

Lagotto Bollettino

LAGOTTO Club



Late
Autumn
2012

News

2013 Lagotto Romagnolo Calendars!

The 2013 Lagotto Romagnolo calendars are now available for purchase on our website! Vito & Consta are featured on the cover below. These full color, 13 month calendars are ready to ship and make great presents for the dog enthusiast in your life!

<http://lagottous.com/index.php/membership/2013-calendars>



Help Needed! 2012 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. December 15-16. Orlando, FL

We will be heavily visited by judges this year since they all want to see a Lagotto in person before they show up in the ring in January. We can't do this without your help! This is a two day event and we need dogs and owners to volunteer for shifts. We also need help with decorating the booth. Please contact Christine Mindardi: : email confortolagotto@yahoo.com or by phone at 850-294-8393 if you can commit to helping out!

Membership By The Numbers As of November 18, 2012

The Lagotto Club of America has 188 current memberships
175 are U.S. memberships
13 are foreign memberships

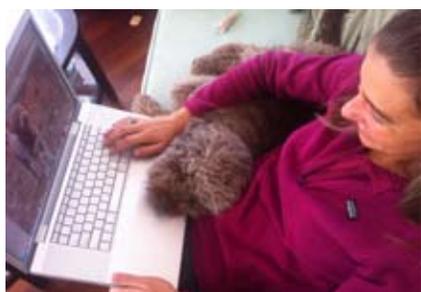
Of the 163 U.S. memberships, 75 are Individual memberships
72 Dual memberships, and 28 are Associate memberships.
Since dual memberships represent 2 persons, the total number of individuals currently paid up as members is 260.

You can renew your membership online at
<http://www.lagottous.com/index.php/membership/fees-payment>

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Would you like to submit an article for the next issue? Please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Tips on Training, Nutrition, or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dogs name, age, and photo caption. Email you submissions to jenniferdavit@mac.com
Deadline for next issue:
February 16!



Jennifer and her editorial assistant, Enzo

Meet the Breeds!

Text submitted by Barb Jakacky

When Mel Sykes posted on the LCA Facebook page that extra volunteers were needed at the upcoming Meet the Breed Event, I started wishing for rain on Sunday so our scheduled activity would be a washed out. I like to think that our attendance was meant to be; Despite a beautiful sunny day our Sunday plans actually fell through! My sons Colin and Owen and I had a so much fun meeting other Lagotto and sharing Luna at the AKC Meet the Breeds in NYC. Colin even got to play handler as he ran Luna around the show ring. We were excited to help anyway we could!

Luna had a much needed grooming appointment scheduled the day before the event. I was hoping for a nice pre-Winter clean up, but she ended up with a #10 summer shave down! I was disappointed, but I figured all was not lost. We would bring her clippings and before photos to prove that she was a Lagotto!

Early Sunday morning Owen and I packed up Luna, the bag of hair, and dog supplies and headed to Manhattan for the event. A typical 2.5 hour ride became a 4 hour trip because the Westside Highway was closed for a Bike for MS event. Who knew? Luna and Owen were real troopers... neither is known for their fondness of being in the car. True to the breed, Luna had her nose to the ground as soon as we left the car. She had never been in a city before. Ironically we parked near a stable that housed some of the city's horses and Luna seemed comforted by the familiar country scent. Geoff Estes met us at the event entrance and gave Owen and I our credentials to enter with Luna.

At our LCA booth we were greeted by familiar faces, both human and Lagotto, and enjoyed sharing dog antics with our fellow Lagotto lovers. As I expected, Camillo, Baci, and Tahvo looked ready for the show ring with their curly, well groomed coats. Then there was Luna... looking more like a sheared sheep with an extra-large brown nose. After getting situated, we quickly began talking with all of the people who stopped by the booth. A few people had seen the Lagotto segment on *Dogs 101*, but many were being introduced to the Lagotto for the first time. Children seemed to flock to our Lagotto, excited to see a breed that was unfamiliar to them. Both kids and adults loved touching the dogs and many commented on the softness of their wooly lookig coats, as well as their friendly demeanor. Adults were interested in the proper pronunciation of Lagotto Romagnolo, a feat I have yet to master according to my husband. Many were incredulous that Luna was the same breed. Owen was quick to produce the bag of hair clippings and photographic evidence of her "before groomed look" on his iPod. It seemed we have several hundred visitors, with many asking questions about breed size, activity level, shedding, and sources for puppies. I was impressed with how gentle and considerate all of the visitors were with our dogs, but more impressed with how well the dogs reacted to all of the strangers. They all seemed to enjoy the all of the attention. We were so busy at the booth, we didn't have time to tour the other booths at the event, but did make sure to stop at the vendor selling moose antlers. Owen picked one out for Luna as a reward for a job well done. Owen was rewarded for his work too...he got McDonalds to eat in the car as we drove back to Connecticut. All in all it was a great day. I want to thank the LCA, especially Alvina and Geoff Estes for all their hard work in organizing the **award winning** booth and for inviting us to attend. I hope we can be a part of future events that showcase our wonderful breed.



