

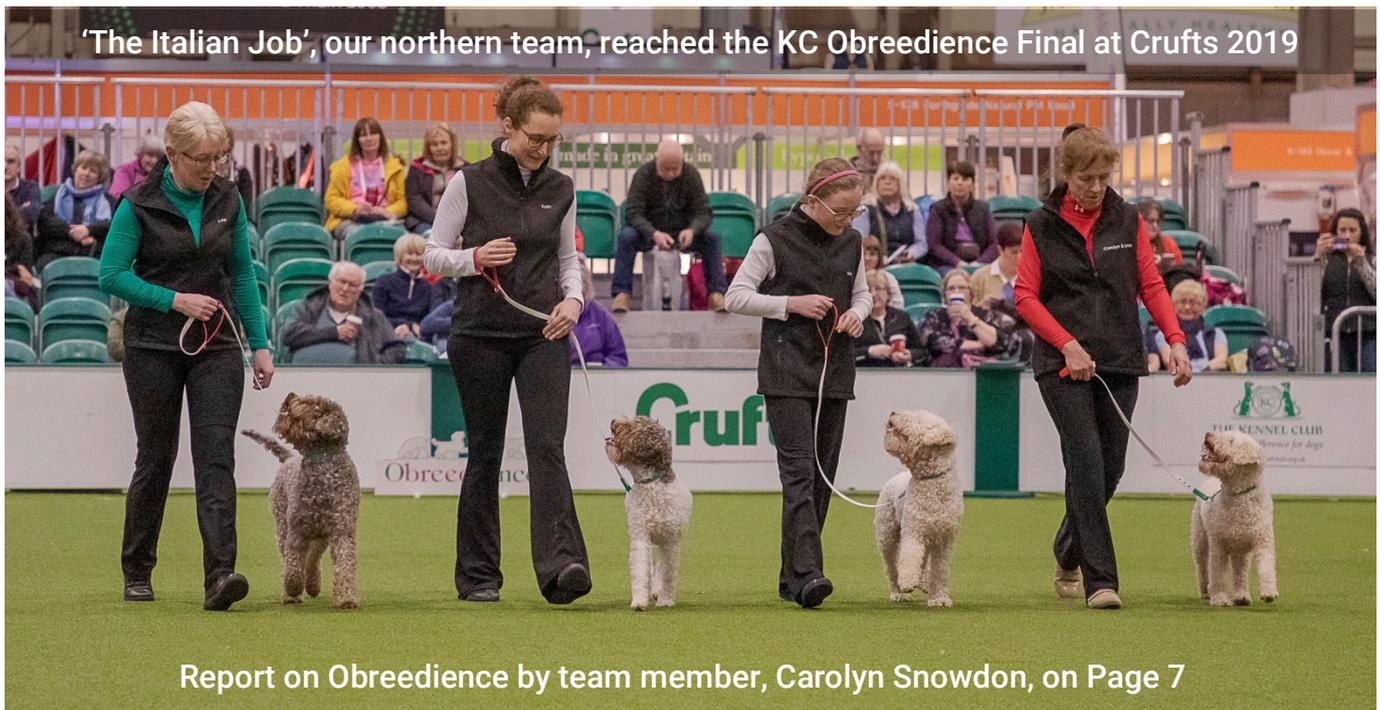


The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain

Founded 1996
President: Sig. Gilberto Grandi
Proud to be the Club that pioneered the Lagotto Romagnolo outside of Italy



NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITOR'S LETTER	Stephanie Shepherd	Page 2
CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION	Louise Ferguson	Page 3
GUNDOG ACTIVITIES – AN UPDATE	By Lyn Monk	Page 4
SEASONAL HEALTH ISSUES	By Sarah Beazant RVN	Page 5
KC OBREEDIENCE	By Carolyn Snowdon	Page 7
A YEAR – OUR LAGOTTO JOURNEY WITH LUNA	By Simon Mulhearn	Page 9
MY FIRST LAGOTTO EXPERIENCE	By Lynne Jung	Page 11
THE REST OF THE YEAR'S EVENTS		Page 12
BECAUSE THEY'RE WORTH IT	Shampoo Survey	Page 13
Merchandise	New Items	Page 2
Club Calendar 2020 Theme: "Active Lagotto"	Photos to be submitted by 20 th Sep	Page 3
KC Rally Event 21 st -22 nd September	Help needed!	Page 12
Lagotto Walks	Petworth Park and Studland Bay	Page 12

June 2019

Editor's Letter

Despite being a very active club with lots to report we haven't published a Newsletter since 2011. After the 2019 AGM the Club Committee decided it was time for a change. We would reinstate the Newsletter aiming to publish in June and December each year.

