

THE LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
Rules & Regulations

Updated October 2023

Members of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain must undertake to abide by the Club's Rules & Regulations and specifically the Code of Ethics.

1. NAME:

The Club shall be called The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1 To promote the ownership, working, exhibition and breeding of the Lagotto Romagnolo.
- 2.2 To maintain the breed as closely as possible to its Country of Origin Standard.
- 2.3 To safeguard the welfare of the breed in particular by maintaining the Breed Code of Ethics (Appendix 1) and other health schemes as may be deemed appropriate.
- 2.4 To provide education and advice to those interested in the breed.

3. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

- 3.1 The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of Patrons, a President, two Vice Presidents, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, a Chairman, a Committee of nine and an unlimited number of Members.
- 3.2 The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Officers and Committee of the Club and its sub-committees. The Chairman of the Meeting shall have a casting vote that is the Chairman should only cast his/her vote in the event of the Committee members' votes being tied.
- 3.3 Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary but at least every four months.
- 3.4 A quorum for Committee Meetings shall be six. Except in emergencies, Committee Meetings shall be convened by the Hon Secretary by notice by post, telephone or email not less than fourteen days prior to the Meeting.
- 3.5 With the agreement of the participants, formally convened meetings of the Committee and sub-committees may be face to face or virtual.
- 3.6 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt Members on to the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between Annual General Meetings. Where no vacancy exists the Committee may at its discretion co-opt members whose specific expertise would be beneficial to the Club. Those co-opted shall be non-voting and shall only hold office until the next General Meeting of the Club at which an election of Officers and Committee takes place.

3.7 Not more than one member of any one family or partnership shall be eligible for election to the position of a Club Officer or to the Committee. Partnership shall mean joint holders of an affix, or joint registered owners.

3.8 Conflict of Interest:

Where a Committee Member has a conflict of interest of any kind, the member will declare a conflict at the start of the meeting, abstain from voting and should withdraw from the meeting while the item is under discussion.

3.9 No individual who has been a Member for less than three years or who is a member of another Lagotto Romagnolo breed club committee within the United Kingdom may be elected an Officer or a Member of the Committee.

3.10 No individual whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other office or appointment with, a Kennel Club Registered Society.

3.11 Sub-Committees:

From time to time sub-committees may be established to assist the main committee and allow the Club to benefit from those members who have significant knowledge, expertise and interest in particular aspects of the Club's work.

a. A sub-committee will not have more than 6 members in addition to the Chairman. All sub-committees shall meet at least once a year.

b. Members of sub-committees will be appointed by the Committee, their term of office will normally be two years but may be renewed.

c. The Chairman of a sub-committee will be a member of the main committee.

d. Minutes of all sub-committee meetings shall be forwarded to the Hon Secretary within 4 weeks of a sub-committee meeting. Financial information shall be forwarded to the Hon Treasurer within 4 weeks of any event or sub-committee meeting and upon request.

e. The deliberations of a sub-committee will be reviewed by the Committee unless contra-indicated by Kennel Club rules.

f. Each sub-committee shall provide a written report of its activities during the past year to be made available to members at the Annual General Meeting.

g. Any Committee member has the right to attend sub-committee meetings as an observer. Meetings of sub-committees will be notified to members of the Committee at least 14 days in advance except in an emergency.

4. **ELECTION OF PATRONS, THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENTS:**

4.1 Patrons shall be invited by the Committee to serve for a period of ten years. Invitations shall be endorsed by a simple majority of Members voting at a General Meeting. Patrons shall have no voting rights and shall not be entitled to attend Committee Meetings.

4.2 The President shall be elected for a term of three years by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote, shall have full voting rights and shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings.

4.3 The Vice Presidents shall be elected for a term of three years by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote, shall have no voting rights but shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEE:

5.1 The Chairman shall be elected annually by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote, shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible for re-election.

5.2 The Hon Secretary and the Hon Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote, shall have full voting rights, shall retire in alternate years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5.3 Committee Members shall be elected for a term of two years by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote and shall have full voting rights. Half the Committee shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election.

5.4 Having served for two terms Officers and Committee Members wishing to stand again must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members of at least three years standing.

