

Lagotto Bollettino

LAGOTTO Club



Autumn
2011

News and Events

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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 Update, Breeder's Corner, Tips on Training, or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with you submission, along with you dogs name, age, and photo caption. You can email you submissions to jenniferdavit@mac.com
Deadline for winter issue:
Feburary 10!*



Upcoming Events for Lagotto Owners Submitted by Judith Martin

Caliente All Breed Canine Association Phoenix - December 2011 Show

Go to: <http://www.calienteallbreed.com/> for more information.

December 9-11 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Enter online on or before December 3, 2011. Pre-Entry deadline strictly enforced!

Caveat Emptor: Considerations in Contracts

Text submitted by Therese Williams, LCA President

As President of the Lagotto Club of America, one question that keeps coming up from those interested in getting a Lagotto is in regards to “contracts” or lack thereof. Here are some general thoughts and guidelines to keep in mind.

Foreign Breeders

The first thing I learned when I began my Lagotto search about 7 years ago, is that the foreign breeders generally do not use contracts, at least not when selling dogs to buyers in other countries. Most do require you to agree to some type of general terms, which is very appropriate. After all, an international contract would be very difficult to enforce if one of the parties defaulted on the agreement. Hence, if you are getting a dog from a foreign breeder, do not expect a formal contract, but do agree on all terms before making the commitment. Both parties need to fully understand all that is expected, especially if language can be a barrier. The foreign breeder is taking you at your word, and may require references. Do not become insulted as they are only trying to protect the dogs they love. You should be comforted that they are trying to know you through various means without, perhaps, ever meeting you. You are also taking them at their word, and of course, the info they post on their website, or other communication. Sometimes we get to know each other through referral, which tends to help establish the relationship a little quicker through mutual acquaintances.

United States

Then there is the US – and we are certainly one of the most litigious societies out there. Buying a dog from a breeder, we expect there to be a contract of some sort. We say it is for the protection of the dog, the breeder and the buyer, but really it is a tool of negotiation. Beware the contract that you were not expecting – breeders should be willing to provide you with a copy of their contract well before you are due to pick up your new puppy (or pay a deposit). You may REALLY want that puppy, and have waited many months to get it, but don’t sign something out of desperation, or with the thought that you can change the breeders mind once you get your puppy home. You will find yourself in breach of contract.

Breeder and Buyer Rights

Breeders’ main concern should be that the puppy they are selling is going to the best home they can possibly find. The buyer should make certain that they understand all stipulations of the contract, will follow the stipulations and obligations of the contract; and that they are not agreeing to something, just so they can finally have that adorable little bundle of fur. Contracts are always negotiable and both parties need to agree on the content, even when the breeder says their contract is not negotiable. Just be forewarned that most breeders will hold to a certain line, and if you push too hard, the deal may be off.

Breeders do have a right to sell show/breeding potential puppies to show/breed homes, but they don’t have the right to convince a potential buyer to BE a show/breeding home if what they really wanted was a pet. Buyers should not agree to something that they don’t really want, or have a true passion for; breeders need to make the right puppy-owner match. Breeding is a lot of work and it takes a lot of research to do it well; not to mention time and money. If a new buyer is truly interested in future breeding, then the breeder needs to help educate and mentor them. If the breeder does not feel that they buyer is a good candidate to be a future breeder, then turning the buyer down is OK and appropriate. The same concerns exist when dealing with show potential dogs; showing is not for everyone. A breeder takes a lot of pride in seeing dogs from their breeding program go on to win various conformation and/or performance titles. They have the right to seek out owners that will help them by presenting their dogs in these venues.

Caveat Emptor...continued

Breeder and Buyer Rights, Continued

As a buyer of a puppy, you have the right to know and see the proof of the health tests done on both the sire and dam. If they tell you, "Oh, the dogs are tested and are healthy" then your response should be, "Can I see proof of those tests?" (and do not feel guilty about asking – reputable breeders are happy and even proud to show you this). If you have the opportunity, it is best to see the sire and dam in person, but if not, ask for photos and even better, a video of the dogs, especially while moving from the side, coming towards and away from the camera, so you can see the lines and how well the dog moves. Testing should be done on the parents for hip dysplasia (OFA or PennHip), hereditary eye disease (CERF) and at least one parent should be cleared via DNA testing for BFJE (benign familial juvenile epilepsy).



