


Lagotto Bollettino



Nov.
2013

Vol. 3

Still available! 2014 Calendars

We still have calendars available and if you order before December 9, they will be shipped before Christmas. It is a 13 month full color wall calendar. This beautiful image is the cover, and an example of the great Lagotto photos. Price: \$14.95 US (includes shipping) and \$19.95 (includes foreign shipping) Buy 10 get one free. <http://www.lagottous.com> 



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From the Editor - Judith Martin

Hello Lagotto friends. This is our third issue of 2013. Our last issue of the year will have Christmas, New Year's, and end of year Holiday themes. Be sure to take some good photos to send to us as you bring out your decorations. We will also include greetings from all of you who would like to have them included in our Bollettino.

In this issue, we will be highlighting the Annual Meeting of Lagotto Club of America, including biographies of our current Board; returning, and newly elected members. We will include Board Highlights of our other monthly meetings. Look for the names and titles earned this year by our very talented Lagotti.

The winner of the contest to find the error in our last edition is Sherry Beckman, human mom to Benni Beckman of Bedford, NY. Sherry was the only one to notice that we had misspelled the name of the Bollettino with a single T, when it is correctly spelled with a double T. The error passed by all our proof-readers! Sherry wins one of four soon to be famous Window Clings with the new club name and logo!

We have a new contest in this issue with a purposely planted error, and will award a prize to the first one to detect it. Start looking! 

Would you like to submit an article or photos for the next newsletter? We would love to receive your contributions! If you have an idea for an article, or can contribute something about nutrition, breeding, health, grooming, or events, please email us at bollettino@lagottous.com

Deadline for next issue:

December 15

President's Letter - Adrienne Perry

We are moving toward full AKC recognition. I know this is good news to some, but fills others with trepidation. I believe full participation in one of the world's largest dog registries can provide wonderful opportunities to showcase the very best of our breed and its talents. With shows, come the opportunity to meet other Lagotto owners, breeders and trainers, to learn about structure first hand and to talk in concert about where we want to go. Any of us would be hard pressed to recreate the learning experience and the mentorship that is available at these events in conformation or any of the companion events. Dog shows are about providing an outside, non-biased look at our dogs and their strengths and weaknesses. Getting a group of dogs together makes it easier to see strong and weak points in a way that is almost impossible if you see dogs one at a time. One of the most important things we can do right now is help people new to showing "get their feet wet" with instruction on the standard, grooming and training. If you are someone who has shown before with another breed, reach out and help those in your area who are new. Invite them along...heck show their dog for them if they get stage fright.

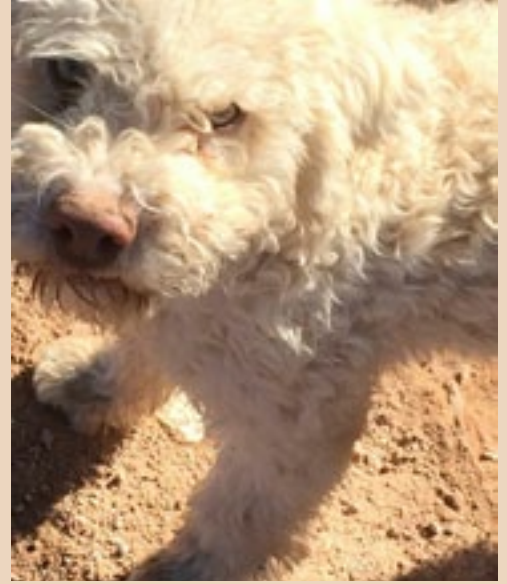
If you are a dog trainer, offer some discounted lessons to Lagotto owners living in your area. If you are a groomer, help people learn to groom themselves or speak to their groomer. If you are an experienced breeder, help new ones come up with good puppy contracts. We are all enriched when we help each other learn how to best present this breed, whether it be in a working event or in conformation. All of us are worried about the Lagotto becoming too popular too fast. All of us can take individual responsibility for breeding only those dogs that should be bred. The first step is to make sure we understand the breed standard. We need to understand how our individual dog does or does not conform to it.

The next step is breeding; only with mentorship and health certifications. Breeders should only breed when the goal is producing the best possible puppies, not with providing cheap (or expensive!) puppies for overzealous consumers. We never EVER have to fulfill the public's demand for these dogs. Our responsibility is to the breed, not the marketplace.

As a club, my hope is we can continue to preserve the working abilities and rustic nature of our breed. I hope the Lagotto becomes only popular enough that people can pronounce the breed's name. As a group of individuals, my hope is owners enjoy all the activities at which our little truffle dogs excel! If we take that next step into breeding, I hope we do so only with the best knowledge, mentorship, and personal ethics. I hope the Lagotto Club of America (which is ALL of us, individually) can become a great resource to provide that guidance and help. In a nutshell, let's help each other---it can only help the breed. 🐾

New Faces

Introduce your puppy to the club. Send us a good photo of your puppy born after Dec. 2012 to be featured in our next issue. Include registered name, call name, date of birth and location.