Dehydrated Dog Treats

Text and photos submitted by Kim McBee

My four-year-old Labradoodle was diagnosed with, and eventually died from Lymphoma. During his year-long battle with cancer, I thoroughly researched the what causes Lymphoma, how to manage it through diet, and more. After reading many articles about what is really in the processed foods and snacks we feed our pets, I changed the way I feed my dogs. Dehydrating their treats was one of the many changes I made. I now avoid all processed pet treats, especially those made outside the United States.

Dehydrated pet treats last longer than fresh food, they retain more nutritious value than baked treats, and they are simple and fun to make. One of your biggest problems will be fighting off the dogs while you're mixing up the ingredients; When my dogs see my Nesco 700-watt dehydrator come out of the box, they start begging at my feet! My dogs love sweet potato chews, turkey and sweet potato snacks, and just plain old jerky.

Easy Jerky Treats from deli-sliced meats

*My favorite recipe

- 2 pounds of ¼ inch thick deli-sliced meat: chicken, turkey or beef. I find it far easier than using uncooked fresh meat, although it is more expensive.
- Cut into whatever size pieces you want (remember pieces will shrink some in the dehydrator). I usually cut into bite-sized pieces and use for training.
- Place into the dehydrator on 160 degrees and dehydrate for 3-4 hours. The meat should be tough/leathery when you remove it from the dehydrator, an even color throughout, and there should not be any moisture beads when you tear a piece in half.
- I store in an airtight container in the refrigerator, although I don't really know that you need to. I usually grab a handful for my pocket when I'm heading out on a walk or hiking with the dogs. I have given them treats that I've had out for a day or two without ever having a problem. I just typically prefer to store in the refrigerator.

Dehydrated Sweet Potato Chews

- Boil sweet potatoes until slightly soft & cool slightly
- Slice into even ¼ inch thick slices (I use my Swissmar Borner V-Slicer to get even, uniformly thick slices)
- Place slices into the dehydrator, without overlapping pieces, and dehydrate @ 140 degrees until slices are tough and crisp; usually 12-16 hours depending on thickness of slices.
- Store in an air tight container

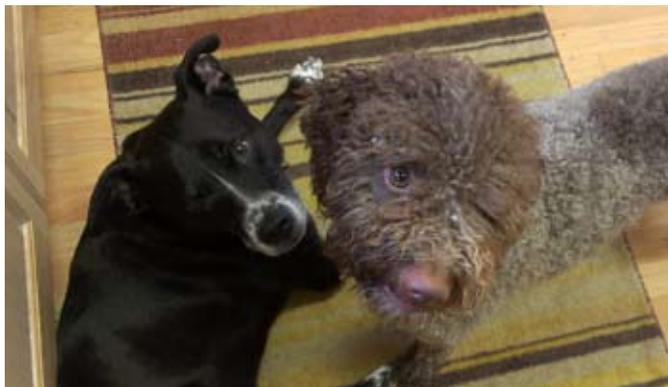
Turkey and sweet potato treats

- 2 cups cooked turkey (I use ground turkey because it is easy to brown)
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sweet potato (cooked until soft)
- 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1 ½ cups oatmeal (dry/ uncooked)
- 3 dozen dried cranberries. I use dried cranberries because I found it takes fresh cranberries longer to dry than the turkey snack. You can also substitute dried blueberries for the cranberries.
- Put ground turkey and water in blender until it is a thick paste (no meat chunks).
- Add sweet potato and molasses and puree until a thick paste.
- Pour/spoon mixture into a large bowl, add the oatmeal, and mix well. The dough should not be too wet or runny; if it is add a little more oatmeal.
- Spoon dough onto dehydrator trays into whatever size treat you want (I usually do smaller sized treats).
- Gently press dried fruit pieces into the top of each treat.
- Dehydrate on 160 degrees four to five hours or until thoroughly dry but not crispy.
- I freeze half in an airtight container (zip lock baggie is fine) and put the other half in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.



