

# BOLLETTINO

A high-angle photograph of two Lagotto Romagnolo dogs playing in a snowy field. The dog on the left is wearing a light blue sweater and a dark hat, with a blue and white patterned toy in its mouth. The dog on the right is wearing a light blue sweater and a dark hat, with a yellow and green toy in its mouth. The snow is bright white and shows some tracks.

Lagotto Romagnolo  
Club of America

***WINTER***  
***2019***

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Note: Views expressed in the Bollettino are solely those of the author and not necessarily those of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America.

On the Cover:

Vito and Sami make the best of the season

Photo by: Cara Novick

## Welcome

The Bollettino would like to hear from you. We are accepting submissions for articles on the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Training, Nutrition, and Activities. Please include representative photos with your submissions, along with your dog's name, age, and photo caption.

Email submissions to: [Bollettino@LagottoUS.com](mailto:bollettino@lagottoUS.com)



# President's Message

What a wonderful National Specialty we had in York, Pennsylvania, last spring. Jeff Fisher, our Show Chairman, organized an event that was the envy of many. So what is a National Specialty Show? From Wikipedia:

*A specialty show is a dog show which reviews a single breed...A specialty show may be regional or national. A "Best in Show" win at a national specialty show is tremendously prestigious, indicating that the winning dog or bitch triumphed at a contest which attracted entries from the most serious fanciers of that breed in the country or continent. Some specialty shows attract international entries.*



*"The LRCA is the AKC parent club for the Lagotto Romagnolo. We work to preserve and protect the Lagotto Romagnolo and provide education, guidance and mentorship to all who are interested in the welfare and advancement of the breed." One of our goals is to advance the breed. That is why we have conformation (dog show) events. We are attempting to select the best characteristics within the breed to advance those qualities. A good breeder looks for temperament, physical structure, genetics, performance abilities, paternal histories, and other factors to advance and protect the Lagotto Romagnolo. Dog shows are one component in that selection process.*

At our National Specialty, we engaged in social events that provided opportunities for everyone to salute old friends and make new ones. We laughed, ate, and exchanged ideas and photos of our furry children. We were honored to have distinguished judging from Italy with Sr. Gilberto Grandi, who selected the following dogs from an outstanding field of entries. These dogs received an invitation to attend the internationally acclaimed Crufts Dog Show: [www.crufts.org.uk](http://www.crufts.org.uk) in Birmingham, England, to represent the LRCA. As the world's largest dog show, Crufts had over 22,000 dogs entered, including 88 Lagotti.



## LRCA 2019 National Specialty Winners

Award	Registered Dog Name	Call Name	Breeder	Owner
Best of Breed	CH, il Granaio Dei Malatesta Negroni Sbagliato	Ito-Tito	Monica Benelli	Blair Aguillard, M. Benelli & S. Lopez
Best of Opposite	GCH CH, Rozebottel's Strawberrylicious	Berrie	Katrien Van Gemert	Dina Planche & K. Van Gemert
Select Dog	GCHS CH, il Granaio Dei Malatesta Adriano, CM2 SWA BCAT	Cannoli	Monica Benelli	Carolyn & Jim Talbert
Select Bitch	CH, Graziella Del Monte Della Dea	Grazie	Caira Fabrizio	Laurin Howard & B. Miracle
Best Bred By Exhibitor	Bruno Della Fino	Bruno	Robin Morehouse	Robin Morehouse
Best of Winners & Winners Dog	Dolce Vita Star of Wonder	Natale	Sandy Mignogna	Joseph & Maureen Palantino & S. Mignogna
Reserve Winners Dog	Danilovic Di Casa Ghini	Dani	Maurizio Ghini	M. Szauerzopf & S. Manzi
Winners Bitch	Rozebottel's Mumm de Mumm	Ginger	Katrien Van Gemert	Dina Planche & K. Van Gemert
Reserve Winners Bitch	Kan Trace Victoria, CGC TKN	Tori	Sabina Zdunić Šinković	Elaine Randall

Our National Specialty was not just about conformation. In my report and the committee reports: <https://lagottous.com/Annual-Meeting-Documents>, you will find that we had 782 new Lagotti registrations last year for a total of 2,742. You can review the documents and find out where all the Lagotti live. Also, check out the President's Awards given to Sandy Mignogna, Mike Madrid, Dawn Meiklejohn, and Allison Baker.