Dig'n Designer Bellini "Bling" Mullen in TN, born June 26, 2013. Breeder is Robin Morehouse in New Mexico



"Capo" del Tiglio born November 14, 2012. Owners: Selda & Mehmet Pasa, Wesport CT Breeders: Mel and Hilarie Sykes in Tennessee

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Highlights of LCA Annual Meeting Mel Sykes, Secretary

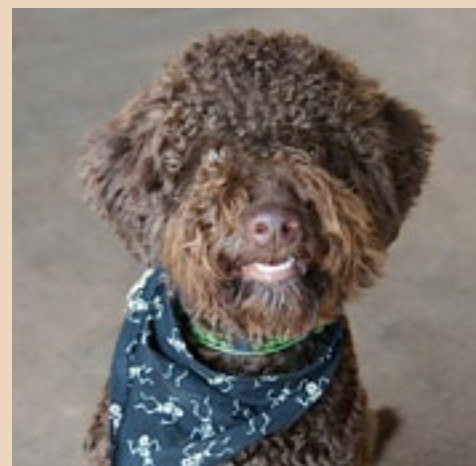
If you ever wondered what goes on at the LCA Annual Meeting, we're recapping it below, along with some interesting highlights. If you ever wondered if it was "for you" and if you would be missed if you didn't participate, the answers are Yes and Yes!

The meeting was held by teleconference on October 13, 2013 with 29 members present. Over 50 percent have a Lagotto as a companion dog (pet), the balance were members who either breed or plan to breed. Members from across the US were participating. The newest members in attendance were Kelly and John Arena, who had been members just over one month. Founding members present were Judith Martin, Therese Williams, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, and Mel Sykes. Therese Williams chaired this meeting, her final meeting as President. She has now earned the title of Past President and is an advisor to the Board. Therese has served the club as Director, Vice President, and President, as well as our first newsletter editor! Mel Sykes gave a summary of our involvement in Meet the Breeds events at AKC shows. You'll read the complete list in the minutes of the meeting. Kathleen Correll gave us the summary Treasurer's report. The complete report is in the Annual Meeting minutes. From Lisa Sobon we heard that the calendars were ready to print this week. We're hoping for a sell-out again. Judith Martin is the new editor of the newsletter and publishing committee. She has great plans, and a good team behind her. Absent a report from the Membership committee or the Rescue and Rehoming committee, Therese Williams gave a summary of some of the activities during the year.

We resumed giving the President's awards this year. Therese Williams awarded the Spark Plug award, which is presented to the person or persons most responsible for advancing the club, to the Marketing committee members, Lisa Sobon, Sandy Mignogna, and Melanie Annacone. The Tail Wagger award is presented to the person or persons most responsible for advancing the breed. Therese awarded this to "anyone who has shown their dog this year" and to Alvina and Geoffray Estes for their work with many of the AKC Meet the Breeds. Adrienne Perry presented a wide ranging group of awards the Lagotto that have competed in AKC events. She pointed out that the versatility of the breed is proven by the success our dogs enjoy in AKC competition. Adrienne called our attention to Arlene Diamante and her dog Diamante Luminoso VCD CDX RE. There was discussion about the letters at the end of his name and Adrienne did a good job in explaining what they meant and what was required to gain those titles.

A full listing of all titleholders will be in the minutes of the Annual Meeting. The slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating (cont. next page)

(New Faces continued)



"Marco" Terra Incognita, owned by Liz Reese of Sierra Vista, AZ. Born April 1, 2013. Breeder is Jacki Barbieri in Missouri



"Faith" del Tiglio lives in Oregon and is going to be a truffle hunter. Born September 2013. Breeder: Mel and Hilarie Sykes in Tennessee



Baci Terra Incognita is owned by Kerin Jacob-Schwartz, born April 21, 2013, lives in Stamford CT. His breeder is Jacki Barbieri in Missouri

(cont. next page)

(Highlights cont.)

Committee was declared elected as there had been no opposition to the slate. The membership has approved the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee every year, without exception. That sets a pretty high bar for future committees!

Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes gave answers to questions on Lagotto health. The OFA will now list the results of your Lagotto BFJE test in their open database. The fee is \$25.00 which is sent with a copy of the test results. Optigen has a test for Incorrect Coat (IC) for the Lagotto. This is of importance to anyone planning to breed. The Breed Health and Education Committee can begin working on the requirements for the AKC CHIC program now. There was a general discussion about an open database whereby Lagotto breeders could submit the documented results of tests. The results would help buyers make wise choices. It would also help Lagotto breeders make responsible breeding decisions. The members also discussed things that could have helped them in finding a responsible breeder of healthy Lagotto. Three educational articles were mentioned and these will be added to the website. The meeting adjourned shortly after 9:00 PM Eastern time. Hopefully every member that attended the meeting came away with the understanding that the club appreciates the members!

