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So finally the weather is cooling off and we now get ready for Thanksgiving! Before we head into the end of year Holidays, we have to give a big congratulations to our past and present Board of Directors who worked so hard these past few years to make our American Kennel Club recognition a reality. On July 1, we became a member of the Sporting Group. You will see great photos of some of our "show dogs"!


I was the first Lagotto in Arizona 10.5 years ago and back then no one knew what kind of dog I was. Now, in many places, more and more people seem to recognize my breed. Imagine my excitement when I will see the Lagotti on TV in the Sporting Group at upcoming Eukanuba show, or at Westminster KC! I'll be cheering for my Lagotti friends.



Adrina - wearer of many hats!

This issue is full of good information. Our topic is all about training, and features our member-trainers.

I am a pretty good trainer, myself. I have trained my family to give me regular spa treatments, massages and pedicures. They are programmed to bring my breakfast in a silver bowl on demand, various snacks at my request during the day, and a fabulous dinner in another silver bowl at dinnertime. We are still working on the timing of supper, as they sometimes sneak in their own dinner, before bringing me mine. I wonder if I used clicker training, would they be more prompt?

I have them trained to play. I don't know what they did before I came along. I have taught them how to pitch tennis balls, and if I go get it, bring it back and place it in their hand, they get to throw it again. They are continuing to improve. Their aim is getting better. They used to throw toys so wildly that I had to go out in the bush and climb up the shrubs and pick them out. They would never find their toys if I didn't go get them in odd places where they cannot see. I can even find them when they get lost under the dirt. Good thing I have a great nose, as they would lose everything. I have trained them how to laugh and play and have a good time. They are so fortunate that I came all the way from Croatia to save their lives. 

Adrina sitting in for Judith Martin, Editor

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

This will be our end of year Holiday Edition. Send your photos and greetings! Also, please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Tips on Training, Nutrition, activities or just for fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dog's name, age, and a photo caption. Email your submissions to:

Bollettino@LagottoUS.com

Deadline for next issue:
December 5, 2015

The Well Mannered Dog

Toni Kay-Wolff



Having purchased a Basenji puppy from our local pet store when I was 13, and being bitten by this 8 week old the day I brought him home, my parents hired dog trainer Brian Kilcommons. Over time this puppy began destroying furniture and seriously attacking our mini Schnauzer. I worked with Brian for over a year (I was 13!), and had some good success with our boy. When I went away to college he fell apart, and ultimately, after biting several people, had to be euthanized. It broke my heart and I decided I was going to help dogs and their families live in harmony and safely. After my apprenticeship I got my own business going, starting in NYC, then opening a very successful boarding and training school on Long Island. In 2007 we moved to CT and I started my business here.

One of the most satisfying things I've done in my career was to help set up and lead training programs for volunteers at shelters down the East Coast from New York to Florida. I have trained over 200 volunteers and hundreds of shelter dogs to help make them more adoptable. In 2013 was asked to go to Qatar to train two Dobermans for one of the sons of the Emir of Qatar, Sheik Khalid. That was a unique experience, and I was honored to have been asked. While I have handled countless aggression cases in my 27 years of training, I have chosen to be a "pet dog" trainer. I much prefer to refer serious aggression problems to those who enjoy working with it, while I enjoy teaching families and their puppies and dogs.

Since becoming involved in Lagotti in 2008 I have thoroughly enjoyed my work temperament testing litters, helping families get matched with the right dogs for them, and training them. They stole our hearts, and we decided to take the leap and have one of our own. Shivaree Allegre Toroncini, "Tillie", is from Judith Martin of Shivaree in AZ, and LK Peter Pan, "Volo", from Bridget Flynn at LK in Qualicum Beach, BC. I believe they are two of the top breeders and mentors in our breed. I have also had the enormous gift of being able to learn from Monica Benelli in Italy, and hope to travel to see these ladies in the very near future. I finished Tillie's CM (Certificate of Merit) in Miscellaneous very quickly, and we finished Volo as well. They both have their CM1 titles. We have started Nose Work with Tillie, then bred her first litter whelped in May 2014. We are ready to start up again with Nose Work, Rally, and continue showing Volo in Conformation in the Sporting Group. Tillie just had her 2nd litter on Aug. 21, 2015, so we are enjoying our infant puppies until they are ready to go to their new families, and will resume our training once they do.

I fully enjoy teaching families that the most important thing to do with their new dogs is build a foundation based on relationship. That, to me, is far more important than obedience work, but these two do go hand in hand. Strengthening the bond comes from team work and communication, not just because we love our dogs, they are cute and breathing. The emotional gains we garner from our dogs is equal to (almost) none, but I find that many people don't realize the problems they can create by relying on their dogs for emotional support without giving the dogs what they need as well. My training techniques run the gamut from clicker work to leash and collar work to teaching clients how to use their body language to communicate with their dogs, as this is the dog's primary means of communicating with us, and one another. I truly believe that there is not

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only one way to train a dog. They are all individuals, and my goal is for the families to be able to get the results they want and need, not necessarily what I want for them. That took me a few years to figure out! If a client can't or won't do what I recommend, I need to find a way to help them. A good trainer must have many tools in their training tool box. Loving dogs isn't enough. A good trainer must really enjoy teaching and being with people. It's about the dogs. Not about us.

I apprenticed 4 years with Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson, as well as completed seminars like Dr. Nick Dodman at Tufts, Sue Sternberg's working seminars, working with Pia Silvani, Martin Deeley, and other wonderful trainers, behaviorists and veterinarians over the last 27.5 years. I offer private instruction, small, focused group classes, as well as board and train programs.

Toni Kay-Wolff is a full-time trainer in Southbury, CT
<http://wellmannereddog.com>



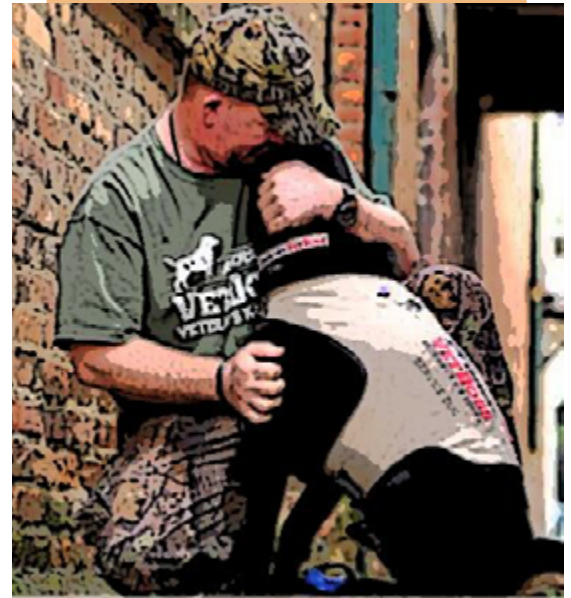
Never Enough Dog Training

Adrienne Perry

My business is named for my first super girl "Melissa", U-CDX V-Rated Cubrienne's Never Enough UDX RN BH Mexican CDX, a Rottweiler, of course.

As a trainer, my primary focus is obedience and rally dogs and their people for competition. My first obedience title was a CD (Companion Dog) title when I was 13 with a Miniature Schnauzer. There was a time lapse and I came back to showing dogs in the 1990s, earning some CDs with my new breed rottweilers. Fast forward 25 years and about 65 AKC working titles later and I'm still having fun showing in obedience, rally, tracking and soon....making my debut in agility. My competition students' dogs encompass a wide range of breeds, shelties, boxers, Dobermans, mini and standard poodles, Australian shepherds, Weimeraners, Belgian Tervuren, Springer Spaniels and probably some I've forgotten. I have titled dogs in these breeds: Rottweilers, Dobermans, Border Collie, Miniature Schnauzer, French Bulldog and Lagotto Romagnolo.

