

Lagotto Bollettino

LAGOTTO Club



Winter
2012

News

Health Alert!

Adverse Reactions to Trimethoprim and Other Sulfa Drugs

Text submitted by Hilarie Gibbs - Sykes

We recently learned of two, 5 month old Lagotto puppies that had adverse reactions to Trimethoprim. Trimethoprim was administered prophylactically to the puppies, who had developed kennel cough, in order to ward off a secondary infection. They were administered 1/2 the weight-appropriate dose for their size. Inappetance and polyarthritis (soreness) manifested before time for the second dose and the veterinarian suspended treatment. Testing resulted in normal findings with the exception of anemia (low red blood cell count).

Adverse reactions in dogs to sulfonamides are well documented. I discussed this reaction with 2 vets in Europe and 2 in the US. Many European vets do not use this drug in dogs in their practice. A lot of US vets recommend against using it other than in situations where there is not another choice and the dog is at high risk unless treated. Some of the reactions are quite serious, irreversible and can be life threatening. In this case, the two puppies appear to be headed for a complete recovery.

Before administering antibiotics to your Lagotto ask your vet if the prescription is for a sulfa drug. If the answer is "Yes", you may wish to discuss the potential for adverse reactions with him or her.

Membership Report

Submitted by Ken Weiss

Membership By The Numbers
As of February 11, 2012

The Lagotto Club of America has 229 memberships.
211 are U.S. memberships
18 are foreign memberships

Of the 211 U.S. memberships, 97 are Individual memberships
59 Dual memberships (representing 118 members), and
55 are Associate memberships.

Note: You can renew your membership online at

<http://www.lagottous.com/index.php/membership/fees-payment>

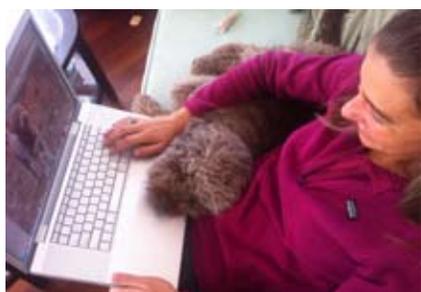
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Would you like to submit an article for the next issue?

Please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health Update, Breeder's Corner, Tips on Training, or Fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dog's name, age, and photo caption.

Email your submissions to
jenniferdavit@mac.com
Deadline for spring issue:
March 31!



Jennifer and her editorial assistant, Enzo

Events

Meet The Breeds at the Javits Center, NY ,
Text and photos submitted by Alvinia Estes

My husband Geoff and I volunteered to help at the Meet the Breeds Lagotto booth held at the Javits Center in NYC November 2011. The event was much larger than we had expected. The process of checking in and being guided to our designated area went well, as we had never volunteered for anything like this before and were unsure what to expect. Fortunately for us Sandy Mignogna had set up the booth the day before and did an excellent job. Geoff and I were uncertain if our 10 1/2 month old Camillo would be overwhelmed by the number of visitors expected to visit the “truffle dog” booth.

There were questions from hundreds and hundreds of visitors. To our surprise, Camillo enjoyed all the attention he received. He stood on the table off and on for a total of 6 hours. He seemed to have a continuous smile on his face. Over and over I would hear comments as visitors approached our booth: “There is the truffle dog booth! Let’s go see the truffle dogs!”. Several parents asked if they could take photos of their children with Camillo. He posed nicely with the children and represented the Lagotto Romagnolo well. I noticed that there were visitors who returned to the booth several times with more questions. All the Lagotto booth volunteers answered many questions and had their Lagotti interact with the visitors. It was a nice day had by all and an excellent way to promote the breed. Note: This event will be held Oct. 20-21, 2012. Save the date if you are in the area!



The booth from the show.