We have also increased our performance participation with 204 unique performance titles outside of conformation.

Now, I'm no longer a country boy with a dog. I have three Lagotti: Gelato, Cannoli, and Macaroon. They are all family. None of them have "work" to do on the farm. They can just lie around all day as couch potatoes and enjoy the good life. My wife occasionally cooks for them and we keep them in the house, rather than a barn. But that is not enough to have happy Lagotti.

These dogs are intelligent and need a job to keep their brains and bodies stimulated. Agility, coursing, dock diving, obedience, rally, tacking, therapy, and especially scent work are a few of the AKC events that will keep your Lagotti happy and healthy for years down the road. I encourage you to find a local Kennel Club and participate in these events. Post photos on our Facebook page and share your experiences. The rewards will abound and we will tap into many more attributes of this spectacular breed.

- Jim Talbert

Title	Number
Agility	30
Conformation	50
Coursing	2
Dock Diving	4
Obedience	7
Rally	10
Scent Work	83
Tracking	1
Misc.	67
Total	254



Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes and Robin Morehouse (not pictured) are named LRCA Charter Members and receive their lapel pins at LRCA National Specialty.

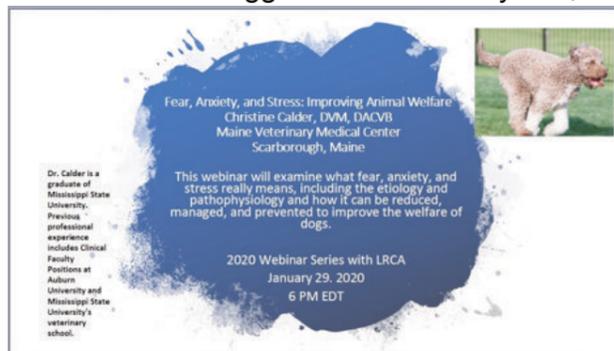
# Club News

**Election of Officers and Directors:** There being no opposition to the slate of the nominating committee submitted to the membership on October 5th, there was no need to ballot the membership. Therefore, the slate of the nominating committee was declared elected.

**Mail Ballot:** In late October, voting members received mail ballots for the proposed revisions to the Breed Standard and the Code of Ethics.

- **Breed Standard:** The Breed Standard has been accepted. The Standard now goes to the AKC Board for approval and, if approved, will go into effect on March 1, 2020. As AKC staff reviewed the Standard before it was put to a vote, it is anticipated that the AKC Board will respond favorably. The revised Breed Standard can be viewed under the breed information tab at: [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com)
- **Code of Ethics:** A revised Code of Ethics (CoE) was also accepted. A major change is that breeders must now send health test results of their breeding stock to the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) to be entered into the OFA public database. When results of all required testing have been submitted, the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), which works in conjunction with OFA, will issue a "CHIC" number for the dog.
- The following tests are now required: PennHIP and/or OFA hip x-rays, patella luxation, CAER eye exam (annually or no more than 12 months prior to breeding), and DNA testing for BFJE and LSD.
- The CoE can be viewed on the home page at: [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com) under Club Documents, on the About LRCA tab.

**Events:** Don't miss our webinar on fear and aggression – January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm ET!



Please email Barry Wagner by January 24<sup>th</sup> at [DirectorBW@lagottous.com](mailto:DirectorBW@lagottous.com) if interested in participating in this webinar titled, "Fear, Anxiety, and Stress: Improving Animal Welfare" by Dr. Christine Calder. Barry will send you a confirmation email on/around January 25th with video instructions for logging on to WebEx. This seminar is free to both members and non-members **who reside in the USA**. LRCA hopes to see you **Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6 PM ET**. We anticipate that the duration of this webinar will be between 60 and 90 minutes.