Dehydrated Dog Treats...continued...

When choosing meats for jerky, I always buy 'natural' deli meat from my grocer, making sure I am getting deli meat without fillers, nitrates or additives. I prefer a brand called DiLusso which contains no fillers, gluten, or MSG. You can use any ¼ inch thick deli-sliced meat (chicken, turkey, beef). 'Natural' meat is just my personal choice; either way, in my opinion it is still healthier than treats made in China. These recipes also assume you are using store bought meat. If you use wild game, which I have not, I believe you need to freeze the meat for thirty days prior to dehydrating to kill certain parasites. If you plan to use wild game, I recommend that you look for further instructions before dehydrating.



I hope you enjoy dehydrating as much as I do. It's very rewarding when my dogs sit at my feet while I'm making their treats, or when they stand at the refrigerator to beg for more. Most importantly, it is rewarding for me to know that I'm feeding my dogs food that is additive free. I hope your dogs enjoy these recipes as much as mine do.

Jerky Treats made from uncooked meats/chicken

- Slice 2 pounds of any "natural" "lean cut" meat or chicken into ¼ inch strips (going with the grain creates chewy strips, against the grain creates more tender leathery strips). It is easier to slice the meat if it is slightly frozen (I either have the butcher slice it for me or I use my Swissmar Borner V-Slicer).
- Wash your hands before/during the handling or raw meat/chicken with soap and water.
- Remove all noticeable fat (fat can prematurely spoil your treats).
- Bake meat/chicken strips in the oven on 165-200 degrees for 30 minutes to kill any bacteria that might be on the surface of the meat.
- Place meat strips into the dehydrator on the meat setting (should be at least 160-165 degrees to dry meat).
- Dehydrate for 8-12 hours. Check periodically after eight hours for done-ness. Strips should feel leathery (not brittle or moist), jerky should be an even color throughout, and there shouldn't be any moisture beads when you tear the jerky. If you want "brittle" meat/chicken strips you will need to dehydrate for 10-12 hours.
- Once again, I usually store a two week supply in the refrigerator and freeze the rest. Then, I just remove as needed. I don't think you have to refrigerate, but because I don't use any curing salts/marinade on my jerky I always error on the side of caution.



The Tail of the Short-Coat

Text and photos submitted by Therese Williams

I am generally a well-planned and organized person. I like some order in my life, to some extent anyway. I have always been in management positions, so I must also like to have some degree of control (at least my husband tells me I do). The dichotomy here is that I also have dogs. They don't seem to like my same sense of order and remind me daily that I don't always have full control. At times, they do humor me until they make it clear I am delusional. I guess we know who really has the power.



In my quest to join the Lagotto world several years ago, one of my ultimate goals was to develop a breeding program. I researched, was mentored and have been to many classes to learn and ask questions, not to mention how many books and articles I have read. I have easy access to a Veterinary Internist and have queried her at length. I did my homework and knew that unexpected and unfortunate things can happen, no matter how much you plan and prepare. While this has been a long and arduous trek for me, not only to get the correct dogs in terms of temperament and structure, but in timing to begin breeding. This last year, it appeared the stars aligned and I was thrilled at finally having my first Lagotto litter in July 2012. Eight wonderful puppies were born; seven males and one female. Yes, having more females would have been nice, but I was not unhappy about the number of males. After all, they were healthy and had all the right body parts in all the right places.

Over the next few weeks, all was going very well. I tried to do everything right from food choices, to daily early neurological stimulation exercises, to noise de-sensitization, sight stimuli, you name it. Personalities, temperaments, and the "Lagotto look" were all going fabulously until about week number six, post-whelp. What was wrong you ask? Well, on some of these adorable puppies, the coats seemed to be changing. While three of the puppy's coats were growing longer and beginning to wave and curl, five of them seemed to stop growing longer hair. About this same time, after posting their 6-week photos on the website and Facebook, another breeder in Europe said it looked like I might have puppies affected by the short-coat gene. I knew of this, but I had a normally coated dam who had never been known to throw a short-coat before (this was her fifth litter), and the sire (his first litter) has a beautiful coat with gorgeous curls. How could this happen, and why to me? I was stressed, but needed answers.



