



Welcome From Our President

Season's Greetings to All



Judith Martin

LCA President

Welcome to the first edition of the Lagotto Club of America newsletter. This time of year we try and remember all of our friends and acquaintances, and being part of this group, well, I have made so many new friends, and hope we can continue a long and rewarding relationship for many years to come.

Please accept my warmest wishes to all of you during a time of so many celebrations around the world. Happy 2008!

...and now a little more about our President.....

I got my first show dog in 1993. We wanted a Wheaten Terrier and ended up with a show dog. I was hooked. I love the world of showing and breeding. It is a thrill to have impact of the future generations of a breed of dog; however, it can be a sobering experience as well.

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2007 Was Our Building Year

A review of the LCA

Judith Martin

President

Dear Lagotto friends,

This has been an exciting year in the US Lagotto World. In January, a small but dedicated group volunteered to be Officers and Board Members to begin what is now Lagotto Club of America. We agreed upon a Constitution, Bylaws, a Code of Ethics and Mission for our fledgling club. Since we lived all over the country, we agreed to hold meetings electronically. We have used *Instant Messaging* and conference calls and have finally settled into using Skype VOIP calling to communicate for our Board Meetings. When we first began, we held meetings every two weeks and now hold monthly meetings. Your Board consists of myself in Arizona as your President, Bob Zimmel of Connecticut as your Vice President, Mel Sykes of Tennessee (also our list owner on the Lagotto list) as our Secretary, Scott Carver of Arizona as our Treasurer, and as Directors, Therese Williams of Washington, Ken Weiss of Ohio, and Lisa Erdekian of Massachusetts. We have tried to represent all areas of the US and have done fairly well.

We look forward to the future of the Lagotto breed in the US and with all of your help; we shall be a great club representing a great breed.

Some noteworthy events of this year include a write up in Dog Fancy magazine in May 07 issue. As of January 2008, AKC Foundation Stock Service registered Lagotti may compete in Performance events at any All-Breed show.

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There is also a lot of responsibility.

I researched the Lagotto breed for about 1.5 years before getting our first import from Croatia, Adrina. A year later we got Merlino from Italy. We recently added another to our Lagotto family, Vando from Italy. We brought him back with us from our trip to Italy in Oct.- Nov. of this year. I am excited about this breed and look forward to the day when I will be able to whelp my first litter of puppies.

My professional background is Graphic Design and Computer Graphics. I have always been an artist and then went into the field of advertising and graphics. I enjoy lots of activities, but our favorite is with my husband John taking our dogs in our motor home and exploring the US. Our dogs are very well traveled.

I am a native of Michigan and moved to Arizona about 10 years ago and love the desert southwest.

A Trip to Italy

*CIL (Club Italiano Lagotto) show in Bagnara, Italy
Saturday, October 20, 2007*

The air was crisp as 100 Lagotti and their owners and handlers gathered at the estate of Dr. Giovanni Morsiani in Bagnara, Italy. People from all over the world had assembled on these beautiful grounds, including 6 people from the US. Attending the shows were Judith Martin, President of Lagotto Club of America and her husband, John. LCA Vice President, Bob Zimmel brought his stud dog, FCI World Champion Gigi de la Metaurense. Club member, Martha Schneider, handled Gigi in the competition. Also from the LCA were Hilarie Sykes, LCA representative to the CIL, and Jocelyn Slatin. We represented the states of Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland, and Tennessee.

Besides our US group, there were people in attendance from many other countries including England, France, Scandinavia, Slovakia and Hungary. It was a great experience to meet some of the people we had corresponded with over the years or had visited their websites.

There were so many beautiful Lagotti in all colors and ages. The show was interesting in that each dog got a verbal critique by Judge Giovanni Morsiani and a copy of the critique in writing. Dr. Morsiani also tried to translate his critique into the language of the handler. This was the largest entry in the history of these shows and particularly interesting in that so many countries were represented. It was truly an international Lagotto Show.

At the conclusion of the show, there was a gathering to see a DVD about truffle hunting and training that has been produced in both Italian and English for sale. The CIL donated a copy of the DVD with a printed pamphlet on the breed standard to our new club. Bob Zimmel won an award for having traveled the longest distance to show his dog.

At that time, we were also treated to a viewing of a self-portrait painting of the artist with his dog and his mother in which the dog has the most prominent position in the composition. The dog is a very correctly conformed Lagotto of the 1600s. To see this, here is the link; <http://www.lagottoromagnolo.org/italia.htm>

On Sunday, October 21, 2007 we assembled in the mountains of Brisighella, Italy for the Truffle hunting competition. We started the morning with hot espresso and cappuccinos and drove over to the assigned areas where each dog entered had the opportunity to be judged on ability to find the truffles. It was hard to get photographs of the dogs in action because we did not want to stand close enough to interfere with the dog and handler's work in the forest. We were able to see the determination of these wonderful dogs as they searched and dug for those hidden treasures under the ground. The weather had not been very favorable during the summer to cause a large crop of these valuable tubers, but the dogs did a wonderful job and it was fun to watch them at work in spite of very cold weather and a bit of snow.