Photo courtesy of Judith Martin

Deposits

You should be aware that some breeders do ask for deposits. There are a couple of things you need to consider in these types of contracts. Does the breeder require a deposit even before the litter is born (or bred for that matter)? Is there a refund clause? I know of some breeders that will take deposits for a future breeding, but will normally refund that if the buyer changes their minds. If a deposit is given after a litter is born, and then the buyer backs out, it is not unusual for the breeder to either keep the deposit (especially if they turned away other buyers after promising that

puppy to you), or to keep a portion of the deposit. If there is some extenuating circumstance however, such as a family emergency, a good breeder will usually give a 100% refund. You are paying for the breeder's time and effort in trying to match the puppy to the buyer. Deposit language needs to be in the contract, and if it is not, then ask for it to be. No one likes bad surprises.

Final Thoughts

So, what is the bottom line? As a potential puppy buyer, you need to do your homework. Learn to ask the right questions. There are many sources available on the internet, and local kennel clubs, veterinarians, dog trainers, etc. can also be resources. For breeders, full disclosure is the key to gaining a solid reputation as a person of integrity. Let me tell you, your buyers talk! While the potential buyer may not always ask all the right questions, you need to be open and honest and fill in the blanks that the buyer has left, as well as giving other resources to the buyer. If the breeder feels uneasy about the buyer, then they should not sell the dog to that person. Deception on either side is never the way to win friends and influence people! The LCA neither endorses nor condemns any breeders contract. We just hope that this give you some food for thought, and remember, all breeders listed on our website must abide by the Code of Ethics.

Getting the Most out of your Trip to the Vet

Text submitted by Adrienne Perry

For years now, I've worked in a vet clinic. Everything from general practice in a small town to an orthopedic practice in a large city. I have done everything from walking dogs and scooping poop, to running anesthesia, setting catheters, assisting in surgery and answering the phone. From these experiences, I've learned that there are definitely things to consider to make your visits more effective and beneficial for your Lagotto.

Selecting a Veterinarian

First off, the most important thing is to select the best vet for you and your dog. Considerations may be based on cost, location, services, or just a good feeling that you like the vets and the entire staff.

Finances

If you haven't had an animal in a while, you may want to call around and price the things you're going to need in the animal's first year. There are always some people who are amazed at the price of vaccinations and ordinary maintenance care. I suggest you start with some calls to local veterinarians before you bring the new dog home. If you can't afford the first year's exams and prevention then you can't afford the dog! Period. One of the saddest things we deal with every year is the owner who can't afford parvo treatment (in my area \$400-\$1000/day for at least 2-5 days), when this could have been avoided in the first place by following vaccination protocols. Very few of them have missed vaccines because they didn't understand that the dog needed them.....most of them could not afford the vaccinations in the first place. The one who truly suffers in this scenario is the dog. If you can't afford vet care for the first year, wait until you can.

Especially if you're going to the time and expense of getting a dog as rare as a Lagotto, do it right!



Photo courtesy of Judith Martin

Where are you most comfortable? Big and impressive or small and unassuming?

Get recommendations from other dog owners at training schools, dog parks, check references on the internet (Angie's list etc). New clients call us all the time because of reviews they read online. My personal preference is to use a small practice with one or two vets who are owners and a small staff that does everything. There is a lot of "corporatization" of vet clinics going on now. Big corporations run multiple vet clinics with their eye on the bottom line. Typically these large "chain" vet clinics make you contract out a year's service (potentially on things you don't even want) and have little flexibility in working with you on individualized treatment plans. Also they are more likely to have a stable of veterinarians, so that you might not ever see the same vet twice in a row. And in the front lobby a receptionist who may not have the kind of animal knowledge to be able to tell that your dog needs an appointment right now or that the hiccups your puppy is having are a totally normal puppy thing, that you don't need to do anything about. The little "do it all vet clinic" will have one or two doctors that you will come to know and trust, a staff that will recognize your voice or your pet's name when you call or drop by, and perhaps most importantly have the technicians answering the phone when you call with a question, not a receptionist.