5.5 New candidates for election as Officers or members of the Committee must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members of at least three years standing.

5.6 A simple majority of those members voting shall be required to elect the Chairman and Officers of the Committee.

6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS:

6.1 Candidates for Membership shall be admitted as non-voting Associate Members and shall be proposed by one fully paid-up Member of at least three years standing and seconded by another fully paid-up Member of at least two years standing. Non-voting Junior Membership shall be open to all persons under sixteen years of age.

Subject to the approval of the Committee they shall be eligible to be admitted to Full Membership at the AGM following the first anniversary of their admittance.

6.2 Candidates for Full Membership shall be elected by ballot of Committee Members at the Committee Meeting preceding the AGM. A simple majority of votes cast will be required for approval.

6.3 Candidates who apply for Membership will have been deemed to have read the Club Rules and Regulations and must agree to comply with them in particular the Rules governing the Identification of Members' Dogs and the Code of Ethics.

6.4 An up-to-date list of Members' names and addresses, and those of branch Members where appropriate, must be maintained and, if so requested, the list of names made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and Members of the Club. A declaration of the number of Members of the Club must be made with Annual Returns.

7. VOTING RIGHTS:

Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote at the AGM following their admission to Full Membership.

Members shall be entitled to express their vote by proxy in the form provided for that purpose with the papers for a General Meeting.

8. CLUB PROPERTY:

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, a final General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Club's assets and the outcome of the Meeting notified to the Kennel Club. If the Club is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Society under these Regulations, a final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club, on the last return furnished to The Kennel Club, will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Club.

Donors of cups and trophies will be requested to provide written acknowledgement that such cups or trophies are given as outright gifts to the Club. Full records of such donations will be kept by the Honorary Secretary and made available on request by Committee Members and Members of the Club.

9. CLUB ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL YEAR:

9.1 A Banking Account shall be held in the name of the Club at NatWest Bank plc into which all revenue of the Club shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signatures of two of the following: - The Chairman, The Hon Secretary, The Hon Treasurer.

9.2 The accounts will be certified annually and presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. Certification of accounts will be carried out by one qualified accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Individuals responsible for certifying the accounts must be independent from those who prepared the accounts.

9.3 The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

9.4 Copies of the annual statement will be made available to members 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

10.1 The Annual Subscription shall be such amount as agreed by Members in General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club.

10.2 All subscriptions shall be due on 1st January.

10.3 No Member whose subscription is unpaid shall be entitled to any of the privileges of Membership and if the Member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by 1st March, his/her name shall be automatically erased from the register. Acceptance back on the register will be dependent upon a new application and payment of back arrears.

(NOTE: Once Members have been accepted for Membership, providing they continue to pay their Membership subscriptions at the correct time they cannot be refused renewal of Membership. With the exception of default on subscriptions, the only way

to remove a Member from the Club's register is by following the procedure defined in Rule 11 of the Rules and Regulations).

11. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS:

Any Member who shall be disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A11.j(5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11.j(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Club.

If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting, a resolution to expel, is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Club except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

If the Club expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, trials or competitions, the Club must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

12.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before 30th June to:

- i) To receive the report of the Committee and Balance Sheet.
- ii) To declare the results of the ballots for President, Vice Officers and Committee Members.
- iii) To declare the results of ballots for Amendments to the Rules & Regulations.
- iv) To appoint Auditor/s.
- v) To discuss items submitted in accordance with the Club Rules and Regulations.
- vi) To present Club Trophies when appropriate.