**Social Media:** At the request of members, a FaceBook page has been established for LRCA members only. The name of the group is "LRCA Members." The group is for the discussion of club business.

**Renewals:** You may have noticed a slight change in the renewal process and documents this year. In order to avoid an almost \$200 increase in annual cost for our website & member management systems, we have moved the payment of dues and fees from PayPal to Affinipay.

## Marketplace



**Window clings/decals** are back! All proceeds go to the Lagotto Romagnolo Dog Rescue and the AKC Canine Health Foundation.



**Sterling silver "coins" in charm or pendant size** are once again available in very limited quantities. These medallions are hand cast. The charm size is approximately that of a quarter, and the pendant size is roughly one inch.

New items have also been added in apparel and accessories. To order merchandise, go to the club store at: [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com)

## Meet our New Board Members



### Kendal Walters, Recording Secretary

Kendal Walters started with the Lagotto Romagnolo breed in early 2014 with a spunky roan girl that soon became one of the first ever Lagotto AKC champions. This began her journey in loving, showing, and raising these water loving dogs. Kendal served on the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America Board of Directors in 2016 and 2017. She is also an active member of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America and was honored with an Outstanding Breeder Achievement award in 2019 by the PWDCA. Kendal has bred many AKC champions and grand champions in both Portuguese Water Dogs and Lagotti Romagnoli.

Kendal is married to David Walters, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, and they currently reside in Illinois with their two sons. She is excited to serve on the board this year and team up with other Lagotto enthusiasts to honor this amazing breed.



### Allison Baker, Director

Allison Baker has been involved in Samoyeds for forty plus years, showing in conformation, agility, obedience, and rally. A few years ago, she started thinking about her next dog and how she would love something smaller. She never could find a breed that really grabbed her heart like the Sammies had, until the AKC sent out a newsletter announcing that the Lagotto was to be fully accepted into the Sporting Group.

Although she doesn't always read the emails from AKC, that weekend she opened the message and there was a photo of a Lagotto with an article about the breed. She was immediately hooked, and that began months of research about the breed, breeders, and puppies. That led to a great relationship with her breeder and, about eighteen months later, a precious puppy. Now her days are filled with training and showing in conformation, agility, obedience, rally, scent work, and a little tracking. She can't imagine how the whole change could have gone any better! She is totally smitten with the breed. Allison has attended all of the LRCA National Specialties and anticipates participating again this year.

Allison is retired from American Express and lives in the New Orleans area with her Lagotto and a 14 ½-year-old Samoyed. She is an officer in her local agility and obedience club that hosts five trials each year. She stays quite busy with training classes, keeping up her house and yard, and, of course, showing.

She is pleased to have been asked to be on the LRCA Board of Directors and looks forward to helping the club provide support and education to the membership.

# The Stack: AKC National Championship - Orlando

"A record number of dogs competed at [the 2019 AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin](#) on Dec. 14 and 15. While 5,284 dogs will compete for the title of National Champion, a total of 11,008 dogs are entered across the entire weekend's events. Surpassing the AKC 1984 Centennial event, the AKC National Championship becomes the largest show in the history of the American Kennel Club.

The event also remains the largest dog show in North America." --AKC Press Release



Winners of the Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Best Bred-By-Exhibitor, Select Dog, Select Bitch, and Awards of Excellence are eligible to enter The Crufts Dog Show 2020 and 2021 in Birmingham England, sponsored by The Kennel Club, UK. Crufts will support entries of about 22,000 dogs from around the world. In 2019 fifty-five countries were represented.



Kent Tsurumaru and Monkey finished 13th out of 149 dogs in the AKC 2019 Agility Invitational Regular Division 16" Jump Height. Their performance was amazing. They had a great run and great fun.

Jean Davis-Barger & Renzo (GCH Dolce Vita Making Spirits Bright) took time to enjoy the festive holiday decorations and bring a smile to everyone.



Meet the Breed was quite spectacular for many breeds. Volunteers are needed for next December's AKC National in Orlando.