Getting the Most out of your Trip to the Vet...Continued

Services and discounts

Once you've narrowed your search, you can look for other things that are important to you. It is okay to ask where the vet went to school, how long they've been in practice, price out things like vaccines, or a spay or a dental. If you've got a lot of questions write them down-- in a small practice we can't be on the phone for an unlimited time with each person. Ask about discounts! Vets may give discounts on things like multiple dog visits, participate in dental care month (February in most places), or offer discounts to seniors and active military. What kind of credit cards do they take? Do they work with Care Credit (a medical credit card---they pay the vet, you make payments to them)?

Will they write prescriptions that allow you to get products online?

Things like heartworm prevention or thyroid medications are typically cheaper through programs like 1 800 Pet Meds. Some vets will work with your local drug store pharmacies for medications that are the same for human and canine. Some want all medications purchased through them. By the way, if you have a pharmacy plan purchased through Walgreens or CVS etc for your human medications often times the discount will also cover the family pets too. These include items like insulin, antibiotics, and antifungal medications. Check with your vet to see if the drugs your dog needs can be purchased elsewhere.

Other things that clinics may offer that you'd want to enquire about would be puppy package programs, at our clinic we offer one that includes everything the puppy needs in his first year (vaccinations, fecal exams, worming) at about 15% less than the same items paid for ala carte. Perhaps there is a senior dog wellness program for your old guys. Do they do pre-breeding screens and OFA x-rays? If you are looking at the possibility of breeding your dog in the future, is the vet comfortable with helping you prepare for that? Getting an answer that "no we don't do that, but we refer clients to Dr. X that does," shouldn't rule anyone out. Remember those are specialized services that you're not going to need on a regular basis, and vets that know what they do best save you time, money and heartache in the long run.

Some vet clinics offer grooming and boarding onsite, some do not. Some offer a variety of food and pet shop products, others do not. If you feed a raw diet or specialized diet is the clinic going to try to get you to switch over to a food that only can be purchased there?

OOPS!

So you make your choice and go to the first visit. And you don't like the vet, the clinic, the staff, or all of the above. Do not be afraid to pay for your services for that visit and go somewhere else the next time. Remember this is a relationship that you will have for the life of the dog or multiple dogs. You have to feel comfortable with the level of care and compassion. In the best case scenario, you won't be there a lot after that first year. But if the worst happens you want to feel comfortable with the choices you've made for your pet.

Next time we'll talk about getting your puppy ready for his first visit and when to go to the emergency clinic. Be Healthy!

Adrina and Ginevra's Excellent Adventure

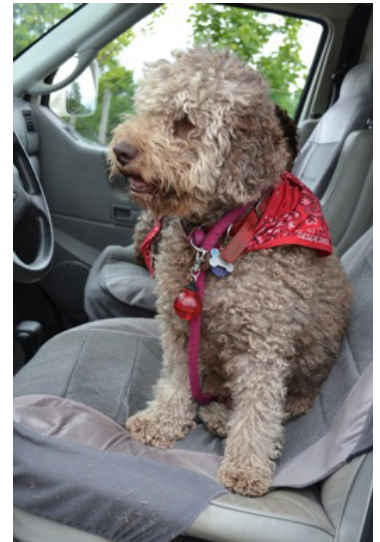
Text and photos submitted by Judith Martin www.lagottoaz.com

Adrina interpreted through Judith Martin

My human family packed up the motor home with our raw chicken (yum), kibble, toys and some extra things that keep us happy while traveling. I have them well trained and they got us bully sticks to chew on while we were riding in our crates. I love those things!



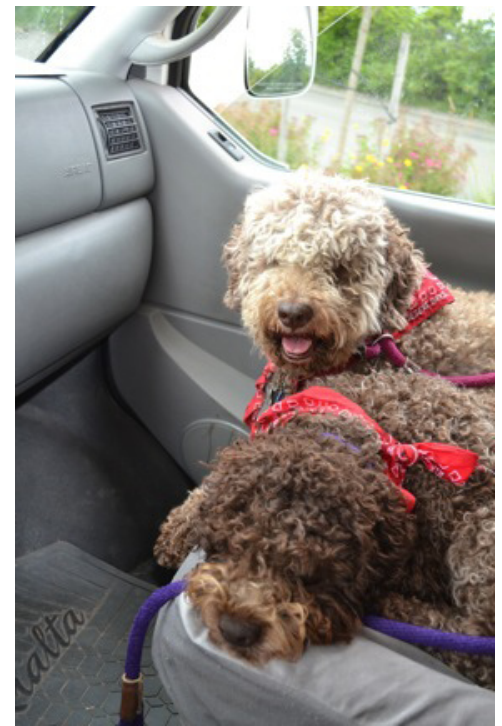
Ginevra



Adrina

I love to travel and jumped in my crate right away when it was time to go. My younger housemate, Ginevra was traveling too, and she was in season so my family took our boy, Vando, to friends in Phoenix to stay with Gracie, a female Wheaten Terrier. Where are we going next?