Much has changed since 2011. Electronic communications have become more commonplace and reliable, so we decided to publish in email form rather than print. We will of course print copies for those members who don't have email. If other members would like a hard copy, please let me know. We would have to charge you something towards the cost of printing and postage.

It has been quite a rush to get this edition together and it would have been impossible without the willing help of various members of the Club Committee and, in particular, Jude Bullen who has deployed her computer skills to display the articles to such good effect. **Thank you, Jude!**

However, this is a publication for and by members of the LRCGB. I feel strongly that it should not be written by Committee members but by members of the whole Club. So, please let me know what you would like to see in these pages. Are there particular issues you would like to explore? Stories you would like to share? **Please** let me know. You won't necessarily have to write anything yourself – although if you could it would be very helpful. I'd welcome ideas, articles, photographs, drawings etc. etc. Anything really!! It's up to you.

The **COPY DATE** for the next edition will be **Friday 22nd November 2019**.

You can contact me by e-mail at: s.shepherd@ntlworld.com or by post to **Stephanie Shepherd, 59 Lime Avenue, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2BH**

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and especially to getting your responses to the shampoo survey.

Stephanie

LRCGB MERCHANDISE

New items have recently been added: Caps, Bumbags and Beanies:



All items can now be ordered and paid for online.

See the Merchandise section of our website for all products and details:

Gilets, T-Shirts, Scarves, Backpacks, Tote Bags
Club Badges, Ring Clips, Mugs, Fridge Magnets, Car Stickers
Cards, Calendars, Crystal Lagotto,
Club Italiano Lagotto Truffling DVD

The Committee of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain will not necessarily endorse any views, comments or inaccuracies within articles printed in this Newsletter

An Introduction from Louise Ferguson:

Dear All,

It is my great pleasure to introduce you all to the new Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain's Summer Newsletter! We are very grateful to Stephanie Shepherd for taking on the role of coordinator and editor and to Jude Bullen for her work on the layout. We plan to produce twice yearly editions, June and December, so we'll soon be looking for ideas for our Christmas Newsletter! I very much hope you will enjoy reading it and, if you feel inspired, why not send your Lagotto stories, reports and anecdotes to Stephanie?

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members to the Club and to invite you to have a look at our Events page on the website. You will find a variety of events so there should be something that will appeal to you. The LRCGB is a friendly, welcoming Club and our Committee members are always willing to help you and answer questions about the breed. We have an informative and up to date website with plenty of breed related information as well as Committee and Sub-Committee contact details. The website has recently undergone a re-launch thanks, once again, to Jude Bullen and is easy to navigate and visually attractive.

On behalf of the committee I'd like to extend our gratitude to our longer standing members whose continued support has helped the LRCGB grow from strength to strength. Many of you volunteer at our events and your contribution is invaluable and much appreciated. If any of you newer members feel like getting more involved with events please contact our Secretary, Julie Nelson. It is a great opportunity to meet other Lagotto enthusiasts and to learn more about our lovely breed. To list a few areas where we need volunteers:

- We very often need people to bake cakes and serve refreshments at events.
- Volunteers are needed to act as Club and breed representatives at Discover Dogs at Crufts in March or ExCel in October.
- Our annual Rally event in September cannot be run without plenty of helpers.
- If you have a favourite place to walk your dog then do you fancy organising a Club walk?
- For those of you that do obedience with your dogs, we are wanting to re-establish an Obreedience team in the South. Later in the newsletter you'll read a report about our northern team's achievements that culminated in them competing at the Obreedience Finals at Crufts!

I shall keep my letter brief because I know there are lots of interesting stories and reports for you read but I will just add that we have the theme for our 2020 Calendar which is "**Active Lagotto**". If you'd like to submit something please send me non copyright, high resolution photos via e-mail to lmizenferguson@gmail.com by 20th September - many thanks in advance.

I wish you an enjoyable read and a summer packed with sunshine and fun with your Lagotto!

Louise Ferguson
Chairman LRCGB



The Lagotto Romagnolo Club
of Great Britain
FOUNDED 1996
President: Sir Graham Grant
Proud to be the Club that pioneered the Lagotto Romagnolo outside of Italy



Lagotto in the Landscape

Calendar 2019

CALENDAR 2020

The theme for next year is:
"Active Lagotto"

Full details will appear on Facebook and
our Website shortly

The deadline for submission of your
(non copyright/high resolution) photos
is 20th September

We look forward to seeing
your contributions!