Please email: [secretary@lagottous.com](mailto:secretary@lagottous.com)

Results: LAGOTTI ROMAGNOLI, December 14  
Judge: Mrs. Christine E. Calcinari

Award(s)	Best of Breed Competition
<b>Placement</b>	
Best of Breed	GCH CH LARCANS MEYER MADE LEMONADE RN CGC TRN. SS012001/02. 07/08/2017. Dog. BREEDER: Lisa & Robert Sobon. By Gch Ch Friendly Lagotto-Isotta Del Fatalbecco. <b>OWNER: Cindy Pitta &amp; Mary Erickson.</b>
Best of Opposite Sex	GCH ROZEBOTTEL'S MUMM DE MUMM. SS108601/01. 12/23/2017. Bitch. BREEDER: Katrien Van Gemert. By Rozebottle's Big Spender-Gingercreek Truffle Perfect Toffe. <b>OWNER: Dina Planche &amp; Katrein van Gemert.</b> AGENT: Lois DeMers.
Select Dog	KAN TRACE THE LIGHTNING STRIKE. SS024833/02. 04/20/2017. Dog. BREEDER: Sabina Zdunic Sinkovic. By True Line's Crisping-Kan Trace Joy Of My Life. <b>OWNER: Sabina Zdunic Sinkovic.</b> AGENT: Jorge Olivera.
Select Bitch	GCH CH WILHAVEN'S HEAVENLY HASH HAND-DIPPED CGC. SS065523/03. 04/05/2018. Bitch. BREEDER: ELIZABETH WILLIAMS. By GCHS CH DOLCE VITA TALEGGIO-CH WILHAVEN'S DISTINCTIVELY RICH. <b>OWNER: CAROLYN &amp; JAMES M. TALBERT.</b> AGENT: Whitney Ann Meeks.
Judge's Award of Merit 1	GCH LARCANS' JUMPIN' JIVE. SS006870/02. 05/25/2017. Dog. BREEDER: Lisa Sobon and Robert Sobon. By GCHB CH Friendly Lagotto Adriano-CH Invidia de la Foret des Hauts de Galgals. <b>OWNER: Deborah S Kaufman</b>
Judge's Award of Merit 2	CH GRAZIELLA DEL MONTE DELLA DEA. SS052076/01. 08/07/2017. Bitch. BREEDER: Fabrizio Cairra. By Otto-Hiuma del Monte della Dea. <b>OWNER: Laurin Howard and Bryon Miracle.</b>
Winners Dog, Judges Award of Merit 3	VILLEOKUS ALBERTINO DI FEDERICO. SS142794/01. 06/18/2013. BREEDER: Cathrine Sanqvik. By Nostyffelns Federico-Galottens Pictura. <b>OWNER: Cathrine Sanqvik.</b>
	ELLIPSE SAN GIOVANNI BIANCO. SS110519/01. 03/05/2018. Dog. BREEDER: Jana Kadnarova. By Romeo Gorska Fantazja-Solipse Gioia Del Colle. <b>OWNER: Tracey Harris.</b>
	CH IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA LORI BETH. SS092800/01. 06/29/2018. Bitch. BREEDER: Monica Benelli. By IL Granaio Dei Malatesta Tiramisu-IL Granaio Dei Malatesta Carletta. <b>OWNER: Tara Stephenson &amp; Addison &amp; Isabelle Stephenson.</b>
	GCH DOLCE VITA MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT. SS044270/03. 12/21/2017. Dog. BREEDER: Sandra Mignogna. By Romeo Gorska Fantazja-GCH Dolce Vita Livia. <b>OWNER: Jean Davis-Barger.</b>
	IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA YELINA SALAS. SR937806/03. 01/21/2016. Bitch. BREEDER: Monica Benelli. By IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA GIULIANO PALMA-IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA ILEANIA. <b>OWNER: Mark Nelson.</b>
	GCHS CH IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA NEGRONI SBAGLIAT. SR907699/02. 04/23/2015. Dog. BREEDER: Monica Benelli. By IL Granaio Dei Malatesta Dalmazio-IL Granaio Dei Malatesta Elisa. <b>OWNER: Blair Aguilard &amp; Monica Benelli &amp; Sonia Lopez.</b> AGENT: Donald R Powell II.