Although she was not called on for her report, our Legislative Liaison, Roberta York, will continue to serve us this year, informing everyone of legislation that affects us as dog owners. There are some scary proposals in some state legislatures and they are aimed at pet owners as well as breeders. Roberta's report is always carried on the Lagotto list at YahooGroups.com. In the future, perhaps some of her comments will be shared in the Bollettino. Roberta deserves your attention when you see her report. 🐾

Summary of Reports of Annual Meeting

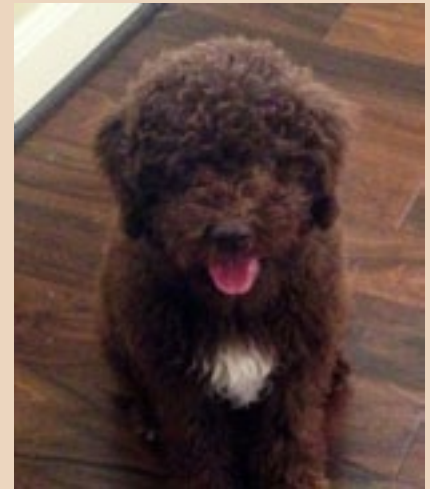
*Detailed Minutes, Reports and upcoming agendas are found in the "Members Only" pages on the club website:
<http://www.lagottous.com>*

The Treasurer reported total assets of \$27,168.91

Total Membership: 255 of which 21 are international

Rescue and Rehoming has 23 families waiting

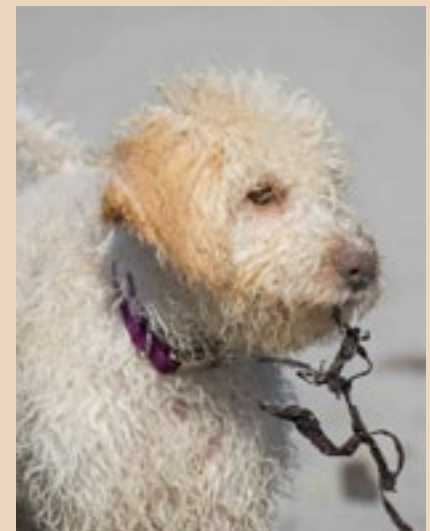
Other Committee Reports included: Judges Education, LCA Health Screening and Breeding practice, and Breed Health and Education. 🐾



Dig N' Texas Jake's Rigatoni, born July 1, 2013. Owner is Jenny Dowdell and Breeder is Robin Morehouse



Lucia, born June 2013 is owned by Susan Emery in NM She is from Pinon Kennel in Sweden



Trevi is owned by Alyssa Rimmer in New York City, born in March 3, 2013. Breeder is Rusten Van Wyck. 🐾

Meet the Board of Directors

Adrienne Perry-President

I've been involved in formal dog activities since I was a child. My Miniature Schnauzer, Dolly, earned her CD when I was 13. After graduate school, I got involved in dogs again, leading to a house full of Rottweilers for over 20 years, including the time when they were #2 in AKC registrations. What an education it is to be in a breed that is too popular for its own good. One that people will clamor to own, even when they can't properly, train or educate the dog, or in some cases even pronounce its name correctly! I work as a veterinary technician and dog trainer. I train therapeutic service dogs for a Phoenix based



group called Soldier's Best Friend, which supplies dogs and training to Veterans with PTSD and/or Traumatic Brain Injuries. Also, I train students for competition obedience and rally, as well as training/handling a few dogs a year to obedience titles. I enjoy showing in conformation but my real love is obedience. I've earned approximately 65 AKC working titles on my dogs (including 2 UDXs and 4 UD's), a bunch of rally titles up through RAE, tracking and carting titles, and Schuzhund BH titles (Begleithund).

Our very small breeding program has produced Top 10 ranked Rottweilers in conformation, obedience, rally & carting, a Best in Show dog and winner of Senior Futurity at the American Rottweiler Club Nationals, including the very first Grand Champion/UD in the

history of any breed. Our Lagotto family, which began with Terzo (imported from Switzerland in 2009), has expanded to Jetta (from Kristina Rense in Sweden) and one of Terzo's daughters, Pippi, who is American bred. We still have one very old (13 years!) Rottweiler, who is participating in the extraordinary longevity study with Dr. David Waters (The Old Grey Muzzle Tour). By now, most of you know Terzo. He was an absolute game changer in my family's life! We have travelled more than we ever have, grown a global circle of friends, and had fantastic experiences showing dogs here and in Europe, even though I've been showing dogs for years. I look forward to meeting your game changers (and you too!) during the coming year. 🐾

Melanie Steele-Vice President

I purchased my first show quality Weimaraner in 1984, and by contract was obligated to show him to his Championship. As they say, the rest is history. Through our handlers for the Sporting Dogs, we were introduced to Sighthounds and found a deep love and appreciation for Greyhounds and Scottish Deerhounds.

New AKC Title Holders

We began receiving title reports from the AKC in February 2013, because of the lag time between finishing a title and AKC recording it our list of honorees begins in December 2012 and goes through August 2013. A call out to the membership for any titles finished but not yet recorded was sent out to try to establish how many dogs have completed AKC titles up to the present time. This list does not reflect titles earned prior to December 2012 or Lagotto titleholders owned by non-members.

Additionally, this year we had one dog become the very first lagotto to earn the VCD1 title and the CDX title in obedience. Special congratulations to Arlene Diamante and Diamante Luminoso VCD1 CDX RE! For those of you who haven't heard of a VCD (Versatile Companion Dog) title: it is a dog that has earned both Novice Agility titles (NA and NAJ or NAP and NAJP) the CD and the Tracking dog title. Obedient, Agile and with scenting ability. Does anything sum up a lagotto better than that?