At about the same time, our Breed Health and Education Committee had been discussing the incidence of dogs with incorrect coats, but needed test subject willing to work with them and a couple of laboratories here in the US. A test had been developed used in Europe, but of course, it is optimal to have something closer to home, and they needed to see if some existing tests would work for Lagotto.

Well, not only did a short-coat puppy occur, I had the perfect scenario for working with DNA labs, with having the sire, the dam, normally coated puppies, as well as incorrect coats.

The Tail of the Short Coat...continued...

DDC Labs in Ohio asked for buccal (cheek) swab samples from the full spectrum; sire, dam, and both coat-type puppies. Optigen, who has an incorrect-coat test for Portuguese Water Dogs asked for a blood sample from one of the short-coated puppies. DDC was looking for “furnishings” or actually a lack of them in the DNA of coat development. This is similar to the test they use in Europe. Optigen wanted to see if the PWD incorrect-coat test would show affected on a Lagotto. Both tests worked and of course, for those of us that breed these wonderful dogs, this is HUGE news!

What is important to remember is that this is a cosmetic thing, and has nothing to do with the health of the animal. Still, it was a bit of a shock after all the hard work and planning that I did not end up with the perfect litter (I know, no such thing). While all the puppies were technically spoken for, I now needed to tell the new owners that while these were 100% pure Lagotto, they would not look like one. In fact, they might be mistaken for a Brittany, a Springer or even a German Short-haired Pointer (with a tail). As you can imagine, those folks needed to think about that, and a couple did back out citing that while they really only wanted a family pet, the look was important too. Not a problem and deposits returned. Of those that were un-phased by the news, their responses ranged from “really, now I won’t have to pay for grooming?” to, “I want a dog with a good nose for truffling, what do I need hair for?” Those folks love their short-coats.

From a “research” standpoint, the incidence of puppies with short or “incorrect coat” can and will happen to another breeder at some point, and that is why I share my story with you. In doing a comparison of coats, some of the data suggests that they may shed more than the curly coats. My observation is yes, but only because they do not have the curls that hold in the dead-hairs. Shedding is pretty minimal, but is more noticeable. Other data suggests those persons with allergies may be more affected when around the puppies with incorrect coats. In a very unscientific method, I had some friends with severe allergies test this theory. They do not react to my normal coated dogs, and also did not with the puppies. Good news there, but everyone is different. Other positives characteristics are that they track a lot less dirt, will not get caked with snow in the winter and they dry very quickly. The biggest negative; They don’t look like a Lagotto. That said, they are truly beautiful in their own right.

This circumstance has also reminded to about what was really important in being a breeder, first and foremost: to breed healthy puppies with fabulous temperaments. That part I got. This has also taught me even more about human nature, and when I speak to potential buyers, knowing why they chose a Lagotto is heard with slightly different ears. So odd that when I mention the coat thing to some, they think I must have bred some type of mutant. Those are not the owners for my dogs.

It is important to talk about the occurrence of incorrect coat in our breed. It is not something to breed to obtain, but when it does happen, it would never mean you are a bad breeder or you did not do the right thing. The confirmation that we now have not one, but two tests to use is exciting, so in a very weird way, I am almost happy that if it was going to happen, it happened to me. It gives me an opportunity to not only help educate, but share with you my experiences. To my dogs and puppies that were the test subjects, the Lagotto community thanks you, and I thank you.



New DNA Test for Lagotto: Incorrect Coat “Ic” Text submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes.

Optigen is now offering a DNA test for incorrect coat for Lagotto. Incorrect coat manifests as a short, flat coat. Affected dogs have no curls, beard, mustache or leg furnishings. They are likely to shed to a greater or lesser degree and might be more apt to provoke allergic reactions in people with allergies to dogs.

Incorrect coat is not apparent at birth and in fact only begins to be discernible at around 6 or 7 weeks of age when the coat begins to change. The trait is a simple autosomal recessive so is inherited in the same fashion as BFJE. Dogs will be either clear, carriers or affecteds. Breeders with a carrier or affected Lagotto can breed to a clear Lagotto in order to avoid producing affected puppies. Optigen has an excellent chart showing the results of breeding the 3 genotypes at http://www.optigen.com/opt9_impropercoat.html

Bear in mind that there may be other, as yet undetermined, causes for atypical coats in the breed. Other DNA tests pertaining to length, curl and furnishings are now being investigated.