At the end of the competition, we gathered for a wonderful Italian meal. It was great to get better acquainted with Dr. Morsiani and his lovely wife, as well as Fernando Billi, one of the original truffliers in the CIL.

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Could it be a record?

For Treasurer Scott Carver, mid-September provided a night to remember. As a novice breeder, he recaps the events below.

Kan Trace's Augi (Pinetop Arizona) came into her second season in mid-July and was bred to Swiss Teodoro of Golden Comfort (Santa Fe, New Mexico). This is the first litter for both parents! Teo is white with a tinge of orange behind his ears and down his spine! Teo entered the World Championships in Mexico City, Mexico in May 2007 and was awarded Junior Champion. He is a very handsome lad. Augi is also white with a little orange behind the ears.

We had an ultra-sound done the later part of August to see how many puppies she was expecting. The vet could see four, possibly five. It was so incredible to see their little hearts beating and their paws moving around inside. Not having any children of my own, this was my first baby ultra-sound experience and it was really quite exciting!

On Sunday, September 16th, Augi's temperature dropped so I figured that sometime in the next 24 hours she'd give birth. We were sitting at the kitchen table playing Scrabble and Augi was pacing around the room. All of a sudden Augi grunted and half a puppy was hanging outside. I grabbed it in my hands and kept it from falling to the ground. Poor Augi was so scared she ran and hid under the bed. I cleaned up the first little puppy and then pulled Augi out from under the bed. The first little puppy weighed in at 9 5/8 oz. (274 grams). Over the next few hours, she gave birth to 7 more. I knew she looked big, but I was so surprised she had 8 puppies in her. No wonder she could hardly run that last week.

We got her cleaned up and all the puppies in the whelping box with her. She started nursing and we were exhausted, it now being after midnight. I was looking at the puppies in the box and suddenly I saw a lot of blood and something dark. I couldn't believe it. While nursing another puppy slipped out. This happened two more times. Finally at 3:00 AM Monday morning, Augi was finished! 11 beautiful puppies; 5 males and 6 females. They are white, a light cream and a couple are orange!

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I hope to hear news of the first Agility, Obedience, Rally or Tracking Champion Lagotto.

We are taking in new applications for membership regularly and currently have 25 club members (of which 4 are non-US members) representing 13 states. We have established a PayPal account to make it easy to pay dues and have offered a 2008-2010 special priced membership of \$100. We appreciate all of your support. Currently, we are looking for assistance with our newsletters. We will begin by trying to publish about 4 items a year. This is our first attempt and we will improve as time goes by.

Our Board of Directors and Officers have agreed to serve LCA for the year 2008 when we can begin the process of nominations and elections in the Fall. I hope all of you plan to be active in our club, and we always want suggestions and comments from the membership so we may serve you and the breed we love to the best of our ability.

Trip *Continued from page 2*

Mr. Billi hunts for truffles for six hours per day with his dogs during the season. They gave us a tiny truffle the size of the end of a finger and said that the going price for truffles is the same as silver and the tiny piece was worth about 25 Euro.

The day ended with awards to the winners of the truffle hunt with a special award to the highest winner of both beauty the day before and the best of truffle hunting. It was a great experience to meet so many Lagotto lovers, so many Lagotti, and to see the dogs at work.



Dr. and Mrs. Morsiani with LCA President, Judith Martin in Italy.

Record *continued from page 3*

They all weighed 9 ounces or more except the last little girl who was just 6 ounces.

We have two boxes, one for Augi to nurse half the litter and another box for the hungry half. Every few hours we change the nursing pups into one box and put the hungry puppies in with Augi. Day after day and night after night; I now have a much greater appreciation for new mothers!! How do you survive?

It's now been four weeks and I'm surviving on much less sleep. All the puppies have their eyes open, weigh over 3 pounds and are doing well. Their teeth are just coming in, so Augi's interest in feeding them has waned. We now have the fun experience of holding the little puppies and feeding them goat's milk in baby bottles. We have just introduced them to little bowls with rice baby pabulum. Messy but fun!!

Scott is happy to announce that all the puppies have now been adopted and are happy in their new homes.

Here is a photo of the puppies at 7 ½ weeks.