Gundog Activities

An update from our Working Secretary, Lyn Monk

LRCGB members and their dogs have had amazing success in the Working Assessment Tests which take place in the spring and summer, outside the shooting season, using canvas dummies. The Spaniel Group, to which we belong, divides into English Springers and Cockers and Minor Breeds Spaniels. The MBSs include Clumber, Sussex, Welsh Springer, Field Spaniels, American Cockers and Spanish Water Dogs, as well as the Lagotto Romagnolo.

At the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Assessment Tests on Saturday 6th April, Grancanna Cantata (Flora), Jeff Monk, won 1st in the Novice Test winning the Presthill Trophy for the second consecutive year. Grancanna Fab Felice (Gringo), Andrew Macpherson, was awarded the Best Hunter in the same class. Lyn Monk handled Mizani Diorbe Of Vienna (Sybil) in her first Novice Test. Sybil was only 18 months old and this was her very first Novice Test since coming out of Puppy Class. 12 Minor Breeds Spaniels took part in the day, and the judges were very complimentary saying they were "very impressed with what they saw, a true Gundog".



On 7th April LRCGB held its very first Working Assessment Tests open to the other six Minor Breeds Spaniels as well as our members. The day was very well supported, with competitors coming as far afield as Whitby, North Yorkshire! We had a total of 27 entries, 3 Special Beginners, 5 Puppy, 13 Novice, and 6 Open, with a record number of Lagotto. The Lagotto did brilliantly:

- Puppy: 1st & Best Hunter - Moonreed Bella, Mr M Light
- Special Beginner: 1st- Hopkiln Great Beatrice (Millie), 2nd & Best Hunter -Mizani Diorbe of Slovakia (Vito), both dogs were handled by Ms P McAllister
- Novice: 1st - Grancanna Fab Felice (Gringo) Mr A Macpherson



Even the freezing fog couldn't dampen the day. Very well done to everyone who competed and special thanks to those who helped where needed to make the day a great success; we could not have done it without you.

Lagotto attended two Minor Breed Spaniel training days, and a Cold Game training day, and Sybil came 4th in a Spaniel Scurry at Thame Game Fair.

On Sunday 19th May Jeff, Andrew, Jude Bullen (with Florence) and Lyn competed in the South Eastern Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Working Assessment Tests. I'm thrilled to report that Andrew & Gringo came 1st in Open and 5th in Novice and was awarded Best Hunter of the Day. Jeff & Flora won 3rd in Open, and Lyn & Sybil, who was the youngest in her class, came 1st in Novice and was also awarded the Best Non Welsh Springer of the Day. There were 27 entries, 5 ran in Open, 14 in Novice; these are amazing results for a small breed and Club which has been competing in this group for a relatively short time.



The Club runs training days for members so if you'd like to train your dog to take part in this sport and to try its paw at the work it was originally bred to do, please do get in touch, it's a great fun social activity and your dog will love it! Our next event is a Gundog Working Assessment Test in Hertfordshire on Saturday 31st August. Full details will be announced shortly.

Lyn Monk, Working Secretary

Seasonal Health Issues by Sarah Beazant, RVN

Summer with your Lagotto should be fun! Hoping not to dampen your enjoyment, here are some tips on potential hazards which you may find useful.

HEAT

- Dogs are not well equipped to lose heat – they do so mainly by panting and by radiation through their skin, they sweat only through their feet.
- Age and concurrent health issues including obesity, will reduce your dog's ability to thermoregulate.
Be aware of your dog's body condition and monitor for early signs of heat induced distress e.g. marked panting and a deepening colour of his mucous membranes.
- If travelling during the summer try and do so in the cool of the day, plan your journey and make use of traffic bulletins to avoid delays. Ensure that your dog has adequate space and ventilation (consider using cage fans) in your vehicle; if possible provide water (non-spill bowls!) or schedule frequent stops to allow an opportunity to drink. Ensure windows are shaded to prevent your dog being stuck in direct sun for long periods.
- Avoid exercising your dog in the heat of the day, be aware of pavement temperatures which can quickly become hot enough to burn your dog's feet. Consider playing mentally challenging games at home rather than relying on physically tiring your dog.
- Coats – your dog's coat, unless excessively matted will actually provide insulation from heat and protection from the sun so do not be tempted to clip his coat very short. Cool coats are available which contain elements to retain cold and these are useful if you are unavoidably out in the heat for any length of time. Do not use soaked towelling coats as these prevent your dog's ability to radiate heat – essentially they keep heat locked in.
- Heatstroke - is a potentially life threatening condition defined as a body temperature over 39.1°C in the absence of disease. Risk factors include warm humid environments, water deprivation, exercise, ongoing respiratory conditions, and some medications. Signs include raised heart and respiratory rates, deep red mucous membranes with a rapid capillary refill time, weak pulses, incoordination, vomiting and/ or diarrhoea – frequently with blood, and collapse. Treatment includes moving the dog to a cooler environment and soaking him with tepid water – cold water will constrict the blood vessels serving the skin and reduce their ability to lose heat, cool packs can be placed at the base of the dog's head and on his inner thighs. Seek veterinary attention as soon as possible to assess and address any possible electrolyte imbalances and provide support for neurological and organ function.

