual Reports

---

The following were reports given by the Board at the Annual Meeting, held on January 24, 2010.

## **President's Report for 2009 and Looking Forward for 2010**

In January, 2009, the torch of the President was passed from Judith Martin to Bob Zimmel. Bob is a long-time Lagotto fancier and breeder and under his leadership, the Lagotto Club of America had its busiest year yet. With several radunos (gatherings), increased publicity through print ads and television, not to mention the Columbus Day Parade and Meet the Breed Event, both in New York City, our breed has gone from one of obscurity, to one that is becoming recognized, and certainly, desired. It has been with the hard work of our beloved members that these things can happen, and your work is truly appreciated. In December, Bob had to step down as President as his restaurant business and breeding became too demanding. Bob remain a member of the LCA and we thank him for the work he accomplished.

As Vice President, I was asked to fill Bob's shoes and will be the one who takes us into 2010. I find this an honor and I will work very hard for you and the breed. In telling you a bit about myself, I have mainly been a pet owner, but have done various training with my dogs over the years. This was primarily recreation for our dogs, my family, and me. It was not until I got my Lagotto male in June 2005 that I entered the world of showing, and working towards a breeding program. I can't tell you how much I have learned from so many of you. I thank you for that. My professional background is varied, but has always centered around education and training. In my current position, I am an Associate Dean at a small technical college in Washington State. My life has also centered around emergency medicine and I have been part of a fire department as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for almost 30 years. That has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am also a wife, a mother, and a grandmother, and I have been told, a pretty decent cook.

As I ponder where we are going as a Club, and what we should be doing, my first thought is that we need to define our organizational structure. As you will note in our membership report, we are growing as a club, and that is a trend we hope will continue. That all said, we have to better develop our committees and levels of responsibility with scheduled meetings and planning. We will be looking for our membership to step-up and get on those committees. There is always more that can be done with more help. One committee is finance, and the bottom line, in order to move forward and support our membership better; we need to develop some fund-raising ideas. We are planning a Club Specialty show, sometime in 2012, and this will not be an inexpensive venture, but one we need to do. I look for ideas from you and I am very excited as to our potential over the next year.

While it may be a bit premature, I want to thank you for your support of the Club in 2010 and hope you all want to get further involved. I also want to hear about your ideas and thoughts, and I will be sending out a survey to all you electronically in a few weeks. I look forward to serving

you as your President, and anticipate, with your help, that this year will be a major turning point for our Club.

Thank you for being a member.

Therese Williams

### **Secretary's Report**

Just over a year ago I told those attending the Annual Meeting that 2009 would probably be the busiest year the club has had to date. I had no idea at that time just how busy the club would be! Here, twelve months later, I can tell you that what we accomplished, because of you, was more than any of us even dreamed.

There were so many opportunities that came our way to tell people about the Lagotto Romagnolo. There were times when some of us were downright concerned that the breed was getting too much attention. Your Board felt that we have to respond to these media requests with a balanced picture of the Lagotto, and we have tried to do that in every situation.

In this meeting, you will hear or read the reports detailing some of the highlights of this year. It's possible that we may overlook something. If so, please bring it to our attention.

It serves no purpose for me to repeat things you will hear later, but there are a couple of things that may not be mentioned in the other reports.

First, the Board felt that we need to make sure the membership is aware of the many dog legislation issues that will very soon be discussed in the legislative bodies of our 50 states, as well as in the Congress. To that end, we asked Roberta York to take on the task of AKC Legislative Liaison. She agreed to do that and will, from time to time, send us emails about these proposed pet laws with information on how we can make a difference.

Second, in talking with many of you, the Board felt that it is time to begin planning for our first National Specialty. Martha Schneider is the Specialty Chair and will be naming a part of her committee in the next couple of months. This venture will require two things, money and dedicated workers. While the Board was originally in hopes that we could hold this Specialty in the Spring of 2011, Martha has advised that there is simply too much work to be done in preparation. We are now aiming for 2012. You'll hear more about this, and the events leading up to it, in the coming months.

Respectfully,

Mel Sykes

### **Treasurer Report**

I submit to the Membership the year-end report of the finances of the Lagotto Club of America as of 23 January 2010.