	HOLLY DI CASA GHINI. SS143633/01. 04/05/2019. Bitch. BREEDER: Maurizio Ghini. By Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Giuliano Palma-Terracing Gorska Fantazja. <b>OWNER: Daniel Williams.</b>
	GCH CH BORIS. SR964006/01. 06/06/2015. Dog. BREEDER: Maurizio Marcelli. By Noe Del Monte Della Dea-Ursala Del Monte Della Dea. <b>OWNER: Andrea Shaffer.</b>
	<b>Puppy Dogs 6 Mos &amp; Under 9 Mos</b>
1 - Resrve Winners Dog	VILLEOKUS ELIOT DI LUCKY. SS151578/01. 77. BREEDER: Catherine Sangvik. By Toshiko's Tu Hu Lucky-Gleska Fair Play. <b>OWNER: Christine Mullen.</b>
	<b>American-Bred Dogs</b>
1	ALLEGRO'S OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE. SS001017/04. 07/09/2017. BREEDER: Adrienne Perry & Jane Lash. By Gch Ch Dolce Vita Taleggio-GchB Ch Nostry Ffelnos Ottima CM BN RN. <b>OWNER: Maryanna &amp; George Herrington &amp; Adrienne Perry.</b>
	<b>Open Dogs</b>
1 - Winners Dog, Judges Award of Merit 3	VILLEOKUS ALBERTINO DI FEDERICO. SS142794/01. 06/18/2013. BREEDER: Cathrine Sanqvik. By Nostyffelns Federico-Galottens Pictura. <b>OWNER: Cathrine Sanqvik.</b>
	<b>Puppy Bitches 6 Mos &amp; Under 9 Mos</b>
1 - Winners Bitch, Best of Winners	VILLEOKUS ELLI DI LUCKY. N06313/19. 06/01/2019. BREEDER: Catherine Sangvik. By Toshuko's Tu-Hu Lucky-Gleska Fair Play. <b>OWNER: Robin Morehouse.</b>
	<b>Puppy Bitches 9 Mos &amp; Under 12 Mos</b>
1	IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA ALINA SOMOVA. SS120114/01. 01/27/2019. BREEDER: MONICA BENELLI. By ARTURO-IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA QUINTINA. <b>OWNER: TARA ISABELLE BUTCH ADDISON STEPHENSON.</b>
	<b>Twelve To Eighteen Month Bitches</b>
1 - Reserve Winners Bitch	SQUISITO'S LAMIA SCERTA. SS086437/01. 10/15/2018. BREEDER: Christine Mullen. By Ch Piñon Molino-GCH Dign's Designer Bellini. <b>OWNER: Christine Mullen.</b>
2	TWO BY TWO PETAL TO THE METAL. SS085001/03. 09/20/2018. BREEDER: Sonia Lopez. By Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Dexter-Ch Twobytwo Walk Like An Egyptian. <b>OWNER: Sonia Lopez.</b> AGENT: Donald R Powell II.
	<b>Open Bitches</b>
1	SQUISITO HERE COMES COTTONTAIL. SS044579/01. 04/01/2018. BREEDER: CHRISTINE MULLEN. By CH GCHG ROZEBOTTEL'S BIG MACK AT GRANDCRU-CH PINON MINNA. <b>OWNER: ADDISON ANN STEPHENSON &amp; ISABELLE SLOAN STEPHENSON.</b>
2	LAIKA DEL CARPINO NERO. SS098934/02. 07/05/2018. BREEDER: Andrea Langianni. By Roy Dei Re D'Abruzzo-Uma Del Monte Della Dea. <b>OWNER: Paula Hefner.</b>
	<b>Veteran Dogs</b>
1	GCHS CH IL GRANAIO DEI MALATESTA ADRIANO CM2 CGC. SR782524/01. 11/01/2012. BREEDER: Monica Benelli. By Bruno Del Monte Della Dea-II Granaio Dei Malatesta Miranda. <b>OWNER: Carolyn Talbert &amp; Jim Talbert.</b> AGENT: Heather Buehner-Helmer.