Until recently, I titled other people's dogs in obedience as well, but since deciding to pursue my judging license I've had to give up that part of my business. I'm licensed with the Australian Shepherd Club of America to judge all levels of obedience and have judged in the USA and Germany for that organization. I also work for an organization called Soldier's Best Friend which is a non-profit organization that provides the training for recent veterans to train their dogs to the level of Therapeutic Service Dog. It is an honor to work with these veterans, many with physical injuries as well as PTSD. The training is always unique to the needs of the individual, and can include many fun and exciting skills in unique

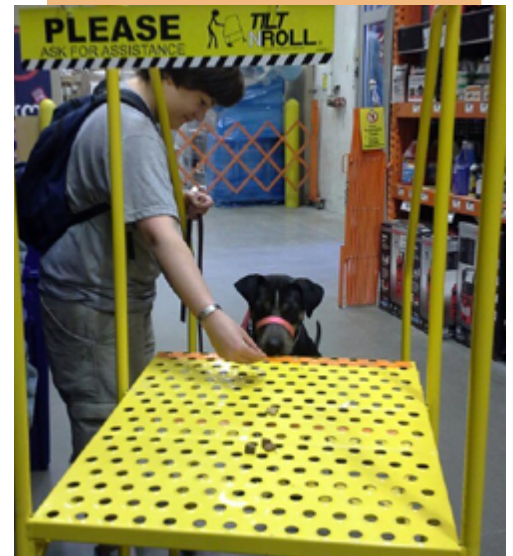


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combinations. For example, my first two students had a fear of being in the dark in strange places, but both wanted to travel. We taught the dogs to turn on touch lights by stepping on them, then taught them to “find” the lights when they were tossed into a dark room. And then we had a small item that could be packed into their suitcase whenever they travelled and it didn’t involve the dog scratching up a hotel room wall in order to get at a light switch. I’ve worked with the teams to teach retrieves that included everything from a piece of paper, a bottle of pills, sunglasses, remote controls, phones, leashes, to a ring of keys. I’ve graduated three teams through this organization: 2 Shar Pei mixes, and one Mini American Shepherd! I do a lot of clicker training, some management (eg: don’t provide the circumstance for the dog to chose the wrong thing), and a little bit of compulsion work. I tend to think of a correction more as an interruption to undesired behavior. I use lots of food, and more and more lots of “props” or objects that help the dogs learn the concept of fixation. I think the biggest change in competition obedience in the past 15 years has been the acceptance of a training style that comes from agility, teaching the dog to learn to think and problem solve.

Certainly my own methods for teaching jumping have changed dramatically since becoming a student in agility. As a student, I’ve taken seminars from Sylvia Bishop, Connie Cleveland, Louise Fox Meredith, and done course work with Chris Bach. I hope to be out representing our wonderful breed more in the coming year as Terzo gets ready to make his debut in Utility obedience and in agility. And I’m willing to work with any Lagotto team that makes their way to Tucson for lessons. I’d like to see the Lagotto Romagnolo come to rival the border collie as the premier AKC Sport Dog in all disciplines from Tracking, Obedience, Rally, Nosework, Agility, Dock Diving and Barn Hunt. One of the things that attracted me to the breed in the first place was one of the first lines of the standard: “... he should give the impression that he has the strength and endurance to work all day....” That is a working dog person’s dream dog in a nutshell!

Adrienne is the President of Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America works part time as a dog trainer and part time as a veterinary technician in Tucson AZ



Zing Paws Training *Jamie Rosenthal*



In the early 1970’s I took a class at Pierce College in which we compared the outcomes of differing dog training methodologies. At the time choke chains, rolled up newspaper and rubbing your dog’s nose in his misdeeds with punishment based training was popular. We studied from texts as presented by John Fuller, the Koehler Method, along with classical conditioning, operant conditioning and negative-reinforcement; into this mix we had a text espousing the theories and training principles of an “experimental” affection-reward training. We trained every dog in the class in four or five techniques and then analyzed our results. The praise based affection training resulted in happy, attentive, responsive and eager dogs. This experience and the healing effect I witnessed working in small animal laboratory of love and attention for hopeless cases left a lasting and influential impression on me affirming my beliefs about the innate capabilities and emotions of animals. This was at a time when affection was not

considered “scientifically sound.”

Over the years I had plenty of trial and error as I trained my own dogs and friend’s dogs in obedience, basic manners and for personal protection. In more recent times I have read every dog training, theory and behavioral text that came my way out of fascination about intelligence and communication between species. It wasn’t until I adopted my last rescue dog that I began to enroll in modern dog training courses including Chris Bach’s, The Third Way, working with several educators in clicker and reinforcement training, Grisha Stewart’s (BAT) Behavior Adjustment Training, learning K9 Nose Work with Teah Anders at Gentle Touch Pet Training and others. I completed the certification course for K9 Nose Work from the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) after seeing how it transformed my fearful rescue dog into a happy and confident little warrior. Nose Work was so much fun! I’d been unfavorably influenced by some training methods such as dominance reconditioning, confrontational training and negative desensitization which have shaped my training style.

This is what happened with my current rescue dog, I adopted him because he was traumatized with serious behavioral and abandonment issues and had been returned several times to the shelter; the recommended trainer used these kinds of methods which increased his fear and behavioral issues backtracking our progress to where he’d completely freeze refusing to walk on a leash or lift his head except to growl or threaten to bite. My desire to help him inspired me to re-start my own training. He, along with all the dogs, cats, birds, horses, pet rats, Guinea pigs, chickens, cows and other animals I’ve worked with have truly been my greatest and most influential teachers. Training needs to fit the situation; the environment, the culture of expectations, the skill and understanding of the people involved and the most importantly the temperament and condition of the subject.

Considering the human that has inspired my interest with animals the most I have to say it’s my mother. She’s not a trainer but it’s because of her that there have always been pets in my life. Growing up we had our home menagerie; my mother never seemed to worry about different species or new members getting along, they simply would and they did; the animals were part of our family, never expected to be perfect but accepted just as they were. She taught us to care for them and love them. There are many valuable trainers and behaviorist that I tend to not have a favorite as I’m always in the process of learning. However I’d pick Turid Rugaas as an inspiration, in particular when I heard her explain that we need to remember and to allow for our dogs to be dogs, and for her work in canine communication; others include Dr. Sophia Yin and the crop of researchers and trainers expanding our awareness of canine behavior and uncovering the healing power of dogs.

Cody and his mom were students in my K9 Nose Work. It wasn’t until near the completion of our 3rd sequences of classes that Cody mom’s stayed to have a long talk with me. We have a large completely off-leash park in our area and Cody enjoyed running free during his youth. Unfortunately a resident close to the park allowed her untrained, unschooled and rather aggressive dogs to roam free. Cody got trapped, being in the wrong place at the wrong time and was gang attacked. Somehow his human saved his life and her own but from that day forward even after physical recovery Cody was shut down, fearful, shy of other dogs, other humans and life in general. His mom enrolled him in agility, he did obedience and many specialty trainers and behaviorist tried to help him and his mom. His mom enrolled Cody in Nose Work based on the principles that Nose Work is safe,





non-confrontational and available to all dogs.

There is no dog-to dog contact and although humans are nearby they remain quiet and do not pet, interact with or look directly at the class dogs. On the day Cody's mom told me this story she was crying tears of joy and Cody as everyone could see, had a joyful glint in his eye. For the first time since his attack Cody looked up instead of holding his head inches from the ground, he now almost always had a happy grinning smile and would gently greet other humans and dogs. His life was returned to one of adventure and exploration. He went on to be a top Nose Work competitor. The working dog is the one in charge, and as I tell my students, in the hunt for odor the dog is always right. I don't think that happens often for our companion animals. The trust between the handler and canine is strengthened in nose work. I was amazed to discover that not only does the dog gain confidence but a stressed human is also able to regain confidence and trust. I've had blind dogs, disabled dogs, terrified dogs, highly energetic and overly burnt out competition dogs enjoy the fun of Nose Work. I remain impressed how such a simple training program can enhance working attitude; my focus emphasizes confidence and canine-human communications. My current interest is in how dogs (and other animals) work with humans in such fields as medical / cancer detection and other scenting fields; PTSD relief both for humans and canines; and other service functions. I remain committed to the respectful treatment of animals in deepening communication and acceptance of innate and diverse intelligence and capacity for affection.

Jamie Rosenthal, MPA, CNWI Flying Curls Lagotto Romagnolo j.rosenthal@cox.net Zing Paw Training, Santa Barbara, CA
<https://www.facebook.com/ZingPaw> 

Winkler K9 & RiverRun Portuguese Water Dogs

Cathy Winkler

I've been teaching obedience, both competitive and household, for probably close to 40 years. Boy that makes me feel old. About 30 years ago, along came my Portuguese Water Dog, and agility and water work. I took that on too, out of sheer self defense with the active PWD.

I am a member of NADOI (National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors). I got started in dog training with my first dog, a German Shepherd Dog, under Tula Mae Miller. I was dog training when the old "jerk 'em around thing" was in fashion. Tula was one of the first who still believed in corrections; but thought that you should teach first, and then correct. I consider myself a balanced trainer today.

Honestly, I really like the teaching aspect; both ends of the leash. Competition is just a gauge as to how the training is going.

I've gotten titles in Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Water Work, and Agility. In 2010, one of my girls, Birch, was #1 PWD in Novice and #1 Overall. She also ranked the next year in Open Obedience. Birch heels like she is about to explode, which showed me what I am look-



Continued

ing for in competition. I'll even take a little innaccuracy, if I have lots of enthusiasm.

Not quite a year ago, I inherited my first Lagotto from a breeder friend who passed away. She never did anything with her, except keep her as a nice house dog. Competition this year has been limited, because I have been working through handling her dogs as well as my own. Perla the Lagotto, is becoming a wonderful member of my household. She is two years old, and will be hitting the shows as soon as I get some coat on her.