The non-profit checking account at Wells Fargo Bank has a balance of \$2,604.79.



The PayPal account has a balance of \$928.65.

All invoices received in 2009 have been properly approved by the Board and paid as of this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Carver

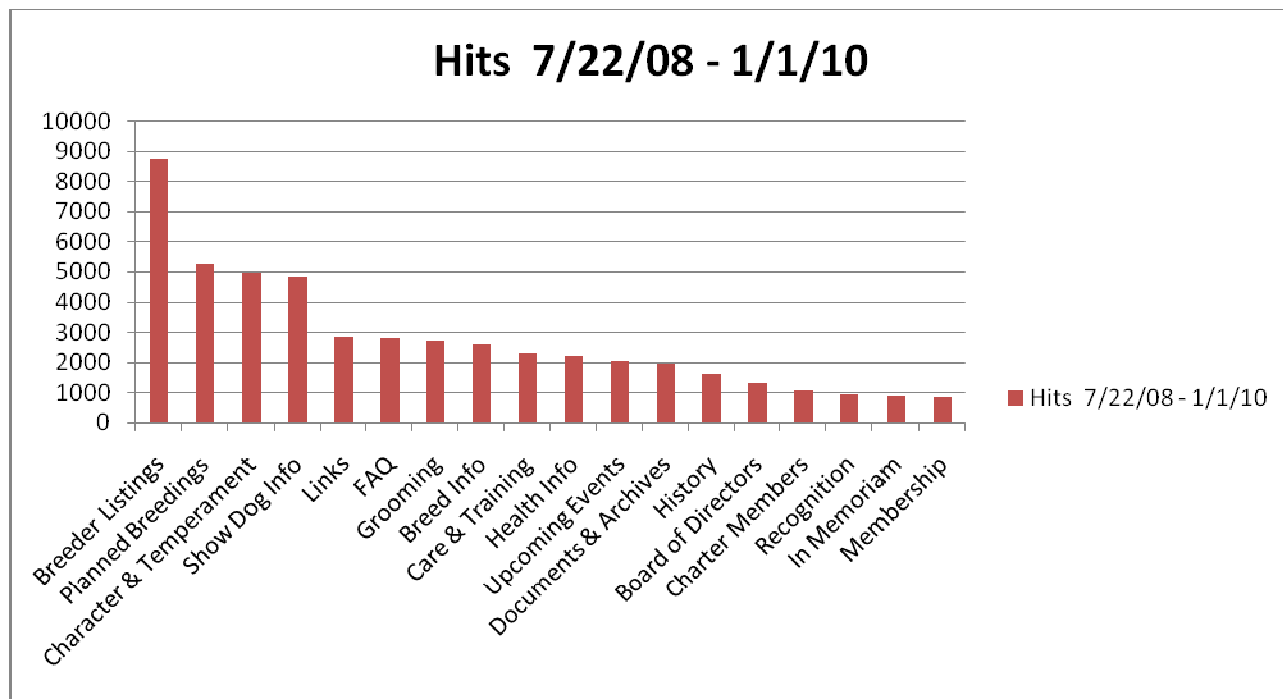
### Annual Lagotto Club of America Website Report

The LCA Website is the public face of the Lagotto Club of America. During the past year the website has undergone relatively few changes. After experiencing a number of problems with our previous hosting company, we moved the site to Host Gator and since then we have had no problems with speed of pages loading or times when the site was down.

Recently the home page photos were updated, and we are in the process of updating the photos on various other pages.

An “In Memoriam” page has been added. Also, we have added an application for the newly created “Stud Directory”, created by Xan McGivney. The recent Newsletters have been added to the Documents & Archives page.

For the first year and a half, the hits on the website clearly reflected that most visitors were looking for a puppy.



Submitted by Ken Weiss

## Membership Committee Report

Big thank you to Ed Mangan who helped organize the Excel database and has offered to make address labels for the club mailings.

At the start of the year we had 55 total members in our club; Individual and Family members, Associate Members and 8 non-US Members.

As of this past week we have 118 total US members in our club and 15 non-US members. We have doubled our membership this year. Interest in our breed and our club continues to increase and we have several member applications pending at this time. Our club membership has grown and continues to increase.