IC is NOT a health issue, but is an incorrect trait for the breed. Researchers working with the Portuguese Water Dog Club – the breed for which this test was originally developed, strongly caution breeders to not eliminate IC carriers or affecteds from their breeding programs. In an article in January 2010 issue of The Courier Magazine, the official newsletter of the PWDCA, Karen Miller writes “Be aware that along with the good news, and of critical importance, is a warning to breeders: Identifying the IC gene in breeding stock is all well and good. Breeding a carrier (or even an IC dog) to a normal is fine and sensible to avoid producing improperly coated dogs. But, and it’s a big “but,” not using IC carriers in breeding programs is NOT fine. There is lots more research that needs to be done to fully understand how this gene works. We’ve thrown the baby out with the bath water in many previous breeding decisions, let’s learn from those mistakes, not repeat them.” (5)

This is more specifically addressed by research scientist Kevin Chase who, in a companion article to the one quoted above, stated: “This is an important regulatory gene. There are also some 30 other genes in close proximity to it. Removing this variant of the gene from the breeding population would remove a

tremendous amount of genetic diversity in the breed. This would be very dangerous.” (5)



Both articles can be found at: http://www.optigen.com/opt9_impropercoat.html and are well worth reading.

For questions or comments, contact HealthEducation@LagottoUS.com

Health Testing: Where to Find It

Text submitted by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

Many dog clubs sponsor health clinics a couple of times a year. These are often listed at http://www.cavalierhealth.org/health_clinics.htm. This link will take you to a listing in order by state, with a clickable link in the date column that links to the date, location and detailed information about the testing being offered. Some clinics only offer one type of exam, others may offer several. Prices are usually below what you might pay at a specialist's office. OFA also lists upcoming health clinics at <http://www.offa.org/clinics.html>

Another resource for information on health clinics would be local dog clubs. You can find clubs in your area at <http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm>. Often clubs will hold one or more health clinics in conjunction with a show or match.

Optigen provides a page for clubs to list upcoming health clinics at http://www.optigen.com/opt11_calendar.taf. At some of these clinics – called 20/20 Clinics - there are 20% discounts by Optigen for testing for BFJE and Incorrect Coat (“IC”), so be sure to check this list if you are planning on having these tests done. By the way, Optigen also offers a 5% discount for applications filled out on-line as well. And finally, they offer discount Days: “Periodically through the year, typically once a season, OptiGen offers Discount Days.” The discount code will be advertised in their clinic calendar.

Typical testing offered at health clinics are eyes, patellae (rear kneecap), heart, and hearing exams as well as blood draws for DNA testing, and elbow and hip x-rays. Often there is a microchip clinic also so that dogs being testing can be chipped for permanent identification and the chip number listed on the paperwork submitted with the test results. Of course, blood draws and the patellae testing can be done by your regular vet as well. However, clinics often offer substantial savings to owners.

When planning to have any type of health testing done, it is a good idea to bring a copy of your dog's registration paperwork with you, or to have the full registered name of the dog, its date of birth, and

its registration and microchip numbers with you as most paperwork submitted with health tests requires it. (If you do not know your dog's chip number the vet or vet tech will be able to scan the chip for you.) Remember to always ask to have the chip scanned and the form signed or checked by the vet where it asks if the identification of the dog was verified number the vet or vet tech will be able to scan the chip for you.)

BENIGN FAMILIAL JUVENILE EPILEPSY – “BFJE”

DNA testing for BFJE is now available in the US. The test has been licensed to Optigen in New York. To obtain forms and instructions, go to <http://www.optigen.com>

All though not specifically referenced LCA members are required to test for BFJE prior to breeding under Section 2, Part F of the Code of Ethics.

EYES

As well as the resources above for health clinics, you can also search for a local board certified veterinary ophthalmologist on the web site of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists at <http://www.acvo.org/new/public/public1.shtml>. Some ophthalmologists offer special rates for breeders and some have monthly clinics for breeders which may also at reduced rates.

There are now two data bases being maintained for eye testing results. One will be held by OFA and one will continue to be held by CERF (Canine Eye Research Foundation). The exams themselves will be essentially identical, looking at the same structures of the eye and for the same abnormalities. Only board certified ophthalmologists (diplomates of American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists – “ACVO”) may perform these exams.

Health Testing...continued...