WATER

- Be aware of invisible hazards lurking beneath the surface of the water. Teach your dog to enter water carefully and discourage plunging and leaping into water bodies, even if you are familiar with them. Water attracts humans so watch out things such as broken bottles and cans, and discarded barbecues!
- Never allow your dog to swim wearing collars or harnesses – these can easily get caught on underwater vegetation or litter – a common cause of dogs drowning is becoming stuck.
- Blue- green Algae – not actually an algae but a bacteria named because of the bloom it sometimes causes on water. Sometimes, but not always. Ingestion causes a frequently fatal toxicity and skin contact is irritant. Respect warning signs if present and if in doubt, err on the side of caution. If you believe your dog may have come into contact with affected water seek veterinary advice.
- Water toxicity – a potentially fatal condition of which many people are unaware. Essentially ingestion of too much water washes out the body's sodium. Symptoms include incoordination,

vomiting, respiratory difficulty and fitting. Avoid it by watching how your dog plays with and in water and enforce breaks if you think he is swallowing too much – “sprinkler snappers” for example; use dummies for retrieve games rather than tennis balls which tend to hold water which the dog is likely to swallow. This is another condition for which you should seek veterinary attention if at all suspicious your dog is affected.

- Be aware of strong currents and tides and observe warning notices.

GRASS SEEDS

- Thanks to their construction once grass seeds have penetrated a body they can only move in one direction and can travel under a dogs skin surprisingly far. They are almost impossible to avoid but prompt removal by checking your dog after exercise should prevent them from penetrating.

Common sites include:

Feet – the dog may or may not be lame but is likely to lick the affected area; cyst like structure may appear between the dog’s toes

Ears – usually very painful and sudden in onset of signs. The dog will likely tilt his head and carry the affected ear low. Examination is difficult because of the architecture of the ear, and the pain

Eyes – unilateral eye infections are uncommon so be alert to the possibility of a grass seed if just one eye is affected. Do not be tempted to try and remove a seed penetrating the eyeball – get the dog to a vet. Sometimes slam seeds get stuck behind the third eyelid and your vet should be able to remove this fairly easily with the help of some local anaesthetic.

- In all cases of penetrating grass seeds seek veterinary advice at a minimum, sedation and/or anaesthesia are likely to be needed for all but the simplest seed removals.

STINGERS AND BITERS

- Ticks – these are frequently found on dogs particularly in sheep or deer country. They are vectors for disease including the relative newcomer to our shores, Babesia. Prevention of disease is centred around either stopping the tick from attaching, or by minimising its feeding time. There are several products available which will kill ticks. Removal should be done carefully; always check that the tick’s mouth parts have not been left embedded in the dog’s skin. Monitor the site for swelling and reddening for a few days.
- Harvest Mites – Neotrombicula Autumnalis to give him his full name, a common cause of intense itching in dogs in the late summer. Close inspection of the dog’s feet and lower limbs reveals an orange – brown sandy like material, these are the tiny mites. Sprays containing Fipronil are effective at killing the mites.
- Bees and wasps – the actual site of the sting is the main problem with these as sting to the body or legs may be uncomfortable but are rarely dangerous. Stings to the head, or in the mouth can cause potentially dangerous swelling so if suspected the dog should be closely monitored and veterinary advice sought. Wasps do not leave stings behind and their venom can be neutralised with a weak acid such as vinegar or lemon juice. Bees may leave a sting behind but do not be tempted to pull it out – this can cause more venom to be released to the area, rather think of pushing it out or scraping it out with something like a credit card. Many people carry anti histamines always check with a vet before administering them.
- Snakes – it is rare for dogs to be bitten by snakes and in the UK only the adder is venomous. Snake bites tend to occur in the spring as the sleepy animals take to basking. If you see your dog get bitten, or suspect that he may have been, keep him and yourself calm (!) and as quiet as possible., contact your vet and arrange attention.

Hopefully this gives you some ideas how to keep your dogs safe while out and about over the summer months. Look out for Dog First Aid courses which will expand your knowledge and increase your confidence should accidents happen.

KC Obreedience

By Carolyn Snowdon

Since its launch as a special display event at Crufts 2014, KC Obreedience has evolved into a full competition which is growing in popularity.