Congratulations to all of you and your dogs, your titles reflect the time and energy you put into your relationship with your dog as well as putting it to the test in public and sharing your "curly kids" with spectators. We also know that it reflects a LOT of "on the spot" meet the breed information that you pass on to those you meet. You are truly breed ambassadors!

(Continued on next page)

(Melanie cont.) I reside in Bluffton, South Carolina. I established GrandCru Kennels in 1994, and to date, I have owned/bred over 80 Champions and 14 Multiple Best in Show winners in the Hound, Sporting, and Terrier Groups, with a concentration in Greyhounds and Scottish Deerhounds. Both breeds have been campaigned to top levels in the US, and overseas, with seven different Greyhounds achieving number one status in the US from 2004-2010 and three different Deerhounds occupying the number one spot from 2001-2004 and 2007. My dogs have won the coveted Pedigree Award five times, the Hound Group at the 2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, Hound Group Second at the 2010 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and many national specialties. I am very proud of how well my dogs have done in conformation competition, but even more appreciative of my dogs' temperaments and their lives beyond the conformation rings. Some have gone on to win agility titles, obedience titles, coursing titles, field trial titles, and Canine Good Citizenship designations. My interest in the Lagotto came from my desire to help friends find the perfect Lagotto for their plantation in southern Georgia. Through my research of the breed and breeders, I found that Sr. Gilberto Grandi, whom I knew from his Della Caveja



Greyhounds, was a patriarch for Lagotti. I am anxiously awaiting the perfect Lagotto to present to the fancy, hopefully, in the near future. As members of the Greyhound Club of America, the Scottish Deerhound Club of America, the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America, Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Morris and Essex Kennel Club, and three regional Hound clubs, we along with GrandCru Kennels endorse the mission of the AKC and the AKC Registered Purebred Dog, and support the Canine Health Foundation's work for the health of our dogs. In addition to serving as a director and Vice-President on the Glen of Imaal Terrier Board of Directors, I currently serve as the Delegate to the AKC for the Greyhound Club of America, Inc., was past director of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Inc. and a director of the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine Foundation, Inc. My expertise in all things AKC is what I hope will help the club transition smoothly into the AKC as a recognized Parent Club.

Mel Sykes - Secretary

My background in breeding started with cattle in the late 1960s. An introduction to purebred dogs came about when I met my wife in the late 90s and the first Lagotto came to live with us in March 1999. Since then we have been fortunate to import Lagotto from Italy, Australia, Hungary, and from a breeder in the Netherlands who now lives in New Zealand. Del Tiglio Lagotto are shown in conformation as well as Obedience, Rally, Agility, Therapy Dogs, and a select number are truffle hunters. I think this points toward a successful



So this “year’s” AKC new title holders (by event are):

OBEDIENCE

Companion Dog (CD):

Terzo Kleo of Golden Comfort CM CD BN TD RE (Perry/Lash)

Companion Dog Excellent (CDX):

Diamante Luminoso VCD1 CDX RE (Diamante)

CONFORMATION

Certificate of Merit (CM)

Terzo Kleo of Golden Comfort CM CD BN TD RE (Perry/Lash)

Panettone Di Terra Incognita CM (Sobon/Barbieri)

Dign Poker Face CM (Morehouse/Mullin)

Dign Paper Gangsta CM (Morehouse)

Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Augusto CM (Flynn)

Shivaree Allegre Toroncini CM (Wolff)

Siena CM (Sobon)

(Additionally there are 3 more CMs awarded to lagottos owned by non-members)

THERAPY DOG (ThD):

AKC Therapy Dog (registered with required 50 hours):

LK Lidia ThD CGC (Meiklejohn)

TRACKING

Tracking Dog (TD)

Larcen Reggio A Finisterra TD (Arner)

RALLY OBEDIENCE

Rally Novice (RN):

Tiglio Gaetana De Dragonsweyr RN (Mass)

Per Fortuna’s Zeta Del Tiglio RN (Lynch)

Faustino Vittorio Del Tiglio RN

breeding program, but we're not through yet! I have been a member of four all-breed dog clubs, serving on the Board of Directors of two of them and as chairman of the Membership, Bylaws, and Audit and Budget committees as well as two years as show chair for one club and co-chaired the Training Class for another.

Although we no longer breed Cavaliers, I still serve as moderator of the Regional Clubs discussion group for the American Cavalier




King Charles Spaniel Club. My wife and I formed the international Lagotto discussion group at Yahoogroups in August of 1999. That email list now has over 1250 members and is the #1 means of discussing Lagotto in the world.

Judith Martin and I first discussed the formation of this club in 2006 and both of us, along with a lot of great helpers, have worked tirelessly to help bring it to where it is today. I thoroughly enjoy being Secretary of the Lagotto Club of America. Our original dogs are gone, but I think of them every time I look at a Lagotto. We actu-

ally had two foundation bitches, the first was Dina. Dina was almost past her prime when she came to us but Luciano Bernebei had such great success with her in his breeding program, when he found out that we wanted to help establish the breed in the USA he insisted that we bring Dina to Tennessee, and he wanted to breed her to one of his outstanding males! For those that don't know Bernabei, look up delle Farnie kennels in Italy. Dina's most notable offspring was probably Vid delle Farnie. Many of you will have either Dina or Vid in the pedigrees of your Lagotto. Our second foundation bitch was Eppy, another Italian. Eppy was from Morara's kennel.