I think Perla will be a good competitive prospect, as she is smart, fast and like other Lagotti, likes to be with her owner. Good recipe for agility success. I currently run 3 PWDs, 1 SWD and a Papillon in agility.

Cathy Winkler lives and trains dogs in Traverse City, Michigan; owner, chief cook and bottle washer of Winkler K9 and RiverRun Portuguese Water Dogs



Testing and Training

Darlene Colmar



Ever since my retirement, my life has gone to the dogs in increasing amounts! I started doing more training with my Labrador and Curly-Coated Retrievers and even did some AKC competitions with them. That led me to becoming an AKC tester for their Canine Good Citizen Program. As I continued to train at the Obedience Club of Asheville, it seemed a logical step for me to take the role of training director for the club, which I have been doing since 2010. I started getting more and more involved with training and decided to have my dogs (Three Lagotto and the Curly) tested to become therapy dogs. They are now registered with Therapy Dogs, Incorporated. Doing therapy dog work has been the most rewarding volunteer job that I could have ever imagined.

After a few years, I knew it was time to become a Tester/Observer for Therapy Dogs, Inc., as in that capacity, I could combine my interests in training with expanding the joy of doing therapy dog work to others. After several years passed, I realized that I needed to have more training myself and decided to sign up for an Educational Workshop taught by Turid Rugass. The workshop is 28 day-long sessions, taught in 4 day blocks throughout the year. I started in December 2014 and will complete the process in December 2015. This workshop has been a game changer for me as I have learned an enormous amount about dogs—their perspective, what motivates them and what we unwittingly do to make them misbehave. Turid uses a scientific approach to arrive at her concepts, measuring heart rate and observing behaviors

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such as frequency of urination and multiple dog behaviors that have been recorded for thousands of dogs. She is best known in the U.S. for her books that have been translated into English: On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals; Barking: The Sound of a Language and My Dog Pulls: What Do I Do? But they are just the tip of the iceberg as far as what she knows and teaches about dogs. She advocates that dogs should be given the opportunity of choice, that their curiosity needs to be encouraged and that they need to have their minds stimulated. Often what we humans do in training is the exact opposite of this. We get our dogs to walk politely at our side, no stopping, no sniffing and they must follow our pace. Instead, she recommends that most of the time, if we allow our dogs to be dogs, they will be happier, more relaxed and less stressed.

One way to begin is to toss a handful of treats into a grassy area and let the dog find and eat them. This gets the dog using the nose. Then, you can make the challenge greater by hiding the treats (or favorite toys) in the yard or in the house and let your dog search them out. They will be using their eyes and nose in this task. Once you get the dog used to being a dog again, you can allow them to explore where you walk, letting them choose the pace and direction. Of course, you don't have to let them go into a swamp or eat something gross off the sidewalk! In those cases, you stop, letting the leash be taut, turn your body in the direction you want to go and when the dog allows slack on the leash, praise and continue in the direction you wish to travel.

Last January, my neighbor had decorated his mailbox, at the foot of his driveway. He had garlands, bows, lights and tinsel wrapped around it. My Lagotto Vito was with me for a walk. As soon as he spotted the mailbox, he started barking. Before Turid's class, I would have said something like, "That's no problem, let's go." I would have continued on the walk, even if I had to pull on the leash to make him come. I decided to try Turid's methods and allow him to explore the mailbox. He continued to bark and keep his distance for a while. I kept my mouth shut! After a few minutes, he very gingerly went a bit closer, sniffing and also barking. After about 10 minutes, he was going around the entire mail box without barking, just exploring and satisfying his curiosity. At the 15 minute mark, he came back to where I was patiently waiting as if to say, "I've checked it out and we can go now." We proceeded down the street and on the way back, he glanced at the mailbox, and kept walking. No problem. I know that if I had not allowed for the exploration, we would have had a very different experience with him doing the "alert" barking and being afraid of the new monster on the block every time we passed. This was a turning point for Vito and me as he began to grow in self-confidence in himself and trust of me.

I am continuing my efforts to share training tips on the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America's website and plan to have a "tab" entitled "Fun things to do with your dog" written by early fall. I hope that other Lagotto owners will try out some of Turid's ideas and have wonderful adventures with their dogs. 🐾

Truffle Dog Company

Alana McGee

Hello! For those of you who don't know me, I am Alana. I am a professional Truffle Dog handler & dog trainer, and human counterpart to two wonderful Lagotti Jean "Luc" & Lolo, as well as a red tri Australian Shepherd Ryu, and a black lab/ flatcoat mix, Duff. I'm the co-owner of Truffle Dog Company (you can find us on FB) where we teach you & your dog how to find and identify truffles. It is a fun, confidence-boosting sport where you cultivate communication & your relationship with your dog. And yes, there are truffles near you (of some kind!). We are one of the driving forces behind the emergence of using dogs to sustainably harvest and locate truffles in the Pacific Northwest and to use detection dogs in scientific discovery in other parts of North America as well as helping to establish the culinary marketplace and build the infrastructure for Pacific Northwest truffles.

I am a Certified Professional Dog Trainer- Knowledge Assessed, member of the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) & IAABC (International Association of Applied Animal Behavior Consultants). Outside of truffles & detection work I am working towards becoming a Certified Behavior Consultant Canine-Knowledge Assessed (CBCC-KA), focusing on dogs with extreme phobias, as well as fear & anxiety in aggression. I also have a new developed interest in Canine Parkour, and I dabble in herding with my Australian Shepherd (and have herded with Lagotti too!).

I've trained (primarily) dogs for the past 10 years using classical & operant conditioning as well as reward based reinforcement made possible by understanding the base emotional state of the animal, and in truffle detection for the past 7. I work full time as a Truffle Dog handler & trainer, and with new clients seeking behavior modification as well as the all important puppy socialization and basic manners. I teach seminars at festivals and conferences on truffles and truffle detection, present scientific papers, and work closely with leading mycologists and scientists worldwide on the developing science and understanding of truffle cultivation, sustainability of wild harvests, canine olfaction regarding truffles, and the practical application of trained truffle dogs on commercial truffieres. It combines my love of science, people & animal behavior with the added bonus that I get to bring my dogs to work, every day.


I constantly look for ways to increase my knowledge and skills through continuing education by attending seminars on canine behavior, scent work, canine cognition, and other areas outside of my discipline. I've been blessed with the opportunity to work closely with and learn from some of the best minds in



the field including Kathy Sdao (a personal and professional inspiration and mentor), Grisha Stewart, Temple Grandin, as well as Denise Fenzi who taught me a lot about other dog sport disciplines and motivation. Recently I had the pleasure of working with noted author and psychologist Alexandra Horowitz studying canine cognition in olfaction as she researched real world applications in canine olfaction & cognition for her new book.

I also have the privilege of working with other instructors with more years experience in other disciplines whom have become mentors, such as my business partner Kristin Rosenbach who exposed me to a world of canine agility competition and fellow Lagotto owner, trainer, and TDC team member Jeannine May. Jeannine and I also have Lagotto littermates ☐ I have been a lover of animals and a student of animal behavior all my life. Growing up National Geographic was my classroom. Early teenage years were filled with mucking out barn stalls and working as an assistant Zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, WA. I read everything I could about animal behavior or veterinary medicine. I talked with cetacean researchers, and shadowed Veterinarians.

My family always assumed I'd become a large/exotic animal Vet or a wildlife biologist. They weren't far off in the end. I searched for an avenue wherein I could work with animals and also incorporate my other interests in science and discovery. It took me a while, but I finally arrived. It continues to evolve and I enjoy every minute of it.

Alana McGee CPDT-KA Seattle, Washington www.truffledogcompany.com,
www.toilandtruffle.com 



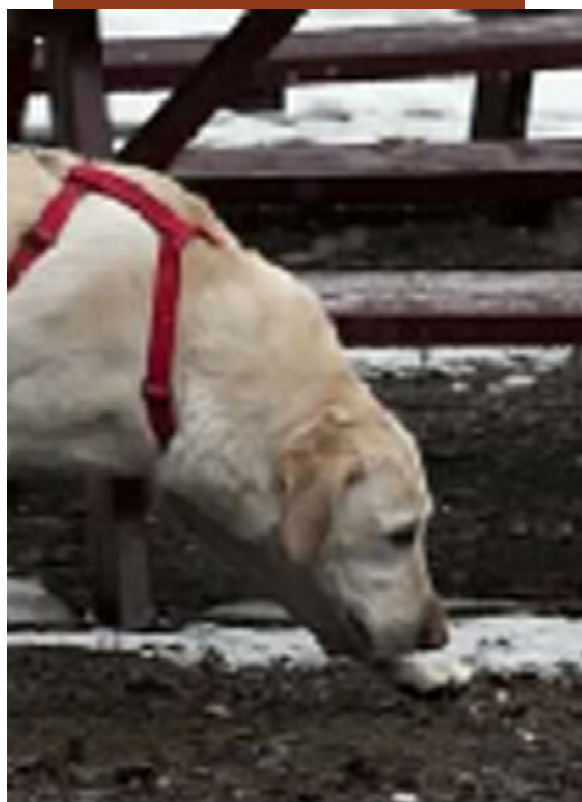
Oregon Dog Sports Liz Williams



I've been teaching all-breed obedience and performance classes for 28 years. Owned Alaska Dog Sports for 15 years before relocating to Oregon in 2013.