HIPS

There are two acceptable methods in the US for testing dogs for hip dysplasia. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals – “OFA”, which maintains a public database for many different health testing results, was the earliest organization for rating hips in the US. X-rays for OFA ratings are done in what is called a hip extended position. The OFA ratings are based on the physiology of the hip joint. You can read more about OFA at www.offa.org

Although any veterinarian can take x-rays and submit them, incorrect positioning and/or a poor quality x-ray can have a major impact on the rating granted by OFA. There is an excellent article about the importance positioning at <http://leerburg.com/hipart.htm> This article contains actual x-rays along with explanations.

It is best to find a vet who does lots of x-rays for OFA rating. One way to do so is to find an experienced local breeder who has x-rays for OFA done on their dogs. If you do not know of any breeders, then you can find a local dog club on the AKC website by going to the following link: <http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm?action=conf&display=on> Contact the club Secretary for help in locating a breeder who may be able to assist you in finding an experienced vet.

You can download the form to submit to OFA with your x-rays at <http://www.offa.org> and complete the appropriate portions in advance for your vet. My experience is that it minimizes errors and the vets appreciate being handed filled out paperwork.

If you decide to go with the PennHip test (see below) one of the x-rays taken for PennHip is a hip-extended view which is suitable (assuming correct positioning) to also send to OFA. Practitioners must be trained and certified by PennHip in order to perform PennHip testing.

The PennHip evaluation looks at the laxity of the hip joint. Veterinarians must be trained and certified by PennHip in order to submit x-rays for rating. This method was developed by specialists at the University of Pennsylvania. At <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip> you will find information about PennHip as well as a locator for certified PennHip vets.

Either method meets the requirements of the LCA Code of Ethics

You can download the form to submit to OFA with your x-rays at <http://www.offa.org> and complete the appropriate portions in advance for your vet. My experience is that it minimizes errors and the vets appreciate being handed filled out paperwork.

Either method meets the requirements of the LCA Code of Ethics.

INCORRECT COAT – “IC” (NEW)

Optigen is now offering a DNA test for incorrect coat for Lagotto. You can find information at <http://www.optigen.com> on the test. Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a brief article on IC.

PATELLAE

While luxating or slipping rear kneecaps have not been shown to be a major problem in the breed, some may like to have their dogs tested. The test consists of simple palpation by your regular veterinarian who then signs off on a form to submit to OFA. You can download the form to submit <http://www.offa.org>

Grooming a Lagotto Romagnolo

Text & Photos by Monica Benelli, Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Kennel

The lagotto romagnolo is, and should always be a rustic breed. The coat should never be over groomed - it should be very different from the poodle. The coat should be curly, but not soft. The most important steps to achieve this is in the first grooming and correct bathing of a pup.

Puppy Grooming

The first grooming for a pup should be when he/she is about 3 months old. At this time the entire body and head must be clipped. Cut the coat with clippers using a 3 mm blade. This first grooming will make the coat curly in the future. If after 2-3 months the coat is not curly or strong enough, repeat the same grooming again.



Bath Before First Grooming

The bath is the first and very important step in the correct grooming of your lagotto. After bathing, the next step is to untangle all the knots. When the dog is wet use a wide toothed comb, never use a brush as it will leave the coat too soft. After combing out all mats, and tangles, it is best to allow the dog to dry naturally in the summer months. A hair dryer may be used on a low setting in the winter months. It is important to never leave a dog to dry naturally in the winter months, or in cold weather, as it can be dangerous for the dog's health and could cause damage to his or her tail.



Grooming the Lagotto Romagnolo...continued...

Pet grooming

To have the best pet grooming in a lagotto you must use scissors. Clippers should be used only for the belly and inner thigh. The correct length of the body coat is approximately 2 cm. The coat should be shorter on the backside of thighs, chest, side of neck and tail. In these areas the coat should be approximately 0.5 cm in length (shown in red below). The coat on the head should be longer than that of the body at approximately 3 cm in length.



The head should appear round, and the ears should be within the perimeter of the head line. The coat of the ears should be very short at the top and gradually becoming longer towards the base, but never outside the perimeter of the head.

The Body: Red indicates where the coat must be shorter- approximately .5 cm in length.

The Tail: The tail should be absolutely carrot like in appearance with NO feathers.