When I think about goals for this year, mine really hasn't changed. It is vital that the Lagotto be a fully recognized AKC breed. It is one of the original goals of the club and there has been no need to change course but that is a goal for the club. For me, if, at the end of a year, I can look back and see a membership that is fully engaged in club activities, and a membership that is fully aware that, without their help, there could be no club, then I have met one of my goals. My second goal is for education, I want every member to understand that it's not imperative that they show their dog in order to be a contributing member. The club is for show people, pet owners, working dog owners, and breeders. No one group is any more important to the club than another.

Remember the saying, It takes a Village. It's a pleasure being a part of this club and an owner of one of the finest breeds I know, warts and all. 

(Colmar)

Nostryffelns Ottima Opera (Perry/Lash)

Rally Advanced (RA):

Diamante Luminoso VCD1 RE CDX (Diamante)

Rally Excellent (RE):

Diamante Luminoso VCD1 RE CDX (Diamante)

Fusilla Della Oohlala RE (Morehouse)

Ragazza Dolce Isabella CD BN RE CGC (Colmar)

AGILITY

Novice Agility Jumper

Preferred (NAJP):

Damante Luminoso VCD1 CDX RE (Diamante)

Novice Agility Jumper (NAJ):

Bella II OAJ NA(Jay)

Open Agility Jumper (OAJ):

Bella II OAJ NA(Jay)

Novice Agility (NA):

Bella II OAJ NA (Jay)

AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

Monza Tartufaio Di Mora CGC (Lois Martin)

LK Lydia THD CGC (Meiklejohn)

CryOut VID Orvando at Shivaree CGC (Judith Martin)

Nostryffelns Ottima Opera



RN CGC (Perry/Lash)

Per Fortuna's Zeta Del Tiglio RN (Lynch)

Della Luna's Juno at Yorkridge (York)

Submitted by Adrienne Perry

Kathleen Correll - Treasurer

I became interested in Lagotto Romagnolo when searching for a dog to join my household. I was attracted to their intelligence and tracking skills, so I contacted a breeder and soon Ciccina was jetting from his birthplace in Slovakia to my home in Texas.



After attending the SW Raduno, I was convinced to show Ciccina, and soon he had his Championship. Ciccina is more of a companion dog as I try to find things to entertain both of us. We've taken tracking, nose work, agility, and many obedience courses. I take him everywhere possible – Starbucks, Barnes & Noble, Lowes,

Home Depot, OfficeDepot, Office Max, and everyone's house. I'd like to get my hands on a therapy dog jacket for him so that there is no place that can refuse to let him in! I joined the LCA to meet other LR owners and to contribute to this wonderful breed.

In the past, we had Brittanys, Collies, and Irish Setters, and as much as I love those breeds, the Lagotto is the best of them all! 🐾

Lisa Sobon - Director,

I am the Marketing Committee Chair, and live in Shingle Springs, CA

I have been involved with the world of dog sports for the last 13 years. We really enjoy Conformation, but have dabbled in agility, tracking and nosework. Our first breed was the Flat Coated Retriever. With allergies in the family, and an increased worry with health issues in the Flat Coat, we ventured to find another breed. A sporting breed that was smart, fun, healthy... and allergy friendly were on our must have list. My 4 boys (now ages 14-21) and my husband Robert wanted a dog that still had the size and drive to swim,

(Continued on next page)

Sandy Mignogna - Director

I live in Bucks County Pennsylvania with my husband Mike on a small "gentleman's" farm, called Dolce Vita Farm. For me, living amongst the animals we have here on our farm could not be called anything other than La Dolce Vita - "The Sweet Life"! I've been involved with dogs beyond owning "just" pets since 1992.

I currently own five Lagotti and I enjoy lots of different activities with them, from non-competitive agility to obedience, but I have found my passion to be with scent work. I am currently working on titling my dogs with the NACSW, and will expand to teaching scent work in the near future. I am also active in AKC's conformation, attending many shows along the east coast. I am always involved with at least one project, if not many, at a given time involving our breed.

I have been serving on the board as a director for nearly two years. I also serve on the marketing committee, where we have made great strides and "firsts" for the Club. I have organized the last two Northeast Radunos and my hope is to continue to have these annually, as it is a great way to have Lagotti owners, their dogs, and prospective owners gather for a day full of fun and activities. In May, along with Christine Stenner, we brought over a scent work trainer from Germany for a weekend clinic for eight Lagotti and their owners. I also attend many educational events for the public and AKC judges.



It is my goal, while serving as a director for the club, to continue to protect the Lagotto here in the United States and promote it in line with the standard of the Club Italiano Lagotto. 🐾

(Lisa Sobon cont.)

With the wish list in mind, about 5 years ago the Lagotto caught my eye as a possible fit for our family and the journey to find out more began. I have been blessed to find some great friends in the breed that have helped teach me the standard, health issues and history of the Lagotto.