I offer all levels of training - Puppy classes & Beginning foundation obedience skills Agility, Competition Obedience, Rally, Treibball, Nose Work and Canine Good Citizen Private behavior assessments and training for dogs that have needs that cannot be addressed in a classroom.

I started after I joined the Rottweiler Club of Alaska and the club had a training center. I was very fortunate as a young trainer to be mentored by very experienced trainers who gave me solid foundation skills to work with dogs and their humans to build teamwork and



good communication. After several years working with the club they discontinued the training center and I continued to pursue working with people and dogs on my own. I joined the Assoc. of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) in 1998 and have continued my education through conferences, workshops and other training opportunities.

I encourage all people living with dogs to find activities they can enjoy together whether they want to compete in an organized dog sport or just train recreationally. Dogs that have a chance to focus and learn with their humans have much richer lives and much better relationships. My best advice for people living/working with dogs is to remember that it is our job to learn how to communicate what we want to our dogs. We ask a lot of them and very often don't do our job as part of the team to make sure we are clear, consistent and give good feedback for the behavior they offer. Dogs are amazing animals that we are so fortunate to get to share our lives with and we should make the most of that relationship.

Throughout my career I have continued my education through conferences, seminars, and online training. I am a certified American Treibball Assoc. instructor, Trick Dog Instructor, CGC Evaluator, APDT CLASS Evaluator, Mentor Trainer for Animal Behavior College

Liz is a full time trainer in Eugene, OR.

www.oregondogsports.com 

Pacific Truffle Dogs

Jeannine May

Hello, my name is Jeannine May and I'm a KPA-CTP (Karen Pryor Academy-Certified Training Partner). I have two websites and a FB page for Pacific Truffle Dogs. If you'd like to look around the websites they can be found at www.goodlifedogtraining.com and www.pacifictruffledogs.com.

While dog training and teaching training classes have been part-time for many, many years, I may be going full time soon. I'm currently offering: In-My-Home Truffle Dog Training, truffle seminars, private training for behavior issues in my home or the client's home, classes for scent training of all types, and the occasional 'fun' class dealing with many different aspects of dog behavior and/or competitions. I started my life-long commitment to dogs and training as long ago as I can remember...I started with training the family lab, then joining 4H and raising a guide dog puppy. Following that I purchased my own dog which I used in 4H as well. I was also a groomer's assistant, and then was hired as a companion dog trainer. Life went on and while raising a family I continued raising and training Guide Dog puppies, and training our own dogs for a variety of dog related activities. All the while I was learning more about dog behavior and training which



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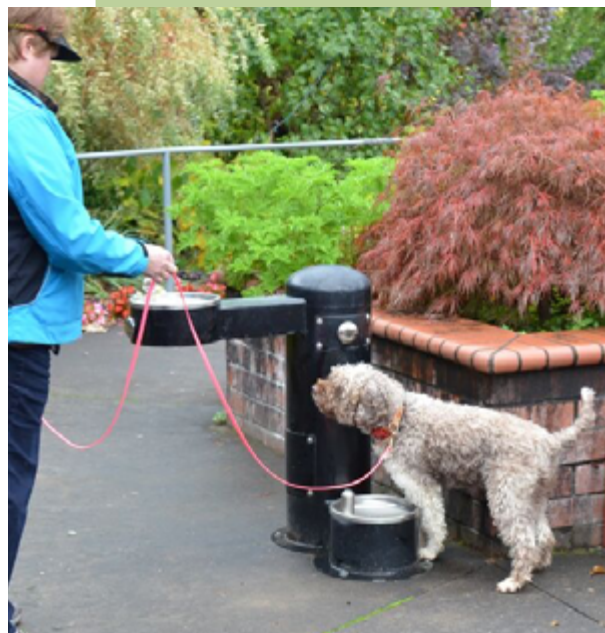
led me to eventually attend the prestigious and comprehensive Karen Pryor Academy and graduated as a Certified Training Partner. This program includes not only a knowledge test but hands on work and testing as well.

My 35+ years of training have included raising and coaching others in how to properly raise puppies, carting and creating a step by step approach to introducing dogs to carting (now widely used in the carting world), dabbled in many dog sports including; dock dog, French Ring, obedience, rally and the conformation ring. I competed extensively in Agility competitions with several dogs for over a decade and a half. I taught many classes per week with oodles of successful students. I was also an agility judge under two different venues, and competed in multiple National competitions.

After retiring from Agility, I wanted to do something more 'real' and took up truffle hunting. This lead me to researching and the purchase of a Lagotto Romagnolo. I used my knowledge of training through scientific principles, sought guidance from my mentors Jen and Steve White (real life detection dog trainers) and trained my first two truffle dogs: JC (corgi cross) and Isis (LR). From that point, I used my experiences to start training others how to train their own dogs, and to train dogs for people who didn't want to do the training themselves.

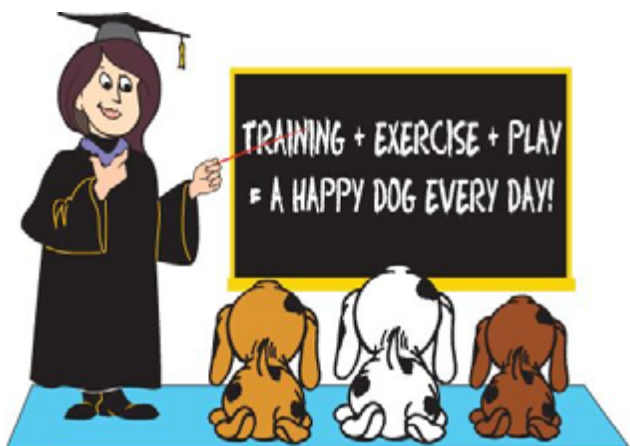
I am always seeking to gain knowledge and share it with others. I attend multiple seminars yearly including ClickerExpo, Ken Ramirez, Ian Dunbar, Jon Rogerson, Susan Freidman, Bob Bailey and more. I also follow blogs by Denise Fenzi, Nancy Tanner, Patricia McConnell and others.

About a year after I acquired my LR Isis, I added competition Nosework to Isis's repertoire and started teaching classes in this skill as well. Not only has Isis done well but so have my students, in both K9 Nosework and in truffle hunting. One of my students won the first North American Truffle Dog Championship held in Oregon in January of 2015! Additionally they are consistently titling, winning and placing in Nosework trials. Recently a student's 15 yr. old dog received her Nosework II title. It's so rewarding to see students do well, but even more rewarding to see an 'old dog learning new tricks' and winning too! 🐶



ABCs of Dog Trainers

Cathy Dronen



One of the most important aspects of dog ownership is the commitment to a consistent training program for both the pet owner and the animal. Training builds the animal/human bond, cultivates a good citizen pet, provides mental and physical stimulation, and prevents the development of bad habits.

Finding a training program for your dog may not be an issue. Finding the right training program for your dog's abilities, strengths and behaviors may be more challenging. This issue of the Bollettino is part one of a series discussing dog training. This article provides a translation of the ABC's of dog trainers as we look to train the trainer!

Dog training and behavior as a profession is part of a growth industry. Dogs are an essential part of our family fabric. They go ev-



everywhere we go and the demand for well-trained animals has produced a library of books on the subject. There are popular dog training reality television shows, expert training advice columns, and an army of canine training professionals with a string of letters after their names offering the best courses for the fur-child. Determining the right training program is the first step in obtaining a good outcome for the dog and his human.

Veterinarian professionals train for many years before they are able to apply a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) title by their name. Vets must achieve an advanced university degree, board certification, and licensing requirements to practice medicine on an animal. No such training, in fact, no formal education, certification, licensing or training is required to assume the title “dog trainer” or “dog behaviorist.” It becomes the burden of the owner to determine if an individual is skilled and trained to work with their dog.

Trained professionals with letters by their name tells us something important -- but what does the alphabet soup mean to the consumer?

DACVB – A veterinarian (DVM) who meets the specific requirements and qualifications established by the American College of Veterinary Behavior (ACVB) may use the specialized designation “Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Behavior” (DACVB). A board certification exam is administered and significant clinical training is required before a DVM can be licensed as a DACVB. There are fewer than 100 licensed DACVBs in the world!

