



# *Lagotto Club of America*



## *Code of Ethics*

### **1. General Conduct**

As a member of the Lagotto Club of America (LCOA), I

- A) Consider the welfare of the breed and refrain from actions contrary to the best interests of the breed or the Club.
- B) Give my dogs an appropriate physical and social environment, including but not limited to veterinarian-supervised health care, good nutrition and regular exercise and grooming.
- C) I accept and support the Constitution and Bylaws of LCOA
- D) Demonstrate courtesy and fairness when participating in all canine activities.
- E) Am responsible for the behavior of my dogs, so they reflect the best possible image of the Lagotto Romagnolo.
- F) Promote responsible dog ownership.
- G) Help educate the public by providing current and accurate resources and information on the breed characteristics, general well being, grooming, health and training of Lagotti.
- H) Agree to be open and honest in all matters regarding my Lagotti and the breed in general.
- I) Advertise factually and honestly about Lagotti.
- J) Understand that violation of this COE can subject me to the disciplinary process provided by the LCOA Constitution and Bylaws.

### **2. Breeding Lagotti.**

As a breeder of Lagotto Romagnolo, I:

- A) Only breed dogs whose progeny are eligible for future AKC registration.
- B) Breed for the characteristics set forth in the Official Standard of the Lagotto Romagnolo (“The Standard”).
- C) Use only breeding stock
  - 1) With sound temperament,
  - 2) In good health,
  - 3) With no known hereditary or congenital diseases, and
  - 4) Test free of parasites and communicable diseases.
- D) Breed only mature dogs and bitches.
  - 1) I only breed bitches who are 18 months of age or older. If I breed a bitch on two successive seasons or twice within 12 months, I do not breed her during her next two seasons or 12-month period.



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- 2) I only breed dogs who are 12 months of age or older.
- E) Do not breed any individual dog or bitch excessively.
- F) Am knowledgeable about the genetic diseases affecting Lagotto and work to manage these and other diseases.
  - 1) My breeding stock over two years of age is OFA certified for hips or meets the average mean for Lagotto using PennHIP. Any breeding stock under two years of age is OFA Preliminary evaluated for hips or meets the average mean for Lagotto using PennHIP.
  - 2) My breeding stock's eyes are examined by a Board certified ophthalmologist prior to the first breeding and a minimum of every two years thereafter while being bred or until age 10, whichever is later; dogs whose semen has been frozen are tested for life or until frozen semen is no longer stored.
  - 3) My breeding stock undergoes blood and urine testing, including blood chemistry panel, CBC, urinalysis before the first breeding and at least annually thereafter
  - 4) I keep accurate health records on my breeding stock.
- G) Use a written stud dog contract for each breeding.
- H) Participate in conformation events held by Conformation clubs if at all possible, as one means to evaluate breeding stock.
- I) Mentor those with whom I place breeding stock.

### **3. Placing Lagotti**

As an owner, breeder or member who places Lagotti in new homes, I:

- A) Make careful placements of all Lagotti I have bred, acquired or rescued and assist in any necessary re-homings.
- B) Neither place Lagotti with nor provide stud dog service to:
  - 1) Pet dealers,
  - 2) Wholesalers,
  - 3) Brokers,
  - 4) Laboratories,
  - 5) Individuals conducting raffles, contests, auctions, or other types of giveaways, or
  - 6) Anyone unethical in their dealings with the public or their dealings with or treatment of purebred dogs.



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- C) Only place Lagotto puppies who are at least 7 weeks of age, in good health, of sound temperament and in good condition at the time of delivery. I attest they are free of internal parasites and are protected against disease according to current veterinary practice.
- D) Require that:
  - 1) Non-breeding dogs resulting from breedings by me be spayed or neutered,
  - 2) Owners advise me of any health problems, physical abnormalities and/or death of the dog and
  - 3) Owners advise me of their intent to place or give up the dog.
- E) Provide new owners at the time of placement with
  - 1) AKC FSS registration transfer or application form; for non-breeding dogs, I provide for either limited or non-breeding registrations or withhold registration papers until proof of spaying or neutering has been received,
  - 2) An accurate 4-generation pedigree,
  - 3) Complete medical records,
  - 4) Complete written instructions on feeding, health care, training and grooming, and
  - 5) A written contract or bill of sale
- F) Support new owners with advice, resources and information.

### **4. Competing with Lagotti**

As an owner or handler of a Lagotto at any dog event, I:

- A) Am responsible for the dog's well being, conduct and appearance.
- B) Compete with dogs that reflect the best possible image of the Lagotto.
  - 1) In conformation events, my dogs conform as closely as possible to the breed Standard as approved in the country of exhibition.
  - 2) In companion dog events, my dogs are neat, clean and in appropriate condition for their sport.
- C) Conduct myself in a professional and sportsmanlike manner at dog events and at public facilities supporting those events, reflecting the best possible image of participants in the sport of purebred dogs.
- D) Assist newcomers interested in learning about or participating in events

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This document consists of Three (3) pages.