12.2 No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting are urgent.

12.3 At least forty-two (42) clear days' notice of such Meetings must be given to Members in writing.

- 12.4 Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be received by the Secretary not less than twenty-eight (28) clear days before the Meeting. They must be set out in detail and must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members.
- 12.5 The Agenda and other supporting information together with relevant ballot papers will be circulated fourteen (14) clear days before the Meeting.
- 12.6 The Committee will appoint an independent scrutineer to whom all ballot papers must be returned by Midnight seven clear days before the Meeting.
- 12.7 Only fully paid-up Members will be entitled to attend the Meeting and may vote in accordance with Rule 7. A quorum shall be ten Members.
- 13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:**
- 13.1 A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon Secretary if twenty Members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so.
- 13.2 The Committee of the Club is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.
- 13.3 No business other than that detailed on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting.
- 13.4 Members are entitled to 21 clear days notification of a Special General Meeting.
- 13.5 Only fully paid-up Members will be entitled to attend the Meeting and may vote in accordance with Rule 7. A quorum shall be ten Members.
- 14. AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS:**
- 14.1 The Rules and Regulations of the Club may not be altered except by ballot of all fully paid-up Members eligible to vote and announced at a General Meeting. At least sixty percent (60%) of Members voting shall be the required majority.
- 14.2 Proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations must be received by the Secretary not less than 28 clear days before the meeting. They must be set out in detail. Any proposals which are to be considered at the meeting must be detailed on the Agenda and accompanied by supporting information where relevant.
- 14.3 Proposed amendments to the Rules must be proposed and seconded by two fully paid-up Members of at least three years standing.
- 14.4 Any proposed alteration to the Rules may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alteration.
- 14.5 New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and notified to the members at the next AGM.
- 15. COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 15.1 Ballots may be conducted in person, electronically or by post or by any combination of these methods.
- 15.2 Formal notice of meetings and related papers will normally be sent electronically. Members may choose to receive documents from the Club by post by notifying the Hon Secretary in writing. The Hon Secretary will amend their membership record to

show that they have so elected. Members may revert to receiving documents electronically at any time by notifying the Hon Secretary in writing.

Members should note that they are responsible for ensuring that their electronic details are up to date.

The Hon Secretary shall make appropriate arrangements to facilitate electronic voting. Members will be notified in writing of such arrangements.

15.3 Omission of notice:

The non-receipt by any Member of notice of any meeting of the Club shall not affect the validity of the proceedings of such a meeting.

16. IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS DOGS:

16.1 Members must identify by means of microchipping all Lagotto Romagnolo in their ownership or joint ownership.

16.2 Puppies must not leave the breeder until the new owner has signed a contract requiring the puppy to be microchipped by the age of twelve weeks.

16.3 Members will make the use of their stud dogs conditional upon all resulting progeny being microchipped and will obtain this agreement in writing before the bitch is served.

NB: Rule 16 applies to all Lagotto Romagnolo owned by a Member whether registered with the Kennel Club or not. For Members residing outside the United Kingdom Rule 16 is advisory only.

17. ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB:

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, the Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

18. INDEPENDENCE OF CLUB:

The Club shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

19. JUDGES LISTS:

Registered Breed Societies must produce a list of Judges each year, which must be submitted to the Kennel Club as part of the Society's Annual Returns. The purpose of Breed Society Judges Lists is to indicate to interested parties those persons a Breed Society would support at differing levels of judging. Membership of the Society must not be a prerequisite for inclusion in the lists. Judges Lists should be divided into five parts namely, A1, A2, A3, B and C, and must indicate the date on which the list will expire. On expiry a new list must be completed.

A1 list Judges who have previously been approved to award CC's in a given breed and have carried out the appointment.

A2 list Judges who, if invited to judge by a Society, would in principle be approved by the Kennel Club to award CC's in a given breed for that occasion.

A3 list Judges who are recommended by a Society as being suitable to award CC's in the breed, but not yet approved by the Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 list.

B list Judges who have been approved by Breed Societies to judge at Shows without CC's or Open Shows.

C list Any C list drawn up by a Breed Club should comprise aspiring Judges who do not fall into any of the above categories.

Such lists should be prepared by a Judges Sub-Committee, consisting of at least 75% CC Judges for the breed, appointed by the Committee of the Society. For breeds without CC's, the Judges Sub-Committee members should be experienced Judges within the breed. Judges Sub-Committee members need not be Members of the Society Committee. Lists compiled are not subject to ratification by the committee or membership of the Society. It is recommended that such Lists be prepared by secret ballot of the Society's Judges Sub-Committee, and Societies must clearly indicate to Members the method by which persons may be nominated for inclusion in the ballot and indicate the judging experience necessary for inclusion of a person's name on the Lists.