Fun Match, August 2007

Fun Match in Arizona

August 18, 2007

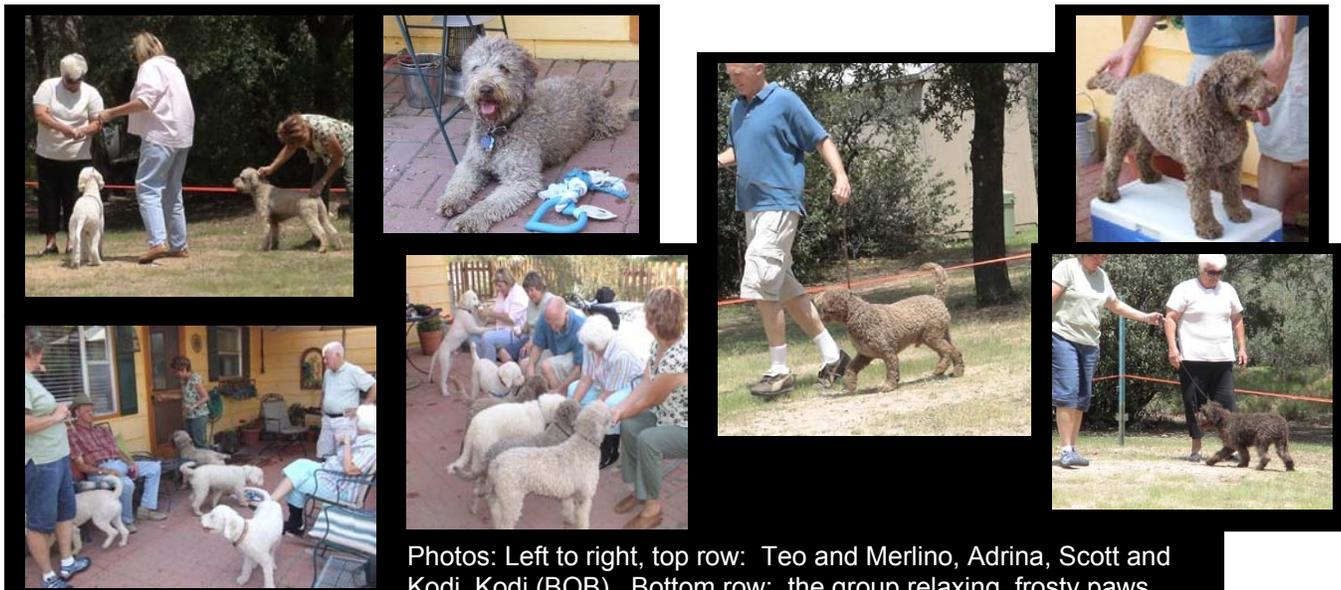
It was a typical sunny beautiful day in Arizona for the first gathering of the Lagotto Club of America, sponsored by the Arizona club members. We had club members from Arizona and New Mexico in attendance, as well as other guests. The site was the property of club member, Jocelyn Slatin of Prescott, Arizona.

Our first activity was our Fun Match Dog Show. Our judge was Sue Spahr, Show Chair of Prescott Kennel Club, long time show breeder of Affenpinschers and Welch Springer Spaniels.

The results of the Match Show were: Dogs: 1st place - Kodi (Carver) imp. Federici of Italy, 2nd place - Georgio (Silbert) imp. Metaurense of Italy, 3rd place Teo (Ganz) imp. Golden Comfort of Switzerland, 4th place - Merlino (Martin) imp. Cry Out of Italy. Bitches: 1st place Ava (Slatin) imp. Federici of Italy, 2nd place - Adrina (Martin) imp Kan Trace of Croatia, 3rd Place - Augi (Carver) imp. Kan Trace of Croatia. Best of Breed went to Kodi, and Best of Opposite Sex went to Ava. Each participant was given a certificate, and Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex were given engraved Loving Cups to honor their wins. We had a handling seminar led by Judith Martin, followed by lunch. After lunch we had a seminar on the Breed Standard, going over all the points of the standard. We had photos of correct coats to evaluate as well. We had a discussion on breeding and whelping that followed. We ended the day by enjoying steaks grilled by John Martin. The high point of the afternoon was the tail wagging contest, won by Adrina, and the Frosty Paws eating contest won by Georgio and Merlino.

The dogs exhibited great manners and were let off leash to play in the courtyard. We had a great day and encourage others to plan an event in their areas.

See photos from this day on the next page.



Photos: Left to right, top row: Teo and Merlino, Adrina, Scott and Kodi, Kodi (BOB). Bottom row: the group relaxing, frosty paws, and Ava and Robin.

LCA Board of Directors

President: Judith Martin, Arizona

Vice-President: Bob Zimmel, Connecticut

Treasurer: Scott Carver, Arizona

Secretary: Mel Sykes, Tennessee

Directors: Lisa Erdekian, Massachusetts (East)

Ken Weiss, Ohio (Central)

Therese Williams, Washington St. (West)

LCA Website: <http://www.lagottous.com/>

AKC Website: http://www.akc.org/breeds/lagotto_romagnolo/index.cfm#pt2

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Please submit them in publication form to:

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Thank You