Robert and I now have 4 Lagotti in our breeding program...and on our couch...and on our bed. They have won our hearts and have surpassed all the wants on our wish list for a family dog.

My hope in being a member of the Board, is to help move the breed forward as part of AKC and to help continue to educate myself and others about this wonderful breed. 🐾

Highlights of Board meeting October 13, 2013

*Complete minutes of this and our Sept. 8 meeting are posted on the LCA website at:
<http://www.lagottous.com>*

It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the same time and dates, second Sunday of each month, at 7:30 PM eastern time. The meeting will be deferred one week in the event of a holiday and the Board may meet at other times and dates in accordance with the bylaws.

Adrienne made the comment that she felt very positive about the overall attitude of this Board and expects us to do good things. That comment was echoed by the other Board members as well. Adrienne will be talking with committee chairpersons to discuss her ideas as well as get their ideas.

A lengthy discussion was held on Mentorship. The next meeting date is November 9, 2013. 🐾

Jacki Barbieri - Director

I have been actively training dogs since 1985, but dogs have been a part of my life since I was eight years old. I began my professional career with animals working as a veterinarian/surgical technician for ten years and then moved on to become an animal behaviorist and trainer.

Our kennel, Terra Incognita, is located in southwest Missouri on 52 acres of land where I not only breed and train my Lagotti, but I rehabilitate many breeds of dogs, horses, cats, chicken, lambs and other critters. I am a graduate of the Alpha Canine Training Academy in Jackson, Mississippi. To further my skill set, I participate in continuing education on a regular basis. I train bomb and narcotics dogs for government agencies and service dogs for children with allergies or disabilities.

In Europe and the United States, my Lagotti have achieved more than 30 champion titles. Most notably, Laura is the first ever non-Italian born Lagotto to win an Italian Championship handled by a non-Italian handler/breeder. This championship title was later earned by two of my other dogs, Ferrero and Enya, both of who also won Best of Breed at the Raduno in Italy; Ferrero in Nov. 2012 and Enya in May 2013.



In the year 2013, I worked on judge's education, including working at the judge's training seminar at the Westminster Dog Show in New York. In 2014, I will continue to focus heavily on judge's education. I am excited to be working with judges to help educate them on the breed standard. I hope to make the materials gathered as available to all Lagotti enthusiasts as possible. I believe through this education process we can help people understand the beauty of the Lagotto and their magnificent skills. 🐾

My First Board Meeting *by Kerin Jacob-Schwartz*

I'm the new kid on the block. A newbie to the world of the Lagotto. Almost two years ago, my husband and I became the proud owners of two Lagotti, Rosalie and Baci. We are not breeders, trainers or groomers. We are owners and we not only love our Lagotti...we love the breed. For this reason, my husband and I wanted to get involved with the Lagotto Club of America. I am now a volunteer on the Newsletter Committee and on November 10th I attended my first board meeting. It was easy to attend. All attendees attend right from their current location by logging onto Skype on a computer (www.skype.com). To say I was excited to attend would be an understatement. I knew there would be a great deal of topics being discussed, especially with the breed moving towards full AKC recognition. Our Board is some of the most highly respected in the Lagotto community. I could not wait to hear their opinions and insight. I was curious to learn what was new within our club.

Some people may tell you stories of board meetings that are pointless and disorganized. Our Board meeting was the contrary. It was overflowing with news and terrific ideas. There were concrete goals outlined in the agenda and the Board made sure these goals were met. Topics such as the full recognition by the AKC, our new name and logo, upcoming shows, committee reports, etc., were all laid out on the floor for discussion and questions. I was very impressed with how the Board encouraged feedback and suggestions. Opinions were valued. All committees were given a chance to give an update. It was refreshing to be part of a group where the Board cared about what each committee had to say. They were not just running through the motions. This Board meant business, but in the warmest way. As a new volunteer on the Newsletter Committee, I was introduced to the Board and the committee members. When I first applied to be a volunteer, I thought it was just me that was happy to be part of this committee, but after the meeting, I was very aware they were happy to have ME.

As I mentioned, and as most of you know, the breed is moving towards full recognition by the AKC. The breed is also quickly gaining in popularity. The Board is very aware of the pros and cons that come along with this and it was clear they are doing their best to protect and preserve the breed standard. They are working together to accomplish this goal and many other goals, as well. It was inspiring to be a part of a meeting where



people truly cared about the mission. The Lagotto Romagnolo. It was not about serving your time so it looks good on a resume. The Board was there because they care about the breed and the future of the Lagotto. I would strongly encourage all club members, whether you are an owner, breeder, groomer, trainer, etc., to attend one of the club's public meetings. They are held every second Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm Eastern via Skype, and you can easily join by contacting Mel Sykes, Secretary@lagottous.com prior to the start of the meeting. Then log onto Skype at the start time. It is not only a way for you to stay updated on the latest news, but your involvement can help the Board fulfill their goals and understand what is going on in the Lagotto community. If you can not attend a scheduled meeting, then read the minutes and updates in the Bollettino or on the club website. Then ask questions. . . .then make suggestions. The Board wants to hear everyone's input. Each one

of us has made an emotional investment in this breed. We hold a stake in the breed's future. We need to work with Board to help achieve and maintain the club's mission. One way to do this is by attending a meeting and sharing your voice with the Board.