The purpose of Obreedience is to encourage more breeds to 'have a go' at some of the tests associated with competitive obedience but in a less formal competitive environment. Teams comprise four dogs of the same breed. Points are gained at a series of events over the year, with the top ten teams invited to compete at Crufts.

LRCGB decided to get involved with the competition and hosted a heat during the Club's weekend Rally competition in Sept 2016. Without any team training, we cautiously entered four Lagotto as a team to show off our wonderful, clever dogs and get the

breed more widely known.

The competition consists of a round of heelwork performed together as a group and then four set exercises, one for each dog - a retrieve, a 'send to bed', emergency stop, and a scent exercise. We had gained a taste for the competition and decided to enter fully into the competition the following year.



Early in 2017, we held a training day hosted by Julie Nelson, where people could come and see what Obreedience was all about and have a go at the exercises involved. There was enough interest that we decided to form two teams to represent the breed in that year's competitions, one based in the North and one based in the South.



During 2017, both teams managed to do some heats, with the Northern team, now known as 'The Italian Job' getting to six heats and gaining a score of 24 for the year, and the Southern team, known as 'Lottie Team South' attending three heats and gaining 12 points for the year. At two of the heats both teams were entered and it was wonderful to see so many Lagotto competing.

By the end of the year, with all results in, 'The Italian Job' team had gained enough points to be in the top 10 out of 23 teams that had competed that year, and were invited to compete at Crufts 2018. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend due to bitches in season or with pups. This was a great disappointment, a missed opportunity, we thought, to showcase our lovely breed, and especially disappointing for our junior handler, May and her dog Peggy, who had practised so hard and were reliable throughout the year in gaining top points in their individual exercise, the 'send to bed'. Hearing of her disappointment, the Kennel Club invited May and Peggy to take part at Crufts 2018, with the other team members who could attend to show their dogs in the Obreedience competition parade, and for May and Peggy to individually demonstrate the 'send to bed' exercise.



During 2018 the teams continued to train and develop and compete in heats, working towards a place at Crufts 2019. More teams had now entered the competition and the standard was getting higher. This year 'The Italian Job' managed to get to nine heats and gained 33 points, with the newly named 'I Quattro Lagotti' in the south getting to just three. 'The Italian Job' gained a top ten score at the end of the year and were invited to Crufts 2019.

By the time Crufts 2019 came around, the team had seen some changes. It was a great loss for the team when Angela, & Eddie could not attend. Eddie had helped gain loads of points this year and had been skilled enough to do several of the individual exercises during this year's heats. His retrieve and scent work were particularly good. Another great loss was Peggy, who was unable to attend, due to having pups, but her handler May worked hard to get her younger dog Brian ready for the competition. Julie Barrett and Rowfke had helped the team gain points this year but as Julie was to have a busy Crufts as Team captain for the Northern Rally team, she felt they could not participate.



'The Italian Job' – Team outfit

The team was still one handler and dog short, and called on our reserves. Reserve handler was Kath, and the reserve dog, Nola, belonged to Julie. They both worked hard to build a bond and the team put in extra training.

So the team was in place, Julie Nelson and Ricco, Carolyn Snowdon and Luna, May Bransby and Brian, and Kath Bulmer with Nola. The Obreedience competition was held in the Obedience Ring at Crufts 2019 on the Thursday, the same day as our dogs were in the breed ring. We were hoping that the two would not clash, but unfortunately they did. When the Obreedience briefing took place, the dogs were still being judged in their breed classes, and a substitute team captain, Ben, was sent to attend the briefing. As each member of the team finished showing, they

quickly relocated to Hall 5 where the Obedience ring was located, changed into team uniform and settled their dogs. When the competition started, which was this year being 'live streamed' for anyone to watch via YouTube, with the parade (a time to settle your dog and get them used to the noise and smells of the Obedience ring), one of the team, Carolyn and Luna were still being judged in the breed ring.

As the competition progressed, with each of the other teams competing in their first exercise, the heelwork, Ben was dispatched to the breed ring up in Hall 4 to get the final dog in the team to the Obreedience ring. On finishing in the breed ring in Limit Bitch and giving apologies that we were unable to attend our Good Citizen Bitch Class, Carolyn and Luna raced down to the Obreedience ring, made a quick switch of clothing whilst in the collecting ring, having no time to nip to the loo to get changed, and the team were on. Good job we had running order 10/10 or we may not have been there in time.



It was a shame that we were unable to spend more time with the other Obreedience teams on the day, due to being at our breed ring, as the atmosphere around the Obreedience ring was great and always supportive. We have made many friends with people in the other teams through this competition.