# Mind Your Manners

## Training with Toni Kay-Wolff

### Oww! That hurts!!

We love our puppies, but we don't love those baby shark teeth! Puppies mouth one another; this is normal. The mouthing can get harder and turn to a bite. That's when you'll hear a puppy yelp or snark at the offender.

Lagotti are not generally mouthy or bite-y as puppies, but every puppy is different. High activity levels in the house can add to a puppy's "sins of enthusiasm," leading to mouthiness. If you have kids, you'll want to watch for this.

It's crucial that puppies learn bite inhibition from one another. What happens when they start mouthing/biting us? Since we never want teeth on human flesh, here are some tips to help.

### Do's:

- Do have plenty of appropriate toys for your puppy to work on. They need to get something in the back of their mouth for the molars as they are breaking through.
- Do be sure your puppy is exercised (as appropriate for their age.)
- Do be sure your puppy is getting enough sleep. Tired puppies aren't always good puppies; sometimes they are cranky and ramp up easily.
- Do be sure to keep your hands moving slowly around their heads and mouth. Moving too fast (kids and men are prone to this) will cause many puppies to ramp up and use their mouths.

If your puppy doesn't give up after trying some of these solutions, try a time out. Simply put your puppy in its crate. No emotion. No "bad dog." You are transportation only. A good ten minutes should be enough. This is not punitive; it's simply cause and effect. You use your mouth on me, I stop playing and you are in time out.

### Don'ts

- Don't pull away if you feel teeth. The movement will cause your puppy to chase and try to grab it. Hold your hand still and give a very loud "OWW!" Say it loud enough that it



startles the puppy and they stop, sit back, and look at you. When they do, stay calm, tell them to do something they know how to do (sit is great) and then you can reward the sit.

- Don't substitute something else to chew on. This is important, as it can create a sequence of mouth/bite, get fun toy to play with or chew. That's when the command to sit works well. You are rewarding the sit, not teaching the puppy that mouthing gets a toy or bone.
- Don't use your hand to correct, hit (even lightly) or hold their muzzle closed. While this might work for experienced trainers or breeders, most puppy owners will have terrible timing and not remove their hand at the right time. Lagotti can be especially sensitive to this kind of negative reinforcement, and you could be teaching your puppy to be wary of your hands near its mouth/face. We definitely don't want that.
- Don't make the mistake of letting a puppy mouth you even though it may not hurt at first. Puppies don't "grow out" of behaviors; they "grow into" them. Anything they practice they get better at!

### What do I give my puppy to chew on?

Here's what I've found works well for puppies. As always, **supervise very closely** with anything you give your puppy that it can swallow:

- Frozen carrots (the big ones, not baby carrots). I like to have a few frozen at once. As it defrosts, I switch them out.
- Frozen wash cloth (soak, twist, freeze)
- 12" Made in America bully sticks (they can get them in the back of their mouths.) Tip: Always get much bigger than you think your pup needs. Take away when it is soft and cut off the ends. Remove when it's 5" long.
- Himalayan Yak Bones (as puppies they can't chip off pieces, but watch anyway.)
- Kong Puppy toy
- Multipet Nuts for Knots Ball Dog toy

- Nylabone Just For Puppies: Key Ring, Bone, and Puppy Dog Teething Chew Toy
- Nylabone Puppy Starter Packs: Puppy Chew Toys

*Toni Kay-Wolff is a professional dog trainer, Lagotto owner, and breeder in Southbury, CT. She has been training dogs and puppies since 1988, and helping families and their dogs has been her passion since she was ten. You can contact her with any questions, any time, at [dogtrnr@mac.com](mailto:dogtrnr@mac.com) Like us on FB: Toni Kay-Wolff, Toni and Tillie, dei Allegre Lagotto Romagnolo and The Well-Mannered Dog. Toni lives with her husband Larry, Lagotti: Tillie, Volo, Ruby and Riker, and rescue English Shepherd, Glory.*



There are still a few **2020 Calendars** available. Order now before they are gone! Follow the links for the calendar on the home page at: [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com)

# The Truffle Report

## December, 2019

As the weather cools and the last leaves fall in the Pacific Northwest, our thoughts turn to truffles. Even the dogs have an extra spring in their step in anticipation of the coming season and the promise of new adventures. In the Willamette Valley, between the Coast and Cascade ranges of Oregon, truffle season usually begins close to Christmastime.