CAAB – A trainer/behaviorist that has satisfied the requirements to earn a doctoral degree (PhD) in a behavioral science with concentrated study in animal behavior or a licensed veterinarian with applicable clinical training may apply to be a designated CAAB “Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist.”

ACAAB – Is the designation used to identify the “Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist.” To qualify for this certification, an animal behaviorist must hold an advanced degree in a biological or behavioral science with a concentration in animal behavior. Significant post-graduate clinical work is required before applying for the certification examination. These professionals work with behavior issues and scientific research. There are few individuals in this elite society and many do not work with companion animals. Most household pets would not require the intense intervention offered by such specialized experts. For those of us who seek to manage a socially acceptable, well-trained pup competent professional help is available.

APDT - A trainer in good standing with the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (formerly Association of Pet Dog Trainers) may use the initials APDT by their name. The association is the largest dog training organization in the world and members are provided with ongoing educational and training. APDT offers the requirements for the certification in learning and performance CPLP test.

CCPDT- Signifies a trainer has the endorsement of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers. In addition to the requirement of passing a standardized test, the CCPDT members are held to Code of Ethics in the administration of their training and behavior practices. The CCPDT currently offers three progressive levels of certifications

- CPDT-KA-Indicates, the trainer, successfully completed the necessary credentials and passed a comprehensive written exam to be a Certified Professional Dog Trainer Knowledge-Assessed.
- CPDT-KSA-Indicates, the trainer, possesses the necessary credentials and passed a comprehensive written exam to be a Certified



"Dog obedience school insults my intelligence. What I'd like to do is go to a university and get a degree."

Professional Dog Trainer Knowledge and Skills Assessed.

- CBCC-KA-Indicates, the trainer, satisfied the critical elements including experience and or education and passed a comprehensive written exam to earn the Certified Behavior Consultant, Canine Knowledge Assessed.

IACP-The International Association of Canine Professionals is another organization promoting standards of conduct for training experts. Designations from the IACP include; CDT (Certified Dog Trainer), CDTA (Certified Dog Trainer-Advanced), and PDTI (Professional Dog Training Instructor). Each certification is awarded upon successful completion of an examination combined with requisite experience/education.

NADOI-The National Association of Dog Obedience Instructor's membership is restricted to certified professionals with a minimum of 5 years' experience as a trainer, 2 years' experience as an instructor, documented career experience working with 100+ different dogs, and educational credentials. The number of local continuing education institutions that include professional dog behavior and training classes continues to grow.

WHERE TO FIND THE RIGHT TRAINER?

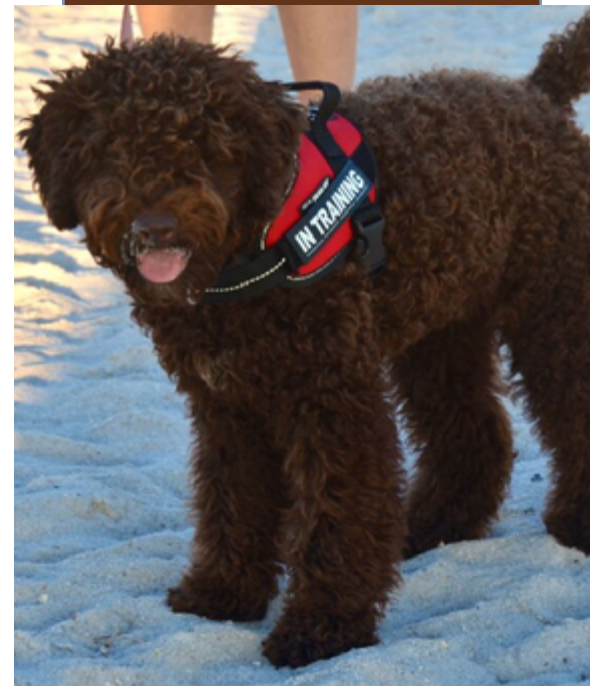
Many pet retail companies like PetSmart offer a variety of basic socialization training classes for dogs and their humans. Breeder organizations, American Kennel Club, community civic organizations, any of the professional organizations in this article, rescue shelters, and veterinarian offices are great sources to find the right trainer and specific program for your dog. Regardless of the approach, any good, responsible training program will include the dog's human as half the formula for success. 🐶

Peppe the Sea Dog Eddie and Glenn Tuttle

Hi Everyone, I am Peppe, the new first mate on the boat "Tothill". You may remember the old guy, a big Havanese named, Coco, who wrote a story in the last Bolletino about my parents' decision to look for a Lagotto.

Well here I am!! My real name is very long, Galante Dei Terra Incognita. I am 21 weeks old, weigh about 23 lbs. and I am now happily living in Florida. In this article I will tell you how my parents found me, how they prepared the house and boat for me, detail my training for a traveling life style and describe the special training that continues for a Sea Dog. From what Coco has relayed to me from the Rainbow Bridge, I have much to learn. My parents spent over a year researching the Lagotto breed, joined the Lagotto Club of America, went to dog shows and Meet the Breed shows, talked to many breeders, joined Facebook pages and drove all over meeting breeders and owners. This process helped them focus on what their special needs were and to prepare for me. After driving to Missouri the first time, they decided that their Lagotto would come from a farm in Missouri where Lagottos swim and retrieve at an early age. It was also important to them that my breeder was also a professional trainer and a good matchmaker. On the farm we grow up fast and get used to

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many animals, noises, people and things. My parents are retired and travel by boat or car all the time, so they wanted a dog that was very adaptable and flexible, but not a wild man.

To add to all my boat responsibilities they also tell me in the future, I will do work as a Comfort Dog and a Service Dog for my Dad's hearing loss! After the plan was made, my parents went back home and started the preparations for the house, boat and me. Many of the Lagotto Club of America members helped with all the questions my parents asked about Lagottos and their special needs. First, they built a 4-foot fence around the backyard and put a pool fence across the lanai. My mother would have liked a higher one in the back yard, but that is all that is allowed where we live. So far this has stopped me from swimming when I want to go in the canal or the pool on my own.

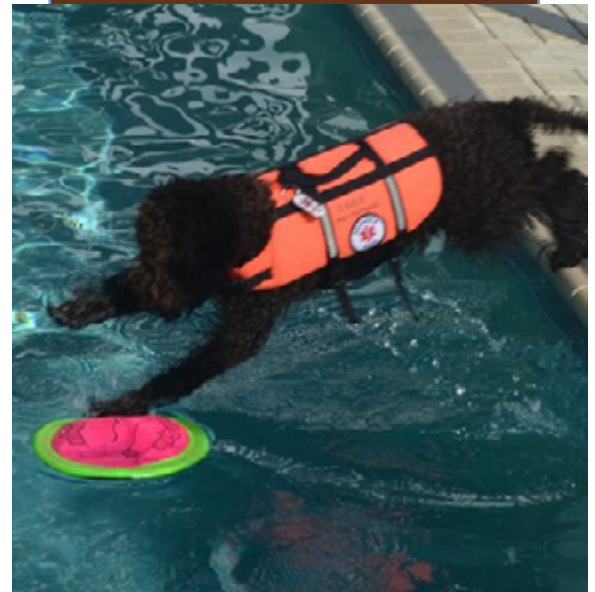
The boat, a 46-foot trawler is right behind our house and was dog proofed by the previous first mate, Coco. There are lee cloths around the deck so I cannot escape or take a jump overboard. Apparently Coco would almost lose his mind when talking to Dolphins! My parents made a new canvas gate so that I cannot jump down into the cockpit. Apparently Coco did this a couple times and also crawled under the previous gate! What a rascal he was as a puppy! The boat has doors, so when we are underway I will be inside until I grow up and get my sea legs. I will also wear a life jacket when I board or leave the big boat or the little dinghy. I am being trained to sit and wait at the dock by the steps up to the boat. I am not allowed to get on or off any boat by myself. Dogs must wear a life jacket at all times in small boats even if they are good swimmers due to the danger of the propeller. Also, it is very difficult to find a wet dog, much less a brown one, in water at sea. We are using Coco's Outward Hound life jacket, which is bright orange.

As I get bigger my parents will look for another suitable life jacket. Harnesses are very important on a boat due to the danger of jumping or falling overboard when you don't have a life jacket on. I need a substantial harness with a good handle so that I could be grabbed and lifted out of the water. The life jacket also has a handle which helps lift me on and off boats and would aid in my rescue should I fall or jump overboard. In the dinghy I will have a life jacket on at all times. On the big boat, when I get older I will not have to have a life jacket on when the seas are calm but I will always have a substantial harness on. But as a "crazy puppy" I will be wearing my life jacket all the time. The life jacket was not a big deal to me as I wore one on the farm.