The heelwork practice had paid off and, whilst we did miss our more experienced dogs, we showed off our lovely versatile breed. We love the photo of the team's heelwork that takes pride of place on the front page of this Newsletter. We may not have been in the places at the end of this competition, but our dogs had fun and will be remembered.

Obreedience is a team event and showcases the talents of each breed through a series of fun exercises. It is perfect for all ages and abilities. The Kennel Club encourages as many teams as possible to enter the heats and demonstrate the brilliance of their breeds and the LRCGB would like to hear from you if you would like to join a team and have a go at this event.

A Year - Our Lagotto Journey with Luna

By Simon & Andy

Lagotto Romagnolos found us online when out of the blue an 'unusual' curly coated gundog popped up in our searches. Not one we'd heard of before, so chancing upon the LRCGB website the week before their 2018 Single Breed Show at Kingston Blount we decided to go and find out more! We'd looked closely at other breeds for about three years, watching friends bring up their new puppies and we were even on a puppy list for a while, but still none seemed quite right. It would have been easy to follow through with our initial yearnings but we would urge anyone to question thoroughly before making decisions about a breed. Pressing 'pause' when in doubt was definitely the best thing we did and our patience definitely paid off.



Excited, we arrived at Kingston Blount, somewhat apprehensive and full of questions. A dog show! Would it be too serious? Would folk be unfriendly? We needn't have worried and were immediately made to feel very welcome. Attending the show turned out to be the most useful and enjoyable thing we could have done, a fantastic opportunity to meet different Lagotto, owners and breeders. The day was not only friendly but also fun and we found answers to most of the things we wanted to know. It was also our very first introduction to dog shows. Seeing the characteristics of dogs both in and out of the ring we decided the Lagotto was the right breed for us.

We haven't looked back since. A couple of weeks later we were fortunate enough to be offered a place on a puppy list, quicker than we ever expected might be possible. Instinct told us this was right for us and that our three year journey of discovery had finally borne fruit.

Our Lagotto was born on a full moon in August of last year. The only brown roan in a litter of five girls, affectionately known as "The Spice Girls". Video pup-dates soon followed and one pup in particular stood out. Thoughtfully hesitant but not timid, considered, she appeared to assess situations rather than just rush in. When we finally met - the soon to be named Luna - and her siblings, first impressions counted. These traits and more endeared that tiny puppy to us, underlining many delightful characteristics of the breed including intelligence and eagerness to learn as well.

Training has proved to be great fun for us and for Luna, as we discover the dog she is growing up to become: Intelligent; sassy; loving and very loyal. We completed two levels of puppy classes that helped us deal with some of the inevitable challenges at home along the way. Let's be frank - bringing a puppy into its new home is by no means plain sailing - never let anyone tell you otherwise! However, the time, effort and energy invested along with the highs and the lows that result, have been worth it in the end.



Found it! – My truffle-scented decoy



When You Go Down to the Woods Today...

For us, gundog characteristics had trumped those of other breed groups. The LRCGB Gundog Training Event was also interesting and fun. Luna now "Finds it" incredibly enthusiastically – 'it' being her black truffle-scented retrieve dummy, black truffles from Selfridges Food Hall no less! Her keenness to please and search out on the simple instruction "Find it" is electrifying to watch! She seems hot wired for this and it's wonderful to see the

scent and retrieve characteristics of the Lagotto come to the fore. We are looking forward to the Truffling Experience, arranged by The Club for September. We'd also like to try more gundog training involving water even though Luna didn't 'discover' water and her water dog heritage until about 6 months old, finding the dirtiest ditches and muddiest puddles on our walks in the woods! Water dog in Luna's case probably best refers to the need for bath-time after such walks!

In preparation for trying the show ring, Ringcraft classes soon followed, even practising 'the triangle' around our sitting room just to make sure! Luna entered two shows earlier this year, though one more was recently scuppered by the arrival of her first season. If you want a girl puppy remember not to plan anything too far in advance from about 6 months old. You'll also have to hold off those favourite runs in the woods and parks for about three weeks duration, though fewer mucky bath-times will result!

Starting with a feisty, enthusiastic puppy charm in the show ring, Luna wasn't dull to watch. Easily distracted and a bit frustrated by the repetition at first, she would rather have been playing with the other dogs competing – why shouldn't it be playtime all the time anyway? Despite this she caught the eye of a judge or two and received a glowing critique at The WELKS Championship Show in April this year. Placed 2nd in her Class there, Luna might be taking us to Crufts next year, despite wrestling with and chewing her lead in the ring in front of the judge! "A bouncy pup...Needs to settle on the move but a v. promising pup" he wrote. So, clearly room for some improvement as the school reports had usually said.