We're early this year. Very early. Because the rains came in August, September, and October, explorative early forays in November have resulted in impressive hauls of both white and black truffles. As of early December, however, they are not fully ripe and will need a few more weeks underground to mature.

Truffle dogs all over the Willamette Valley are brushing up on their scenting skills after a long summer. Hunters are scouting new locations. And truffles are developing their delicious aromas under the forest floor.

My class of prospective hunters is learning to work with their dogs as a team to find the buried treasures. We start in a classroom to learn about the varieties of truffles and their habitat and to introduce the dogs to the scent. Then we move to a local park to learn how to give an alert, discriminate from other scents, ignore distraction and to avoid tracking, as well as other ways our very smart dogs try to cheat. In January, this group of dogs will hunt in a real forest with the assistance of my mentor dog, Gnocchi. Five of my ten students are Lagotti, one as young as four months, and they are all overachievers.

Although any breed of dog can learn to hunt truffles, the Lagotto Romagnolo is particularly well suited to the job. Their medium size and nearly square shape makes for an agile brush jumper. Their curly coat gives protection from the elements. And their willingness to please and propensity to form strong bonds with their people make for an ideal hunting companion.

Orchard owners are beginning their harvest with dogs trained to sniff for the European

black Perigord truffle. These orchards have been planted with truffle infused hazelnut and oak trees in hopes that after five to ten years, they will produce a crop worth far more than grapes, produce, or just about anything else. We are blessed in the Willamette Valley in that almost anything will grow here.

In addition to preparations for forest hunting, we are working with truffle teams gearing up for the Joriad, a truffle hunting competition that takes place every January in Eugene as part of the Oregon Truffle Festival. All truffle hunters who are not professionals are welcome to compete. The event is judged in a dirt-floored horse arena, with the finalists moving on to compete in a truffle producing forest. In this sort of competitive event, the ability to communicate with your dog, to provide clear direction and to read her signals is crucial. It will be fun to see who wins.

Our friends in Washington State are already finding impressive quantities of nice truffles. They have a slightly different climate, and are always a few weeks ahead of us here in Oregon.

It's an exciting time in the Willamette Valley with a full season ahead. The dogs are ready and willing, and we have a lot to look forward to.

--Lisa Brosnan



# Raduno, Party, Meetup: A Look Back at Summer Fun on the West Coast!

If you have been involved with Lagotto for very long, you have likely seen or heard the word “raduno.” Raduno is Italian for “gathering.” US Lagotto aficionados have been holding raduni since the very first one held in Prescott, Arizona, in 2008. In those early years, Lagotto were few and far between, so it was not unusual for people to travel half-way across the country or even from Canada to attend.

Raduni come in many sizes and shapes. They can be as simple as an afternoon meetup of Lagotti and their humans at the beach or the park. Or it might be a two-day event with a mix of structured activities and play times. Activities may include mini classes on show ring handling, nose work, truffle searching, or agility. Some offer fun matches and/or AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen) testing. Probably the best thing about a raduno is that it’s FUN! Based on those we have heard about, you are guaranteed to take home a tired Lagotto!

You can read about past raduni in the archives of the Bollettino, located under the Resources tab at [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com)  
--Hilarie Gibbs Sykes



## Oregon



Carlton, OR Party – June 23  
From Organizer: Lisa Brosnan  
Photos: Liz Williams and Lisa Brosnan

We had a fabulous time at the Second Annual Lagotto Party at Laurel Ridge Winery in Carlton, Oregon. Erin Fogg shared her Lagotto grooming secrets and Liz Williams lent her amazing training skills to introduce the curly ones to agility, rally and tricks. Eight Lagotti earned their Canine Good Citizen titles! Joshua Keroes’ Zucca won the trick contest and Kathleen Fitzgerald’s Darwin won the Second Annual Running of the Lagotto - not an easy feat when you consider that the Lagotto not only has to run fast, but also has to run in the correct direction.