The first day we just drove and drove. Every stop we made was just a quick stop since we were crossing the desert and the temperatures were well over 100°. At the end of the day we were in California at a place called Morro Bay. It was dark when we got to our camping site so we didn't get to explore the place until the next day.



Just us girls!



Here we are on our first dip in the Pacific Ocean. See how we have Judith trained, she is always carrying a bag of dog poop.

Adrina and Ginevra's Excellent Adventure...continued

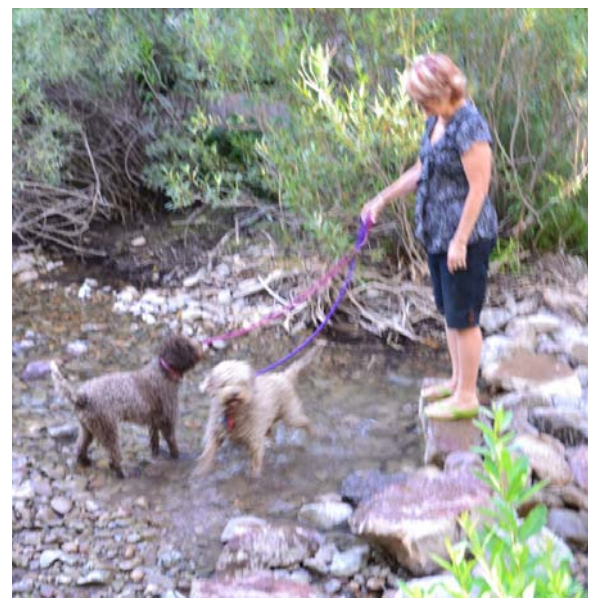
Next we had a Lagotto play date at Fort Funston near San Francisco, a wonderful dog beach where we played off leash. Judith kept me on leash since I had stitches that hadn't healed yet, and she knew I would run into the water. Scott Carver was there with Augi, my Croatian litter sister, and Kodi.



Gloria Choi and Kevin McMullen were there with my puppy, Molly, Bill Collins and Lynell Heatley with Rico and Kathy Verduzco with Zola. We snacked on Italian wine, cheese and truffle snacks.

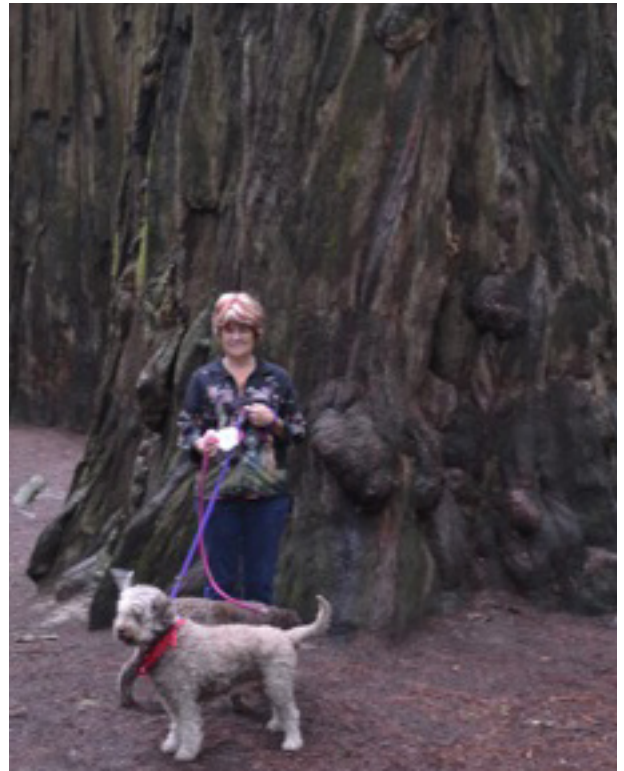


We traveled up the road and there was always lots of water, but I wasn't allowed to swim until my stitches healed.