So the next thing my parents prepared for was the trip to and from Missouri in a car to get me. Coco always rode in the back seat in the middle with a seat belt through a special harness with the air conditioner blowing in his face. This worked out good for me because my parents are always on the go and require me to be restrained in the car. They bought a car harness made by Kurgo and another harness made by Julius K9. There is a recent article on this subject by Karen Siegel of Active Captain which is very good and can be found at <http://www.takingpaws.com/>

Since I would be 16 weeks old for the return trip with all my shots, my parents planned a three-day slow trip back to Florida staying at La Quinta hotels. This got me used to the traveling lifestyle and I enjoyed it. My parents stayed a week in Missouri, training in the day

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and staying at their hotel in Branson at night. I practiced taking the elevator while at the hotel. This got me gradually acquainted with traveling in the car, going to restaurants and staying at hotels but yet I got to see my family of dogs in the day. This worked out very well, as it was really my parents that were being trained and I had a good time with all my dog friends swimming in the lake!

Since we have been home, we have been very busy. I had a relaxed visit with the local Vet who was very interested in our breed. The Vet talked so much I fell asleep on the table! He said I was very healthy and gave my parents a letter for the Healthy Paws Insurance. Also, I am being crate trained and have a playpen. I have the big area on the lanai that has a pool fence. When I am older I will be allowed to go out a dog door to the lanai to potty. I first learned to potty outside, then on the lanai on a pee pad and then out on the boat. They took the pee pad from the lanai out to the boat deck and I peed on it. What else was I to do at 6 AM in the morning with a life jacket on! I also, go once a week to Obedience Class to learn manners and meet more dogs. This is a continuation of my farm training.

I take walks around my neighborhood and meet the big orange school bus with all the little ones petting me. I go to all kinds of stores like Home Depot to meet people. The other day we went to the Fire Station to smell the trucks and the fireman's lockers. I even poked my nose down in their big boots. I also went out to the boat while my Dad started the two big Caterpillar engines and all of his radios. This did not bother me too much because we had a big Harley at the farm. We have also been swimming in the pool and retrieving. My parents have taught me to enter and exit on the pool steps. This will prepare me for the boat and all the romps on beaches in the future.

For fun we go to the Tiki Hut where there is a sand box next to the volleyball court. I think they made this sand box just for me! Life is good for me, a Lagotto Sea Dog. We are now preparing to go out on the boat for a couple days. I will keep you posted on my trip to sea and to the nearby white sand beaches. 🐶



It is official!

The Lagotto Romagnolo is now a recognized member of the Sporting Group. On July 1, after several years in the Miscellaneous Group, and having been a part of the AKC FSS, Foundation Stock Service since early 2000, we are now able to show in conformation competition, with winners advancing to the Sporting Group competition and hopefully someday we may see the Lagotto as Best in Show! The next few pages will honor our show exhibitors and the beautiful dogs in our club.



Pictured is a cake celebrating one of the first competitions for our breed in AKC provided by Toni Kay-Wolff

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AKC Dog Shows Hello Sporting Group!



Good times at the first Sporting dog event for the Lagotto in Arizona. Showing at the Flagstaff Kennel Club shows were Robin Morehouse and Sherry, Adrienne Perry, Amy and Blair Dickey, Cindy, Miles Prince, and Jane Lash.



Dolce Vita Pienza "Wilma" owned by Christine Stenner wins a Group 4. This was the 1st Group Win for a Lagotto. Morristown, NJ, Twin Oaks KC

LRCA Member Dog Rankings from Canine Chronicle* report

New Stats - Sporting Group - Lagotto Romagnolo Jan 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

NAME	SEX	POINTS	LRCA Member Owner
Pinon Massaggero Di Pinon CM (3)	M	228	Robin. Morehouse
CH Dolce Vita Pienza (4)	F	104	Christine Stenner
CH Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Adriano CM2 CGC(6)	M	24	Carolyn Talbert/Jim Talbert
Nostryffeln Ottima Opera CM BN RN (7)	F	22	Adrienne Perry/Jane Lash
Dig'N Il Principe Della Pineta (7)	M	22	Robin Morehouse
CH Boardwalk Fiesta (9)	F	18	M. Amis/Kendall Walters
CH Comes Cordis Orcia CM (10)	F	12	Sandy Mignogna
Lk Benedetto CGC (14)	M	5	Jean Davis-Burger
Siena CM (15)	F	4	Lisa Sobon/Robert Sobon
Flying Curls Jackson(15)	M	4	J. Rosenthal
Metanoia Gelato Dalla Baia CM CGC (19)	M	3	Carolyn Talbert/Jim Talbert
Dolce Vita Livia	F	2	Sandy Mignogna
Dck Sir Luigi Amico Mio	M	1	L. Glick/Renee Glick

Congratulations to All!

*number in () is ranking for top 20 in Breed

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LK Peter Pan CM1 "Volo" owned and shown by Toni Kay-Wolff, also shown by S Janner



Sophia owned by Lisa Sobon, handler: B McFadden



Cuore nel Cielo Aurora, Owned and handled by Rebecca McKnight



Robin Morehouse with Pinon Massaggero di Pinon CM (on right #4 showing in Italy)

Points Ranking for Lagotto Romagnolo (2015)

Today's Date: October 23, 2015

LRCA members

Owner-handler ranking

Rank	Dog Name	Owner Name	Sex	OHS Points
No. 1	CH Nostryffels Ottima Opera CM BN RN	Adrienne Perry/Jane Lash	Bitch	55
No. 3	Dig'N Delicious Cous Cous CM	Robin Morehouse	Bitch	25
No. 4	Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Quinzia	Lynn Dawson Looper	Bitch	10
	Lk Renedetto CGC	Jean Davis-Rarger	Dog	10
No. 6	CH Boardwalk Fiesta	Meck Amls/KENDAL WALTERS	Bitch	5
	CH Comes Cordis Orcia CM	Sandra Mignogna	Bitch	5
	Dck Sir Luigi Amico Mio	Larry Glick/Renee Glick	Dog	5
	Dig'N Il Principe Della Pineta	Robin Morehouse	Dog	5
	Invidia De La Foret Des Hauts De Galgais	Lisa Sobon/Robert Sobon	Bitch	5
	Kan Trace Ondine	Kendal Walters/David Walters	Bitch	5
	Siena CM	Lisa Sobon/Robert Sobon	Bitch	5

Club News, Notes and Events

2016 Membership Renewal

It is almost time for the annual membership renewal process. This is the first renewal with our new membership database which should make the renewals much easier. However, since this is the first time with this new process we do expect there will be questions from the membership.

The new system will automatically generate an email reminding you of the renewal on Dec. 15. If you have not been receiving other information from the club via email be sure to check your online member profile and update your email address if needed. Also check any spam filters for '@lagotto.us' emails.

Important reminders about renewal:

- Dues are payable on or before January 31, 2016.
- In order to renew your membership you MUST log onto the LRCA web site. A few questions in your member profile are required to be answered in order to renew. These questions would have been part of the original membership application and those fields were not imported when the new system was set up.
- Members that previously paid for multiple years may not receive a notice to renew however we strongly encourage you to log in and check your membership profile for accuracy.

Note: multiple year renewals are no longer accepted

- A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid after March 1, 2016.

The LRCA Board of Directors has approved the following annual membership dues, effective January 1, 2016

Associate and Junior \$20

International \$30

Regular \$40

Household \$50

Dues paid by December 31, 2015 will be at the prior year's rate. Dues paid after January 1, 2016 will be at the new approved rate

When you log into the web site click on your name at the top.

It will bring up this page with your profile info and you can click on the "Renew Until January..." button and follow the directions. It will ask you to fill out fields in your profile to update them. Some fields are required but did not get filled when we moved to the new system so this will be a chance to get that info updated for everyone.

Radunos and Gatherings



3rd annual Northern California Lagotto get together was held July 26th. We had a great group of people and 17 Lagotti in attendance. The Lagotti took advantage of the pool while their people enjoyed some food wine and friends. We were all thrilled to see Stacy O'Toole and her Truffle dog Mila give their demonstration on two different types of truffles. She used the truffles provided by Alana from the Truffle Dog Company which were Perigords from Australia and summer burgundy truffles. Since Perigords are very expensive and difficult to come by it was a great opportunity to see them and watch a dog trained in hunting them. Perigords are the truffle of choice for the majority of the truffierres planted in our local California area. A huge thank you to Alana Magee to The Truffle Dog Company for sending truffle samples for us to take with us and providing info (and discounts!) for the online truffle dog training class. Great friends, food, fun and fantastic Lagotti...couldn't ask for a better day!