Some persons have said they were not certain what type of membership to sign up for and I will explain: Individual membership is a voting membership for one person. A family/dual membership gives the right to vote to two family members. We have established an Associate Membership option to persons who do not yet own a Lagotto and either hope to get a dog, or are just curious and want to learn more about the breed. Associate and non-US members do not have a vote for club business.

Last year we had regional Radunos or “gatherings” throughout the country. The SouthWest area had its third annual Raduno in AZ, with the North East in CT and South East in TN having their first events. These Radunos had large gatherings of people and dogs, and were a lot of fun for all who attended. These events are a good opportunity to get to know other club members and see all their dogs.

New for this year will be a CD mailed to all of you that will include an editable and printable membership list with other important club information as well. It is in the final planning stage and will hopefully be available in the first quarter.

Submitted by Judith Martin, Membership Chair

## **2009 History Report**

The following list highlights the historical events of the Lagotto Club of America, its members and dogs:

### **January:**

- The first Annual Meeting was held via teleconference on Sunday, January 11, 2009. Over 30 members took part in that meeting around the US, as well as Canada, New Zealand and the UK.
- Jim Sanford and Lagotto “Tom” from Tennessee, attend the Oregon Truffle Festival, and impress everyone with the abilities of the Lagotto Romagnolo in truffle hunting.
- The LCA placed an educational ad in the annual issue of “Puppies USA”

**February:**

- Lagotto Primo was the first Lagotto to be successfully re-homed using the LCA Rescue & Re-homing process.
- LCA received approval from the AKC and the show chair to have a "Meet The Breed" booth at the Fiesta Cluster shows at West World in Scottsdale, AZ.

**March:**

- A team of Lagottos in the UK competed in Agility at the prestigious Crufts Show. This was a first for this breed.

**May:**

- Southeast Raduno, held on May 16, 2009 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. There were 37 in attendance and 35 dogs.

**September:**

- Southwest Raduno held, September 26, 2009, in Prescott, Arizona. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

**October:**

- Northeast Raduno – October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Held in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. This was a two-day event and members from 9 states and Canada joined the event.
- October 12, 2009 – Columbus Day Parade – AKC sponsors the Italian Breeds. Paul and Ellen Lemberg, and their Lagotto Mocca, represented the Lagotto Club of America.
- October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Meet the Breed Event at Javits Center in New York City. With over 36,000 people in attendance to this event, the Lagotto received lots of interest.
- October, 2009 – Annual Italian Raduno in Bagnara, Italy – this event was attended by members of the LCA, to include Bob Zimmel, Ken Weiss, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes.

**December:**

- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Animal Planet highlighted various rare breeds on their show, Dogs 101. The Lagotto was one of the highlighted dogs, and interest continues to grow.

## AKC Liaison Report

We continue to enjoy a good working relationship with the AKC and AKC FSS. They are happy to have a club that is willing to work with them in so many areas.

As is noted elsewhere, the Lagotto Club of America joined the AKC in the Columbus Day Parade in NYC, was a participating Parent Club at the Meet the Breeds event at Javits Ctr, NYC. We also were active participants at 3 other AKC Meet the Breeds events, including the Rose City Classic in Oregon yesterday. We are scheduled to have dogs in attendance for the Detroit Kennel Club benched shows in March.

There is good news for those that have an interest in AKC Conformation shows. At the AKC January Board meeting, there was discussion about lowering the required numbers for FSS breeds to between 150 and 200 dogs with 3 generation pedigrees in order to enter Miscellaneous class. This would fast track the Lagotto to possibly be moved to

Miscellaneous Class much faster than originally anticipated. The AKC Board will discuss this more at their February meeting. I will keep you all informed.

Submitted by Mel Sykes



**LCA BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2010**

President:	Therese Williams, WA.
Vice President:	Ken Weiss, OH.
Secretary:	Mel Sykes, TN.
Treasurer:	Scott Carver, AZ.
Past President:	Judith Martin, AZ.
Director:	Christine Minardi, FL.
Director:	Adrienne Perry, AZ.
Director:	Gil Liran, NJ.

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

AKC: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



*Bottom ½ of page left blank for mailing purposes*

---

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_