Adrina and Ginevra's Excellent Adventure...continued

We traveled to a forest of Giant Redwoods. Look how small we look next to those huge trees. We sure don't have anything like this in Arizona! Look at John and us inside a drive-thru Redwood.



Ginna likes water, but those big waves scared her.

When we got to Oregon, we visited the truffle farm of Mary Helen Dirkes and one of my babies, Romey.



In Yamhill, Oregon, we visited Lazy River Winery owned by Kirsten Lumpkin with her husband and Lagotto, Mario. No truffles to be found there either, but they gave us some amazing Pinot Noir from their vineyard.

Are there any truffles out there?

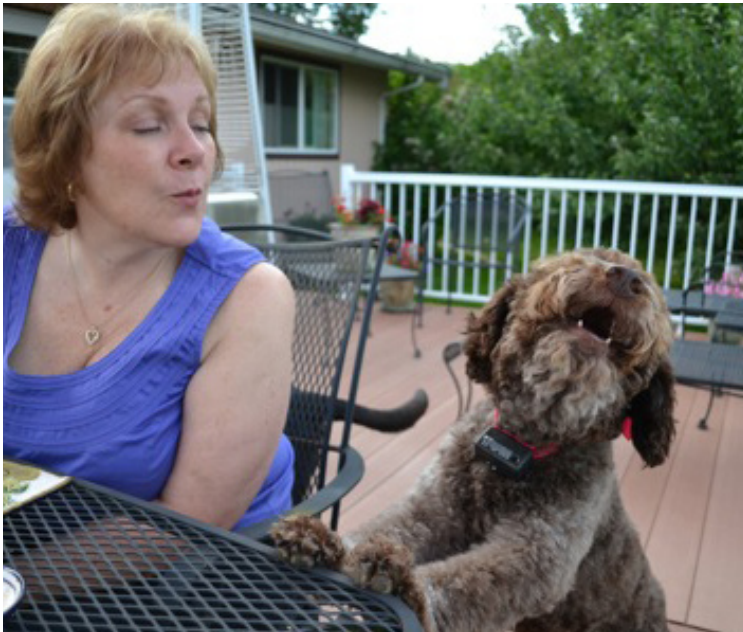
Adrina and Ginevra's Excellent Adventure...continued



Here we are on the ferry to Vancouver Island. We visited Bridget Flynn with her family, friends and some adorable baby Lagotti.



Next we got to visit the state of Washington with LCA President, Therese Williams. After dinner, Therese and handsome boy, Guido, serenaded us with a duet.



After that, we headed east and left the big Ocean to cross Southern Canadian Provinces. We had fun visiting a Fort in Alberta where Ginevra met some chickens,.



We also camped in Saskatchewan where there were rescue rabbits all over the place.

Here is a bold bunny coming over to say hi to Ginevra, who might like to have it for lunch.

Adrina and Ginevra's Excellent Adventure...continued



After visiting human family in southern Michigan, our next water venture was in Lake Superior where we got to swim at a great beach along the road in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Ginevra hadn't been acting much like a water dog until now when she realized what I have known all along, nothing better than swimming and retrieving in the water. Now she knows and loves it as much as I do. Silly dog!



We hoped to visit my puppies living in Minnesota and Colorado but couldn't work out the timing. I was also hoping we could play in the snow crossing the Rocky Mountains but as you can see by the sign, Not Happening!



Here's hoping we get to go on another road trip and see the rest of the country. I love to travel! Maybe we can come visit you next time.



Adrina the storyteller with Kodi and Rico

SIGNS OF GREATNESS AWARD

If your dog has earned any of the following titles you are eligible to apply for this award:

- AKC titles in Rally, Obedience, Tracking or Agility
- AKC certification as a therapy dog
- AKC CGC
- A championship title in UKC, IABCA, ARBA, NAKC, FCI International or FCI foreign country
- Nosework level 1, 2 or 3

What do you get? A crate sign with your dog's full name and titles and either his call name or your name on a second line. Crate signs are a beautiful wood burl background with white lettering and are 2" x 8". If you have 3 or more titles/certifications from the list you are eligible for one of the signs with gold lettering.

Please contact Adrienne Perry @ cubrienne_rottweilers@hotmail.com to apply for your award (s). We hope to order the first batch in January 2012.

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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