Meet The Breeds at the Rose City Classic Dog Show, Portland Oregon
Text and photos submitted by Victoria Baker

I had a great time at the Rose City Classic Dog show with my lagotti Bo and Ella. They both behaved very well in an environment foreign to them and were happy to pose for photos with visitors. A number of people came to our booth and even more people asked questions as we walked around the show. We were getting stopped every couple of feet and it took us several hours to make it to the door to leave! We heard many positive comments including, “Oh, they must be great with children!” One interesting visitor was familiar with the breed because she judged dog shows internationally. She felt the Lagotto was the breed of choice for her young granddaughter and that she would be getting one when she was a little older. All in all, it was a great day for the dogs and visitors alike.



LCA Northeast Raduno

Text and photos submitted by Sandy Mignogna

On Saturday, September 24th, I hosted the 2nd Northeast Lagotto Raduno. All week the weather forecasters were calling for heavy rain on Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately they were correct about Friday and we had to cancel our pizza party that was scheduled to be outdoors the evening before the Raduno. On Saturday morning I woke to rain, but yet clearing and promising skies in the distance. Low and behold about a half hour before the start time, the rain moved out and we just had a cloud cover for the rest of the day, but we were spared the rain. We had 34 people and 14 Lagotti that attended! We had people here from 7 different states - a real dedication to the Lagotto breed! It was such an awesome day filled with great people and wonderful dogs.



We started the day off in the morning with some coffee, tea and sweets, and some time for introductions. We then headed to trainer's facilities across the street - Leigh Siegfried's of Opportunity Barks. We started with a workshop in nose work. It was interesting to see how quickly the dogs searched out the scent of treats and how quickly they got the hang of searching through the empty boxes to find the reward. Great Lagotti noses + strong desire for treats = Great Success!!

While the dogs were taking a break from all of the action and excitement of the morning, we gathered for some lunch, games and prizes. Without the chaos of the dogs, we all got to chat and learn a little about each other. We then headed back to the trainer's and had a workshop in agility.

It was great to see how eager the dogs were to explore the tubes, the jumps, the



weave poles and other

obstacles. With lots of rewards and praise, they tackled the dog walk and A-Frames with no fear. Leigh's facilities also include two fenced acres with trails and yard for the dogs and people to explore. After our workshop in agility we let all of the dogs off of their leashes and they were free to explore for an hour or so. Time for the dogs to play... and play they did! It was so nice to see how well they all got along - there was not one snarl or snap. Leigh pulled me aside and told me how impressed she was at how well they all interacted together. She said it is very rare to see 14 dogs, strangers to each other just hours before, all playing so nicely. A testament to their gentle nature!



LCA Northeast Raduno...continued...

After the dogs were tired out, we returned back to my place to cover the basics in grooming. I discussed the tools we should all have to maintain the Lagotti coat, some professional tricks of the trade in dealing with mats, in between grooming maintenance, proper brushing, etc. I handed out pictures for everyone to take to their groomers in order to get the Lagotto groom and not have your dog returned to you looking like a doodle or a poodle. I emphasized how important it is to take that hair off of their tails! Please, no more flags on the Lagotti tails!! Sorry, a pet peeve of mine.

We then had some dessert, including a Lagotti cake and some of the dogs enjoyed a romp in the swimming pool. At this point it was a long day of learning, fun and games. We sent everyone home with a goody bag, but I hope they also left with a day of great memories and with anticipation of the next raduno! I know I am looking forward to the next one!