As complete novices to showing we were sceptical at first but the encouragement received from others and the camaraderie of the show itself turned out to be a lot of fun and slightly addictive too! The key seems to be just to enjoy it and ensure your dog does as well. Going to shows requires a commitment in terms of time with the added complexity and planning generated by, for example, aiming to match optimum coat groom condition with each show. For us it remains a balance between what's involved, and what's possible and the enjoyment of getting together with our adopted show 'family' several times a year, perhaps even winning a rosette along the way. We feel showing is part of the overall journey we are having with Luna, making for a more rounded experience of our Lagotto journey shared together.

It's now June 2019 and what a difference a year can make. On our return to Kingston Blount the other weekend, we were soon met by people in exactly the same boat as us just twelve months ago, attending the Club Show to find out more about the breed. Answering the very same questions we'd asked now felt strange but rewarding and having Luna by our side as an ambassador for the breed was a really lovely feeling.

This year we drove away from the Club Show in the Luna Module happily recalling the encouraging words a founder member of the LRCGB had said to us when we were leaving the year before: "I'm pleased you enjoyed your day with us and we hope to see you here next year, perhaps even in the ring with your own little Lagotto". Words we had also felt confident repeating to the good folk we met at the show this year embarking on their potential Lagotto Romagnolo journey. Words conveyed onwards as we proudly clutched a couple of rosettes Luna had won that day too!



Judge's critique on 'Best Puppy Bitch', LRCGB Single Breed Open Show, June 2019



LRCGB Single Breed Open Show, June 2019
Judge Manola Poggesi (Italy) with BIS (Best Head), RBIS (Best Coat), RBB, BP (Best Movement) and BV

My First Lagotto Experience

By Lynne Jung

It was an indifferent October morning in 2006 as we commenced our journey from Southampton to Somerset. The atmosphere was somewhat chaotic as the trip was planned following a desperate phone call the previous evening. A young Lagotto was in immediate need of a new home, her owner was having problems with her behaviour and felt she could not cope with her any longer. During our journey we planned how we would deal with the meeting. Although we both had a Master's Degree in Canine Behaviour and were experienced dog owners, this little bitch seemed to be a particular problem. We both agreed that if we felt there was little chance of us being able to manage her, we would be sensible and return home without her.

We arrived at our destination and were shown into a lounge, very shortly the curtains next to the patio doors started to move, and a brown twitchy nose popped out, this was followed eventually by a little white head. Big brown eyes stared at us, as I spoke all evidence, except a low rumbling of a dog, disappeared. We all tried coaxing gently and tempting with tasty titbits for over an hour before the little dog would reveal herself.

We obtained as much information as we could from the owner on the historical details of this young bitch's behaviour. She had appeared to be a very friendly normal puppy when taken to her new home from the breeder. She had routine puppy vaccinations at 12 weeks of age and shortly thereafter appeared to start to display fearful behaviour. The puppy had been taken to Ringcraft classes and displayed fearful responses to people, despite continued efforts, the problem showed no resolution. The young dog was not actively aggressive, taking the option to remove herself from any interaction if possible. However, in some situations, she would try to make any approaching perceived threat run away by running at it barking. This action, understandably, caused a deal of apprehension by any targeted individual. Her behaviour was not due to any effects of vaccination but by the coincidence of the important puppy socialisation stage and her not being able to socialise until fully protected.

We were very aware that this little dog would present a serious challenge to turn around but there was

something extremely endearing about her, so we invited Stella into our lives.

Stella became Sekhi and our first adventure was two days later when we attended our initial LRCGB event. Sekhi was terrified. She started off lying down on the ground and when persuaded to move she hid behind me. As we had spent a considerable amount of time discussing how we would progress with dealing with this little dog's complex behaviour, I put our plans into action. The most important thing was not to show any negative response to Sekhi at all. The next thing was to be extremely patient and the third thing was to arm ourselves with a reward-based regime of behaviour modification, we agreed on using clicker training.

I had conditioned Sekhi to the clicker the previous day and armed myself with plenty a tasty sausage. Although I hadn't met any of these people before, I presented everyone I met with a tit-bit and asked them to offer to Sekhi. I clicked and rewarded even the slightest movement in the direction of the offered tit-bit. In this mode, I proceeded, with patience and perseverance to tackle Sekhi's distrust of strangers and novel situations.