Show Grooming

The show grooming of a lagotto is the same of a pet lagotto The difference being in the length of the coat and the amount of times you should groom the dog before the show. Body (about 3/4 cm length) - head (about 3/4 cm length) – side of neck, chest, back side of thighs, tail. (0.5 cm length).

The bottom of the dog (belly and sternum) should be very short (few millimeters).

If you decide to enter your lagotto in a show you should cut the coat to approximately 2 cm in length about 3 months before the show. After cutting the coat; bath, remove knots and define the lines of the dog with scissors every 10-15 Days as described above. The coat will become very curly and in excellent condition using this method. Bathe the dog 2 days before the show and dry the dog as described above .

Upcoming Events

January 2013

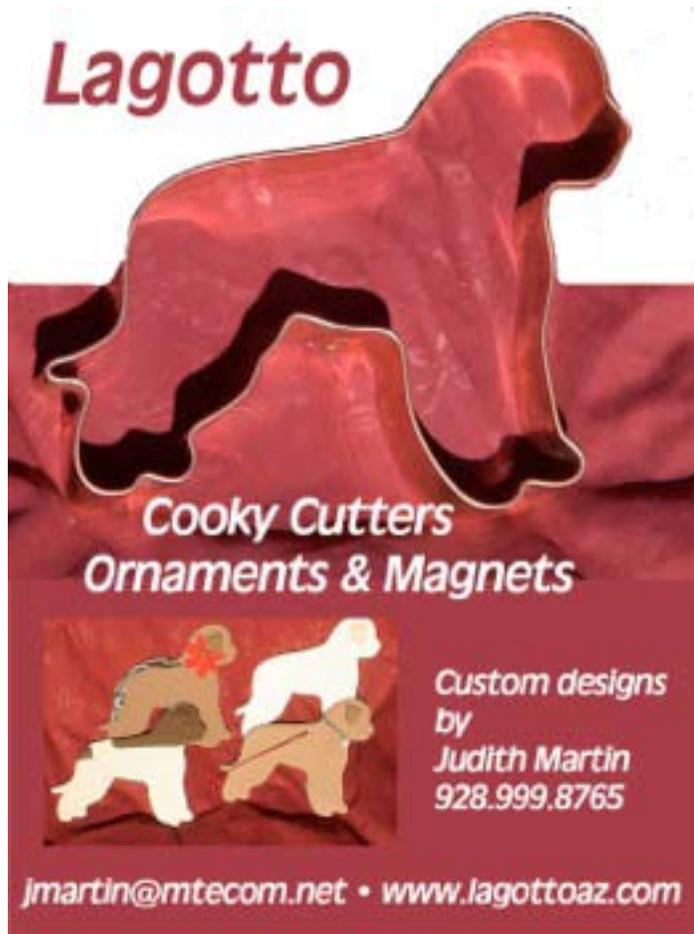
- The Lagotto Romagnolo enters the AKC Miscellaneous Group!!!!

March 2013

- March 15-17: AKC Champion Events Extravaganza, Tulsa, Oklahoma

CALENDARS

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



Advertising space available in

the next issue!

Contact

advertising@lagottous.com

for more information.

Ads for next issue must be

submitted by

February 11!



Lagotto Merchandise

The LCA Marketing Committee has been working hard and is happy to announce the release of LCA merchandise.

A variety of hats, t-shirts, pullovers and other merchandise with our new LCA logo will be posted shortly on the LCA website. Thank you to our marketing committee for working so hard!



Considering Breeding... ?

If you are thinking of breeding your Lagotto, you need to consider the following:

1. Does your Lagotto have a good temperament?
2. Is he/she a good representative of the breed type and conformation?
3. Have you reviewed the agreement (if any) with your breeder to determine if your puppy was sold with a "restricted from breeding" clause?
4. Have you checked your AKC FSS papers to see if your dog has a limited (from breeding) registration?
5. Have you reviewed the LCA Code Ethics to be sure that you are in compliance with the rules pertaining to breeding a litter and placing puppies?

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LCA Board Members for 2012

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Vice President:	Adrienne Perry
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Director:	Kathleen Correll
Director:	Christine Gornik
Director:	Sandy Mignogna

LCA Website: www.lagottous.com

AKC: www.akc.org

Request for photos! Please contribute to the special end of year all photo edition of the newsletter. If you would like to have your dog included, please submit a jpeg image, name of dog, & home state where dog resides.

Deadline: December 14!

mail to jenniferdavit@mac.com