I am excited to see what our Board has in store for 2014. From what I heard, we have an exciting year ahead of us. Rest assured, the club is in good paws....I mean hands. 🐾

Breed Health and Education by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

Proposed LCA Health Screening & Breeding Practices

MANDATORY HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

The LCA requires that Members perform the following health screenings on breeding stock owned or co-owned by them prior to breeding as well as comply with the practices outlined herein. It is the responsibility of the owners of both the sire and the dam to ensure that both dogs are in compliance with these requirements.

I. US Members:

A. Hip evaluations by either PennHip and/or OFA:

1. Permanent evaluations by OFA (performed after the age of 24 months)
 - a. Lagotto graded OFA Borderline, Mild, Moderate or Severe shall NOT be bred;
 - b. Lagotto graded OFA Fair shall only be bred to Lagotto graded OFA Good or Excellent.
2. Preliminary evaluations by OFA if breeding prior to the age of 24 months:
 - a. must be performed after the age of 15 months;
 - b. must be graded either OFA Good or Excellent;
 - c. no Lagotto receiving a preliminary grade of less than OFA Good shall be bred until it has received a permanent evaluation from OFA after the age of 24 months;
 - d. Lagotto having only preliminary OFA hip grades may only be bred to Lagotto that have received permanent grades of OFA Good or Excellent.
3. PennHip ♂ Lagotto with Pennhip evaluations may only be bred if the results indicate a DI that meets or exceeds the median DI for Lagotto as set forth in the PennHip Evaluation Report for the dog unless the dog has received an OFA rating of Fair, Good or Excellent.

B. ACVO, ECVO, ECR, or CERF eye exam, performed within no more than 12 months prior to any breeding:

1. Lagotto found to have distichiasis may only be bred to unaffected Lagotto;
2. Lagotto found to have Juvenile cataracts shall NOT be bred.

C. Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy:

At least one parent must be DNA-tested normal (clear) of BFJE (Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy) in order to ensure that no affected puppies are produced.

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?

Note: be sure to read the new mandatory requirements in the item on the left side of this page to make sure you are in compliance with future breedings.

(Continued on next page)

D. Breed only males and females if:

1. after the age of 2 years
 - a. that are in compliance with all current LCA Mandatory Health Screening Practices.
2. before 2 years of age
 - a. that are in compliance with all current LCA Mandatory Health Screening Practices.
 - b. only one time;
 - c. only after the age of 18 months;

II. Foreign Members

shall comply with these requirements utilizing the requisite specialists, evaluators and registries available to them in their countries.. Please refer to the table at the foot of the Orthopedic Foundation's page on hip grades at http://www.offa.org/hd_grades.html chart comparing the ratings of various hip scoring methods.

Section 2. D Other Health-related Requirements

The LCA requires that all Members:

- I. refrain from breeding bitches on more than two successive seasons without a letter from their veterinarian stipulating that he/she has examined the bitch prior to breeding and found her health status is such that carrying and rearing another litter will not put her or the puppies at risk. A copy of the letter shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the LCA at least 1 month prior to the anticipated whelp date;
- II. Refrain from breeding bitches after the age of 8 years;
- III. Permit bitches to whelp and rear a maximum of 6 litters in their lifetimes.

Section 3. D Other Screening Suggestions

(Recommended but not required)

Members may wish to screen for the following conditions:

1. Luxating Patellae
2. Elbow Dysplasia
3. Incorrect or short coat

Please either list results with OFFA or contact the Health Committee with results, especially negative results. This will enable the Committee to determine if a condition is becoming a problem in the breed and take steps to hopefully prevent it from becoming wide spread.

Accepted by LCA Breed Education and Health Committee: 10-20-2013

contact: HealthEducation@LagottoUS.com 



The wonderful days of playing in the water are now gone for most of us but we wanted to share this photo of Baci Swartz having a fabulous time at the beach. This photo was taken by Kerin Jacob-Swartz.

Our next issue of Bollettino will be a celebration of Christmas, and our winter holidays. Send us your family greetings (in jpg format), and photos of your decorated doggies to share with the LCA membership by December 15.

Bollettino@LagottoUS.com

Report from the Secretary - Mel Sykes


Special to the Bollettino: These notes will be a combination of a mixture of “looking forward, looking back”. What’s Happening? The biggest AKC event of the year is December 14 and 15 in Orlando, FL. Of course I mean the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. For our club it means a special opportunity to present the Lagotto, not only to the judges in the show ring, but to the thousands of people that will attend the AKC Meet the Breeds at the show. The Meet the Breeds what we’re all about as an AKC parent club, Education! Every opportunity we have, we need to be telling folks about our dogs; what a typical Lagotto day is like. Only by doing this will we have an informed public, making wise choices. If you can support us by being in Orlando with your Lagotto, contact Jacki @ 317-750-1995 or Hilarie @ 865-776-7113. You don’t need to be there all day, both days. In fact, it’s usually better to have a short time with the public, then take a break or call it a day. Yes, you’re needed!