Pacific Northwest Gathering - 2015 PNW Lagotto Raduno The Raduno was held July 11, 2015 in Seattle. Fourteen lagotti and 18 human companions had a fun afternoon. Therese Williams of Montagne del Mare gave a grooming demonstration and a just for fun rally course was set up for the teams to try. A fabulous potluck feast was enjoyed by all. humans: Jan Danielson, Riley Starks, Patti Fischer, Launie Fairbairn, Hanne and Jenna Rentale, Sunny Diaz, Mr. and Mrs DiJulio, Dan and Therese Williams, Laura Mack, Dawn and Paul Meiklejohn, Cindy and, Mark Oliveto, Linda Tip-pens and Alana McGee..



LRCA Board Meeting Highlights

Collected by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

These are unofficial notes from the club Board Meetings summarized by Hilarie Gibb-Sykes. Go to the club website to see all agendas, committee reports and official minutes. www.lagottous.com

Board Meeting - June 14, 2015

1. The LRCA will be presenting a Judges' Education Seminar in Greeley, CO in August. Dogs in show coat are needed for the hands-on portion of the presentation.
2. Any member interested in serving on the nominating committee should contact Recording Secretary Leslie Arner.
3. Policy & procedure along with an application, for members' use of the club logo has been completed and submitted to the Board for review and approval.
4. The Recording Secretary and the Corresponding Secretary have created a Members Forum on the LRCA website.

Board Meeting July, 2015 – cancelled

Board Meeting - August 2, 2015

1. The annual meeting will be held at a time and date to be announced this fall.
2. The application & sponsor forms and the sponsor guidelines for associate members wishing to apply for active membership have been approved.
3. The Board voted to increase annual dues, effective January 1, 2016, as follows:

Associate and Junior –\$20

International –\$30

Regular –\$40

Household - \$50

4. Requirements for use of the LRCA logo and the form to request the use of the logo by members on their websites have been approved.
5. Jeffrey Fischer was appointed to chair the first LRCA National Specialty Committee.
6. Treasurer Bill Wilson submitted his resignation on June 26, to be effective August 31.
7. Volunteers are needed for AKC's Responsible Dog Owners Day in Raleigh, NC in September – please contact Sandy Mignogna if you are interested.
8. The Board voted to hold the annual meeting on September 20, 2015

Board Meeting - September 13, 2015 (taken from committee reports as minutes will not be posted until approved at the October Board meeting)

1. Judges Education seminars – the Greeley, CO presentation was well received. Currently there are JE presentations scheduled for Florida this Dec during the Eukanuba show and in 2016 during January in Oregon at the Rose City Classic cluster and San Francisco at the Cow Palace cluster.
2. Due to lack of volunteers the LRCA had to cancel participation in the AKC's RDOD event in Raleigh, NC.
3. The March, 2016 cluster in Texas is no longer under consideration as the site for our 2016 National Specialty due to the results of the member survey.

ANNUAL MEETING

September 20, 2015– (from my notes as no committee reports are yet available) Approximately 40 members in attendance.

1. Adrienne Perry, Chair, Judges Education reported that there are a total of 4 JE seminars that have been or will be held in 2015 plus 3 more in the

Other Shows

Zoila Einem showing in American Rare Breed Assoc. and Kennel Club USA with her boy Pinocchio di Terra Incognita - 4th place in Tournament of Champions. Her girl Jarcella dei Terra Incognita won 4 Best in Shows in the Altered Class.



works.

2. Lisa Sobon, Chair, Marketing Committee, reported that volunteers are needed for this committee.
3. Kendal Amis Walters, is the new interim Corresponding Secretary.
4. It was announced that the breed will be "ramp optional" for conformation judging effective January 1, 2016.
5. A motion made to instruct the Board to replace one member of the nominating committee, all of whom were from the western half of the US, with a member from the eastern half of the US in order to bring the committee into conformance with the bylaws was defeated.
6. Jeffrey Fischer, Chair, National Specialty Committee, reported that he has found suitable hotel and banquet facilities in Perry, GA for the National Specialty which will be held on Sunday, April 17 in conjunction with the Peach Blossom Cluster.
7. Volunteers are needed for the National Specialty committees. Auction items and donations for trophies are also needed – check the LRCA website for sign up pages for committees and donations.
8. The LRCA is filing the application for AKC member club status.
9. Leslie Arner and Liz Williams received the Spark Plug awards this year for their work on the membership and the website committees.

Board Meeting October, 11 2015 – cancelled due to lack of a quorum 🐶

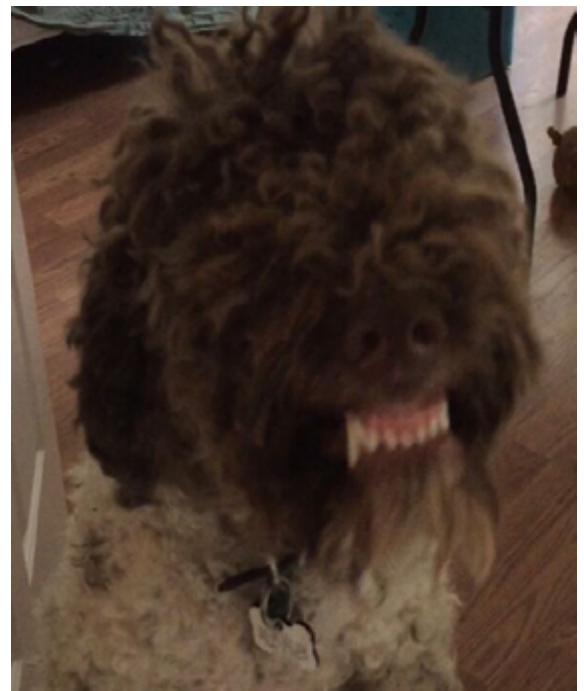
Other Shows

Caliente All Breed Canine Assoc. - United Kennel Club.



July 15 - First AKC show in Ventura CA for our Lagotti. Shown is the lineup of exhibitors on the left. On the right, checking out the celebration cake.





Amy Dickey's 11-yr-old son, Miles Prince, wrote the following : "Era is a nice dog. It's not that hard to train her. I taught her how to smile. First I said, "Smile," and I did a face. It caught on with Era." Miles and Era have taken the AKC Star puppy class together as well as the Canine Good Citizen class. Miles and Era make a great team. They are both energetic, fun, loving and respectful of each other.

LRCA Northeast Raduno - Colmar PA

Come Join Us!! As we celebrate the Lagotto Romagnolo
Saturday, November 7th from 10AM to 4PM

At the K9 Jym, 252 Bethlehem Pike, Colmar, PA

We have a fun-filled and informative day planned that will include various canine activities and demonstrations. This is a chance to meet with others that share your interest in the Lagotto Romagnolo, and their dogs too!

Join us for:

Canine Good Citizen Testing

"Ask the Trainer" about any and all training issues

Grooming demonstration

Best trick competition...so get training!

Free playtime in a 5000 sq. ft. indoor, padded canine arena. Catered lunch and snacks. If there is enough interest, we can meet for additional activities on evening and/or Sunday. Please express your interest when sending in confirmation to attend.

Cost is \$30 per adult, \$10 per child (14 & under). Note whether you are interested in attending Friday evening or Sunday activities.

Pet-friendly hotel will offer a group discount (you must mention "Lagotto" for a discount!): Comfort Inn (Montgomeryville): 215-361-3600 \$92.65 + \$25 pet fee.

Suggested items to bring: Chairs, dog crate or exercise pen, drinking bowl, treats.

Questions?

Email Sandy at: dvlagotto@hotmail.com



BFJE update

reported by Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes

Behavioral Abnormalities in BFJE Affected Lagotti European researchers continue to study health issues affecting our breed. This most recent report deals with the question of behavioral issues in Lagotto affected with BFJE (Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy). I have summarized the report, which was published in the Journal of Veterinary Medicine in April of this year and is available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jvim.12611/full> Hilarie H Gibbs-Sykes

Background:

BFJE (Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy) is an inherited seizure disorder of dogs known to occur only in the Lagotto Romagnolo. Symptoms in affected puppies typically begin as early as 5 weeks and continue until remission at up to 13 weeks. Symptoms range from barely observable head or leg tremors to full blown seizures.

In the spring of 2008, Professor Lohi's research group at the University of Helsinki, Finland, announced the discovery of the gene responsible for BFJE. Results of the research showed BFJE to have an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance, meaning that a puppy must receive one BFJE gene from each parent to be affected.

Researchers also developed a DNA test that would allow the genetic status of a dog to be determined. Dogs with no copy of the gene are referred to as "Normal" or "Clear"; dogs with one copy are "Carriers" and dogs with two copies are "Affected". By ensuring that at least one parent in any breeding is a Normal or Clear no affected puppies would be produced. Although symptoms disappear, concern exists amongst the Lagotto community about the long term outcome for affected dogs. Recently the results of a study in which the behavior of affected Lagotti was compared to that of unaffected Lagotti were published.