Sekhi very gradually became more compliant, once she had made friends with someone she loved them, soon established a circle of special friends. We progressed slowly, with the occasional relapse when Sekhi reverted to Stella. Sekhi endeared herself to everyone she encountered. We attended Ringcraft classes and Sekhi learned slowly to tolerate being handled by strangers, even if she didn't really enjoy the experience. We trained and competed at Agility, went to Obedience Classes, progressed to Gold in the Good Citizen scheme and attended Gundog training where Sekhi excelled as a water retriever.

My efforts were magnificently rewarded by Sekhi making wonderful progress eventually becoming an Irish Show Champion, gaining enough CICABs to be an International Champion, she was in the Lagotto Agility team that qualified for Crufts and was awarded Lagotto of the Year for 4 years running, because of her amazing water retrieving skills.

Most of all she was a wonderful companion and the dearest of friends. Sadly we had to say goodbye to our lovely girl on the 18th May.

Lynne Jung



LIST OF LRCGB EVENTS FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR

Below is a list of events for the remainder of 2019 from our annual calendar. Details on each event can be found on our website. Please keep an eye on our Website/Facebook pages for new/additional events, or any unavoidable changes. If in doubt, please ask! We look forward to seeing you...

- Sunday 21st July Family Fun Day – Trottiscliffe, Kent. Come to meet Lagotto, reunion for Lagotto owners, fun classes for all the family, merchandise on show/available
- Saturday 31st August Gundog Working Assessment with Water (open to other minority breed spaniels) – Hertfordshire
- Saturday / Sunday
21st & 22nd September KC Rally Weekend (Open to all breeds) – Daventry, Northamptonshire
KC Obreedience - The Club is also hosting a heat on Saturday, 21st September
We need helpers for this event (please see post below)
- Saturday / Sunday
28th & 29th September Truffling Experience – Workshop by Denise Stalder from Switzerland who runs courses worldwide and is co-author of 'Lagotto Romagnolo & Trüffel'. This event is fully booked
- Saturday / Sunday
19th & 20th October Discover Dogs - ExCel, London. Come and visit us and our Lagotto during this two day event, or help to man our stand with your Lagotto
- Friday 25th October LRCGB KC Open Single Breed Show – Stafford (in conjunction with Midland Counties Show)
- Sunday 27th October Lagotto Walk – Studland Bay, Dorset. For Lagotto with their owners (prospective owners welcome)

OTHER POSSIBLE EVENTS – keep an eye on our Website and Facebook pages for updates

Agility Training Day Scentwork Training
Visit/man our Club stand at Game Fairs around the UK during the course of the year
More Lagotto Walks around the country – suggestions welcome ☺

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our LRCGB hosted KC Rally Weekend is on 21st/22nd September in Daventry, Northants. We have a very small team and lots to do. Can you help?...

...On either day, or even for part of a day (Rally experience not necessary). Please contact Julie Nelson/Carolyn Snowdon who can give you more information...

Thank you! ☺

LAGOTTO WALKS...

We had a great turnout of Lagotto, owners and prospective owners at our Petworth Park walk on 5th May. Our next walk is on Sunday, 27th October at Studland Bay, Dorset. Come and join us, or send suggestions for a walk near you. We'd love to hear from you...



MEMBERS' SURVEY: SHAMPOOS



Because They're Worth It

We all know Lagotto like getting dirty. The phrase 'conservation grazing' has four-letter status in our house. My boys, like teenagers just discovering aftershave, need to sample every cow pat they can find.

Years ago now, it was suggested that I bathed my Lagotto using Fairy Liquid! Well, it's said to be kind to hands – and presumably Lagotto skin – and apparently it encourages the coat to curl. It's cheap and economical! What's not to like? Yet, there are dozens of shampoos on the market, one well-known supplier lists 269 products, so how do you choose, and what do you really use? Does it actually matter?

A recent Facebook post seeking advice on the subject of which shampoo to use prompted me to wonder what Lagotto owners actually do use; hence this survey. In anticipation of lots of responses – please, don't let me down! – I've asked Louise to give a professional groomer's point of view in the next issue.

Stephanie Shepherd

1. How many Lagotto do you own? _____
2. How old are they? _____
3. Where do they exercise, mostly?
(Town/Country) _____
- 4.. Do you show? _____
5. What other activities do you do
with your dog(s)? _____
6. How often do you bath them? _____
7. Which shampoo(s) do you use? _____
8. Do you sometimes use a dry
shampoo? If so, please tell us
which one... _____
9. If you use a conditioner, please
tell us which one? _____
10. What factors influence your
choice? _____

Responses **by Friday 26th July please** by e-mail (preferred) please to Stephanie Shepherd at s.shepherd@ntlworld.com or by post: 59 Lime Avenue, Camberley, GU15 2BH