Sandy Mignogna
Dolce Vita Lagotto

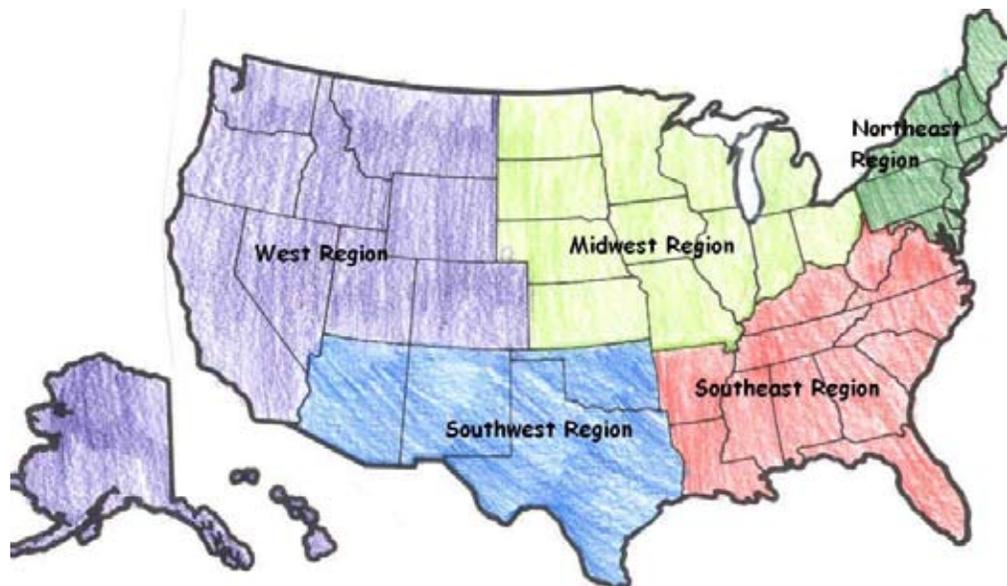


The LCA Volunteer Program

Text submitted by Mel Sykes

In an effort to involve more of our members in club activities, your Board of Directors has established the LCA Volunteer Program. Simply put, this program is a way for any interested club member to make known their interest in helping with LCA-sponsored activities. A great way to get involved!

The program involves communication at two levels, Regional and National. For purposes of this program, the U.S. has been divided into five regions, Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West.



We based this division on a couple of things, the most important one being where club members are located. A Regional Volunteer Coordinator (RVC) is responsible for keeping track of the volunteers in each region by name, location, and area(s) of interest in the club. The Regional Coordinators work with a National Volunteer Coordinator to provide contact information for this nationwide network of Lagotto lovers!

How does the Volunteer network work? When the club receives a request for a Meet the Breed, (either at a dog show or a public facility), or when an LCA-sponsored Raduno is announced, when a dog show or match is planned for your area, the National Coordinator will contact your Regional Coordinator, who will contact those club members in the area who have expressed an interest in that type of activity.

What type of activities are planned? We have almost unlimited opportunities and the ideas for future club activities come from the membership! In the past, club volunteers have participated in: AKC Open Shows LCA Radunos, Lagotto play dates, Meet the Breeds (formal and informal), Responsible Dog Ownership Day, Bringing Lagotto to Judges Education seminars, Walking in parades with our Lagotto, and many one-to-one meetings with folks that just want to know if this breed is good for their family.

Sounds like a great program doesn't it? To get this started, we need to have National and Regional Volunteer Coordinators in place! And that's our first call for volunteers! If you would like to be considered for Regional Coordinator, or the National Volunteer Coordinator, please contact Therese Williams at therese1256@yahoo.com. The Board will need to know how much time you can be available and if you would be willing to travel within your region on occasion to tell others about the Lagotto. Can you develop a network of volunteers to assist the club with our mission of protecting and preserving the breed? And you will need to be somewhat computer savvy. In addition to the volunteer coordinator position, we are looking to fill the regional reporter position, which will coordinate regional article submissions for the newsletter. This person will write up quarterly descriptions of news and events, and submit those along with photos for each issue of the Lagotto Bollettino.

The National Coordinator's job looks simple on paper, but will take dedication and time. This person will get to: Develop a nationwide network of people that are willing to support the breed. Attend events when possible to tell others about the breed. Promote the concepts of the Lagotto Club of America as the AKC Parent Club for the Lagotto Romagnolo. As soon as we get the Coordinators in place, we can get started!!

Update! Southeast is FIRST! Ricki Grantmyre has volunteered to be the Regional Coordinator for the Southeast region. Thank you, Ricki. Which region will be next?

The Stud Dog Owner

Text submitted by an LCA Member and Stud Dog Owner

The Stud Dog Owner

I am the owner of a stud dog. As such, I recognize the responsibility I have to the breed. I also recognize the responsibility I have to the owners of the girls that are bred to my dog.