Judges Education is another major responsibility of the club. The Judges Education committee will hold a breed seminar in Louisville, KY during the Kentuckiana Cluster in the Spring. We’ll keep you informed of these seminars as they are scheduled.

How do you find an AKC dog show? <http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm> You can search by date, or state, or multiple locations. This is a great way to spend a morning, afternoon, or all day. AKC shows are entertainment for the family, if you’ve not attended one recently, make plans to do so.

By the time you receive this newsletter, voting members will be receiving an important envelope containing a ballot, two envelopes, and instructions to vote on the name change and new logo! Your vote will be returned to an independent teller for tabulation and is designed to be a secret ballot. You have a limited time to return your ballot, please don’t delay. The ballot must be approved by 67% of the qualified voters casting ballots, so your vote does count!


The name change was proposed by the Board of Directors at the request of the AKC. The new name reflects the proper name of the breed. The new logo? Well, we hope you like them as much as we do! A while back I was asked if, after the name was changed, we could still refer to the club as the Lagotto Club. The answer is yes, just as with people, or dogs. One of our boys is Aukero Futuro del Tiglio, but he will always be known as “Nate”. Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Secretary@lagottous.com 



LK Lidia ThD CGC owned by Dawn Meiklejohn has earned her Therapy Dog with AKC by completing 50 hours of volunteer work. Lidia TD works as a therapy dog in several different settings. One of our most rewarding is working twice weekly with troubled high school students who reap the benefits of helping with the dog.

Once a month the high school students come with us to a developmentally delayed elementary school class. They introduce Lidia to the young children, they show them new tricks they have taught Lidia, and they read stories to the children while they pet Lidia. A fun time was when the high school students

had taught Lidia a simply rally course and they demonstrated it to the youngsters. They were so excited we decided to double leash Lidia and have the high school student and the elementary student each hold a leash while the aide pushed the wheelchair and Lidia completed her rally course over and over with each student. The high school students also took photos of the elementary students and used an app to create coloring books for the elementary children. Since Lidia is working on truffle training, the high school students decorated scent boxes that we hid in the elementary classroom for Lidia to find. As she found each treasure the children squealed with delight. 

NEWS FLASH! STOP THE PRESSES!

Our BIGGEST upcoming event to date!

The Lagotto Club of America's first AKC sanctioned Open Show will be held on March 1, 2014 in conjunction with the Fiesta Cluster in Scottsdale (near Phoenix), Arizona, pending AKC approval.

The show will begin one-half hour after Best In Show (BIS) on that Saturday, and is open to all FSS breeds as well as Miscellaneous breeds.


We are very fortunate that Ms Claire "Kitty" Steidel of Scottsdale, AZ has agreed to judge our show. Kitty is well known in the dog world. Her original breed is Basset hounds (1968) and Petite Basset Griffon Vendeen (PBGV) since their introduction into America. She writes the breed notes for the PBGV in the AKC Gazette. Kitty is also a member of the Board of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America. Kitty regularly judges the Sporting, Hound, and Miscellaneous groups as well as Junior Showmanship.

The Fiesta Cluster is held at WestWorld of Scottsdale, AZ on February 27 thru March 3, 2014. This link will provide information on entries to the All-breed shows and accommodations, as well.

<http://www.fiestacluster.com/>

More details of our show will be available at the AKC link.

http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm?action=refresh_index&active_tab_row=1&active_tab_col=1&fixed_tab=1

Show Chair is Adrienne Perry. Co-Chair is Lisa Sobon. We will be needing lots of volunteers! 



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***Ads for next issue must be
submitted by December 15***

President: Adrienne Perry
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 Director: Lisa Sobon
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Visit our website to email any of our Board and Committee Members.

www.AKC.org

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Calendar and Upcoming Events

Dec. 14-15 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Orlando, Florida

2014

Jan. 15-19 Rose City Classic in Portland, Oregon

Feb. 8 1st Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster, New York City, New York

Feb. 10-14 138th Annual Westminster Dog Show, New York City, New York

March. 1 Lagotto Club of America: First Open Show - see page 14

March 6 - 9 Crufts in UK, Gundog Group on Mar. 9

Golden Gate Kennel Club at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, California. This is a 2 day benched show for conformation, rally and obedience. For fun there is a dancing with dogs exhibition and a doggie fashion show. This is a great way to get our breed out there and introduced to the public. Even if you do not show your dog in the show ring or do rally/obedience trials with them you can sign up for the fashion show, or as an exhibition dog. It's kind of like an all weekend "meet the breed" event. If you are unable to make both days, you can sign up for only one. You do need to sign up for one of the events or as an exhibitor in order to bring your dog to this show. The deadline for entry is Noon on Wednesday December 11, 2013. I will be setting up the benched area for the lagotti, if you are planning to go, let me know so that I can plan our benched area. Also, there is a "bench contest" so if anyone has any ideas to make a cool benched area, I'd love to hear them. Feel free to contact me if you are going, or have questions or ideas. Hope to see you in the City by the Bay. www.goldengatekennelclub.com Robin Simi 425-677-4828 simi@miamorelagotto.co

Request for photos! Please contribute to the special end of year photo edition of the newsletter. If you would like to be included, please submit a jpeg image.

Deadline: December 15!

mail to: Bollettino@LagottoUS.com