And we raised over \$200 for the Lagotto Foundation’s Tiger Lilly Fund to support research and education on Progressive Cerebellar Abiotrophy.



## Washington



Auburn, WA Raduno - June 22  
From Organizer: Dawn Meiklejohn  
Photos: Therese Williams

The Sixth Annual Raduno for the Pacific Northwest was celebrated with 54 humans and 40 of their dogs! The Lagotti ranged in age from eleven weeks to twelve years. Carrie Hogan presented an encouraging, thoughtful and helpful introduction to truffle dog training. Her handout and Oregon black truffle-filled scent boxes were greatly appreciated.

Everyone brought delicious foods to share. The dogs loved the off-leash areas to run and play at Argus Dog Ranch. Lagotti know their own and were delighted with their family reunion.



## California



Huntington Beach, CA Meetup – August 4  
From Organizer: Debbie Redondo  
Photos: Debbie Redondo

The inaugural SoCal Lagotto meet-up at Huntington Beach Dog Beach was held on August 4<sup>th</sup> and we had a great turnout! 10 Gotti made it to the meet-up, and everyone had a great time. The youngest pup was 5 months old, and the eldest was 10 years (although you’d never know it, as he acted like a 5 month old!).

Everyone got along and had a great time running in the surf and playing chase. My guess is that most weren’t happy with the baths that happened after the event, but hopefully it was all worth it.



# It's Membership Renewal Time!

December brings lots of activity to most households and it's also the time to renew your membership for 2020 with the LRCA. Your membership dues are payable by January 1, 2020. The membership system sent a notice to all members on December 17, 2019. If you did not receive your email, don't panic. Just go to the club website at [www.lagottous.com](http://www.lagottous.com), sign in, and you should see a link to your invoice on the bottom right of your screen.



While you are signed in, please take a moment to make sure your profile information is correct. Just click on your name after signing in. That will take you to your profile. All member profiles should be filled out completely.

Now you're ready to pay your annual dues. You have two options. You can pay by credit card or debit card online or you can mail a check. Your debit/credit card payment will be processed thru AffiniPay. This is a change from the past and was required by our membership management system. It should be an easier process to renew your membership this year and we hope you'll take advantage of this reminder and renew today.

Your dues make it possible for the club to hold events such as webinars, Meet the Breeds, Judges Education and the National Specialty. Your dues and your support of the annual Calendar fundraiser help the club to support Lagotto Romagnolo Dog Rescue and the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Thank you for renewing your membership and for your continued support of your club and the breed.

# Grazie, Arigato, Danke Schön, Merci Beaucoup...

The LRCA is composed of many people focused on one thing-Lagotti. This breed has captured the hearts and focus of many dedicated workers. I could never begin to express the Club's gratitude for all the countless hours its members have committed through Meet the Breed, local gatherings, national specialties, newsletters, committees, and countless other selfless acts. The physical distance in our lives makes it impossible for everyone's actions to be personally lauded. Please know that the Board and I value you and your support and applaud you individually.

This past year, two members have stepped down from their board leadership positions: Cat Dronen as Vice-President, and Debi Fischer as Director. Your service to the club was vital to our future and the protection and preservation of the Lagotto Romagnolo. Grazie, grazie...  
-Jim Talbert, President LRCA

# A Look Ahead to Spring 2020

Lagotto Romagnolo Dog Rescue, Inc.

As our breed becomes more popular and the number of Lagotto in the United States is increasing, the need for a formal rescue is becoming more apparent. Several LRCA members have set up a separate nonprofit organization to serve as a Lagotto Romagnolo rescue.

A website is in the works and will be online soon. Watch for more details in the Spring 2020 Bollettino.