Remember:

The stud dog owner controls the breeding times. I really do want to accommodate you in the breeding of your girl, but I have limitations.

My dog will not come to live with you while your girl is in season in order to breed her at “the best time”. I will supervise every breeding, either at my home or at the offices of my vet. My choice. The dog world “operates” by sending a bitch to a dog or by using chilled semen or frozen. I recognize that you know your bitch better than I. You may also have more experience than I. I appreciate the opportunity to learn from you. At my home.

My dog brings one half of the genes to the breeding. The other half come from your girl. It is not written in stone anywhere (I have looked!) that the “bad” genes come from the male and the “good” genes come from the female. IF, any one of the puppies resulting from this breeding develop an undesirable genetic trait,, DO NOT call or email me to ask if my boy has ever produced this before, until you have spoken with the breeder of your girl and can safely say that this same malady has never been produced by her sire and dam, all siblings, and that the pedigree is clear as far back as you can find answers. I DO realize that my dog is not perfect and we have talked about his good and bad points before the breeding.

The stud fee is an amount that is comparable with the fees charged by the owners of most other Lagotto stud dogs. This is not a negotiable figure. This is not a “business” with me, but please, do not attempt to take advantage of that fact. If I deviate from the terms of my contract, it is of my choosing. If I wish to accept terms “other than cash”, those will be spelled out and we will both agree to them.

Although I realize that I am not the breeder of the litter resulting from this breeding, I would appreciate knowing where the puppies are placed. Simply a name and email address will suffice. It’s just a way of keeping touch with the “results of my dog’s efforts” and is not meant to interfere with your litter or your relationship with the purchasers.

I intend to execute my portion of the litter application in a timely manner. Please help us both by providing paperwork to the purchasers in a timely manner also. Some of us don’t get around to doing the things we should do until far too late.

I have probably overlooked some vital points. You have probably done the same. Since we have admitted that we aren’t perfect, we’ll make changes as needed on things that have not already been covered.

Finally, my dog is current on his health tests. Every one of his required test results is acceptable for breeding according to the club. If your girl cannot bring the same to the table, as much as I would like to help you, we can’t talk. It’s a matter of breeding responsibly. And it’s a matter of supporting the breed.

Bruno's Dreadful Drama

Text and photos submitted by Giora Liran

Bruno is doing great after a dreadful drama.

About a month ago he rolled in a dead porcupine, instinctively trying to mask his own scent, as many dogs will do. He disappeared for a few minutes in the bush during a morning walk in the woods. He ran back to me when I used the whistle, but he smelled dreadful. Upon closer inspection, I discovered he had quills all over his body. It was a 4 hour nightmare to remove all the quills by hand, and especially difficult to locate the tiny quills buried in his long curls. He was bleeding in several places when I pulled the quills from the skin and was feeling really miserable. We were also worried about any infection the quills could transmit to Bruno, but fortunately our vet said not to worry as quills are not infectious.



Agnelus Mei Bruno

By nighttime, Bruno was really sick. He couldn't walk on four legs and his one leg from paw to the groin was sore and burning and he had swollen lymph nodes. He was yelping when I tried to touch him. Ice was not helping, so I called the Vet for antibiotics and pain killers, which provided some relief. Bruno had improved by day 10- He was walking, but was still avoiding stepping on the left hind. Still concerned, I took Bruno back to the vet, where all of the 3 doctors on site examined him, but were unable to find any physical problem. He was scheduled to be stripped off for thorough investigation while being put on stronger medications.



Bruno's infamous porcupine quill

Over the weekend, after a short walk Bruno laid down and was notoriously licking his leg- trying to tell me to investigate more. Sure enough, I found a tiny firm point sticking out behind the main pad of his paw. I carefully pulled that 3/4" 'sucker' (see above) out. You should have seen the Thank You Daddy scene- Bruno licked my face and hands like never before. I had tears in my eyes...

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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