Behavioral Study:

Researchers at the University of Helsinki, Finland carried out an extensive follow-up study on BFJE affected dogs, the results of which have been published in the Journal of Veterinary Medicine in April of this year. In a multi-departmental study in conjunction with the Hospital for Children and Adolescents, Tarja Jokinen and a team of researchers investigated the possibility of behavioral abnormalities in Lagotto Romagnolo affected with BFJE.

Utilizing online questionnaires and follow-up telephone interviews, the research team collected data on the activity level, impulsiveness and inattention of each enrolled dog.

Ultimately researchers ended up with a group of 25 affected BFJE dogs and a control group of 91 non-affected dogs ranging in age from 4 years to 12+ years. Percentages of gender were similar in both groups.

Results:

The BFJE affected dogs had significantly higher scores for excitability/impulsiveness and inattention than the control group did. There were no differences between the BFJE dogs that had been mildly affected and those that had been more severely affected with BFJE. Analysis of the behavioral scores based on gender showed no differences for excitability/impulsiveness and inattention scores. However significant differences were found based on analysis of the neutering factor, with both neutered males and females showing higher scores for aggression.

With the exception of one dog that had a seizure at the age of 8 months, the BFJE affected dogs did not experience seizures after puppyhood 🐶.

New Associate Members

July:

Jackie Ricotta - Newtown, Pennsylvania
Ben Sturgill - Portland, Oregon
Jeffrey Fischer - Jenks Oklahoma
Kim Kopelman - Atlanta Georgia
Sarah Turgeon - Brewer, Maine
Tanna Wagenmann - Williams, Arizona
Cynthia Crabtree - Eagle' Idaho
Cecilia Davis - Seattle Washington
Ali Salamey - Novi, Michigan

August

Margeret Ahern - Santa Rosa, CA
Betty Richmeier - Denver, Colorado
Diane Vickery - Dillsburg, Pennsylvania

September

Judith Allen - West End, North Carolina
Shellen Costello - Daykin, Nebraska
Sally Renee - Port Townsend, Washington
Sherry Beckman - Bedford, New York
Lois Martin - Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Lynn Looper - Granite Falls, North Carolina



The Holidays will soon be here! All club members are invited to send photos, greetings, holiday recipes, stories, poems and anything about celebrating Christmas, New Years, Channuka or winter fun.

Deadline is Dec. 5
send to Bollettino@LagottoUS.com



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 papers to see if your dog has a limited (from breeding) registration?
5. Have you reviewed the LRCA Code of 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 on LSD testing to make sure you are in compliance with future breedings.



Happy Birthday, Lagotto!

On August 10th 2015, the Lagotto discussion group celebrated their 16th birthday!

In 1999, Hilarie and I saw the need for a means to draw Lagotto owners together to discuss this new breed.

The result was the “Lagotto list” <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Lagotto/info>

Since that date we have discussed any breed related topic, and a few that aren’t about our breed, but are of general interest. This group provided the nucleus for what would become the AKC parent club for the breed, the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America. In the past 16 years we have welcomed over 3000 members. While many have joined, found a puppy, and moved on, we enjoy a core group of over 1300 Lagotto members today for which we are very grateful!

Through the Lagotto group you first met Waldo, who will always be America’s Lagotto. It was through this group that you were introduced to such Lagotto notables as Da Suze, Benni, The Litter of Eleven, Meta, and Adrina.

We’ve followed the show careers of Augusto and Mario, Bella Nina, and Terzo, and continue to follow some of them today. And all the while, we have developed a sense of camaraderie that hasn’t been matched anywhere else! We cried with each other over the sudden loss of Matteo, and most recently, of Waldo. And we stood together in support when the UK Lagotto agility team first competed at Crufts.

On the Lagotto list you first heard about CA, and we were the first to ask questions about eye abnormalities in the breed. We have discussed every known Lagotto health issue, and have even entertained the thoughts of some who promoted breeding with your heart instead of your head. All have been welcome, for we know that the strength in a community comes from the diverse opinions held by the members, not from a group of think-alikes.

Finally, but perhaps most important in the list of “firsts”, the Lagotto list is the home of the Lagotto Breed Ambassadors. It is through this discussion group that Lagotto and their owners have volunteered to meet folks interested in the breed. An untold number of friendships began through our Breed Ambassadors program and we are still accepting new Breed Ambassadors today!

We are a well known group, and welcome new members daily. If you would like to join a group where you can ask questions, share stories, and are assured of getting the facts, you’re welcome to join us. We are focused, not fanatical. We’re dedicated, not demanding, And most of all, we are welcoming, not elitist. Membership in the Lagotto discussion group comes without charge, and the only expectation we have is that our members will be as nice to each other as are our Lagotto.

Happy 16th Birthday, Lagotto!

Join at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Lagotto/info>

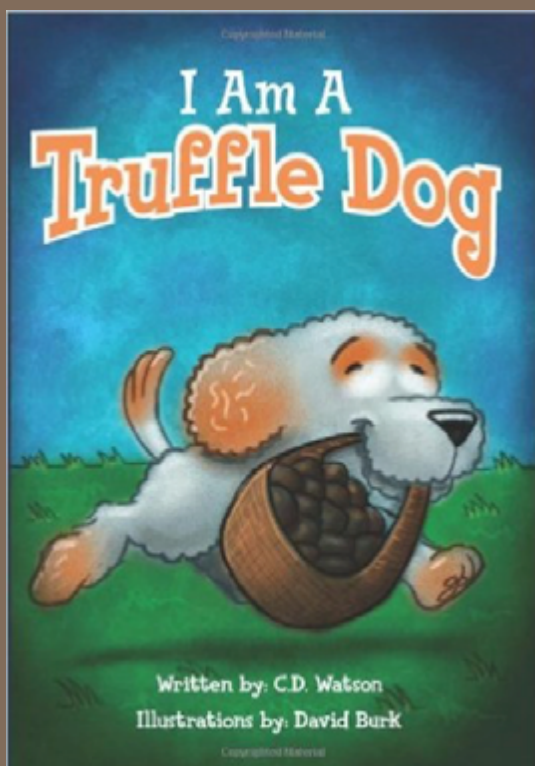
Mel Sykes and Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes lagottotn@gmail.com
lagotto-owner@yahoogroups.com





2016 Lagotto Calendars are now on sale
<http://lagottous.com/LRCA-store>

Paid Advertisement

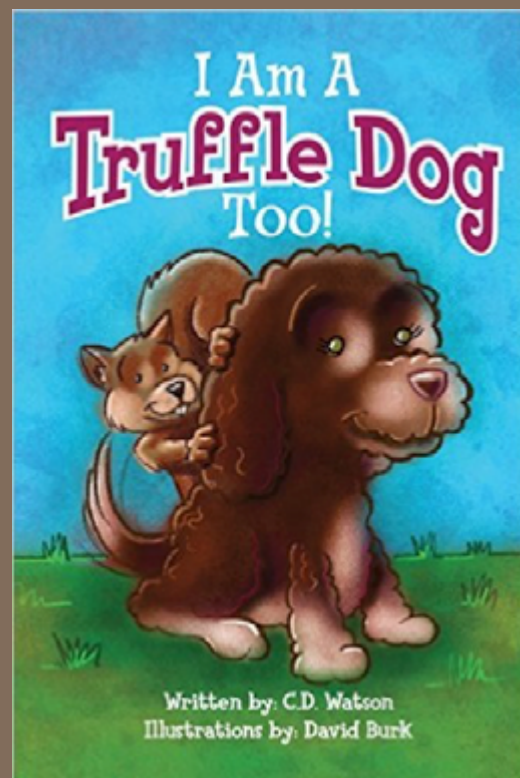


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for the
Holidays*

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Luca is a truffle dog. He wants to be a great truffle dog but he doesn't know what a truffle is! He finds lots of interesting things on his adventures to bring home a rare truffle. Winner of the Mom's Choice Gold Seal honoring excellence.

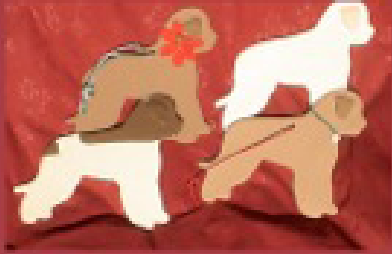


Lucia's big brother Luca is a great truffle dog. Lucia wants to follow in Luca's pawprints. She goes to school to learn how to hunt for truffles but Lucia finds a different path. Share the adventures as Lucia learns to use her unique talents in very special ways in I Am a Truffle Dog Too!

Lagotto



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Upcoming Events

November 08, 2015

LRCA Board Meeting

December 12-13, 2015

AKC/Eukanuba National Championship
Orange County Convention Center Orlando, FL

February 15-16, 2016

Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Madison
Square Garden, NYC

Board Meetings are held on 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30 EDT. Contact club Secretary if you would like to attend. Secretary@LagottoUS.com

LRCA Board Members for 2015

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