Details of the requirements for inclusion on the Lists and relevant Application Form are posted on the Club's website (www.lagottoromagnolocclubofgb.co.uk)

20. **KENNEL CLUB FINAL AUTHORITY:**

The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club Membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate. (1.11. 2014)

Appendix 1

CODE OF ETHICS

Part 1: KENNEL CLUB MANDATORY CODE:

1) Members will at all times act in the interests of the breed and will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.

2) Members will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch may report such operation to the Kennel Club.

3) Members will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.

- 4) Members will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
- 5) Members will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- 6) Members will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- 7) Members will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- 8) Members will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- 9) Members will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 10) Members will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life (and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change).
- 11) Members will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- 12) Members will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
- 13) Before selling dogs, Members should check as far as possible the credentials of the prospective purchaser. Members will not directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Members will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand-alone items (not accompanying a dog).
- 14) Members will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

Part 2 BREED SPECIFIC CODE:

- 1) Members shall not breed from a bitch before her second season or before the age of eighteen months nor after the age of eight years. No bitch shall be allowed to whelp more than four litters.
- 2) A Member shall not breed a litter unless she/he has the time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and to the well-being of the dam and no Member should provide stud services unless she/he is satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities.
- 3) No Member should breed a litter unless she/he is reasonably sure of securing suitable homes for the puppies. No puppies should leave the breeder before the age of eight weeks. All Lagotto (puppies & adults) sold or re-homed by a Member must be the subject of a written contract with the new owner which includes the following clause "If for any reason you are unable to continue to keep your Lagotto you must inform me immediately and either make arrangements to return the dog to me or supply details of the proposed new owner. The dog must not leave your care until I am satisfied that the new owner is suitable and has signed my contract". With the exception of puppies being exported outside the UK, the Kennel Club registration documents of all puppies must be endorsed "Progeny not able for Registration and Not eligible for an export pedigree". Breeders must give new owners written notification of the endorsement and no puppies must leave the breeder's care until the

new owner has agreed in writing to the endorsement. All puppies must be microchipped before leaving the breeder.

4) Members should do all in their power to discourage breeding from clearly unsound or otherwise inferior stock. Stud service should be refused for bitches from such stock.

5) Dogs must not be exported to countries where they are not protected by anti-cruelty laws (if in doubt consult JAWS, DEFRA, RSPCA or KC). Dogs may not be exported before the age of nine weeks and Members must strictly comply with the IATA and DEFRA Regulations. Members must not sell any dog to laboratories, commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or to any persons known to sell dogs to any of the above nor should stud service be available to such persons. (A dealer is defined as a person who regularly buys stock for sale at a profit. A person who buys a dog as an agent for a known individual is not necessarily a dealer).

6) Wilful neglect or cruelty to any dog may result in exclusion from or expulsion from Membership, subject to the provision of Rule 11.

7) Before breeding a litter a Member:-

a) Must accept the commitment to take back if necessary all Lagotto bred (see Rule App 1, Pt.3). This obligation is for the whole of the dog's life.

b) Must give due consideration to type, health and soundness but the preservation of the exceptional temperament of the Lagotto Romagnolo must be of paramount importance. Members must not breed from dogs which display any sign of unprovoked aggression to human beings.

c) Must ensure that both sire and dam if imported from outside the UK have contributed genetic samples to the LRCGB Genetic Banks.

d) Must ensure that at the time of mating both sire and dam have current* eye certificates from a recognised authority (*tested clear of Hereditary Cataract or other known inherited eye diseases within the previous year).

e) Must ensure that both parents have been scored for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia by the BVA/KC Scheme or other recognised authority and that in the case of Elbow Dysplasia only dogs with normal elbows i.e. 0 must be bred from.

f) Must ensure that the Juvenile Epilepsy status of both sire and dam has been confirmed in writing by a BVA/KC recognised testing laboratory before mating and one parent must be confirmed as being normal (i.e. clear of the gene mutation).

g) Must ensure that the LSD status of both sire and dam has been confirmed in writing by a BVA/KC recognised testing laboratory before mating with one parent normal (i.e. clear of the gene mutation).

h) Must not knowingly breed from dogs that have displayed signs of Patella Luxation except where the owner can provide written evidence from a Veterinary Orthopaedic Specialist that the luxation is as a result of trauma.

i) Must be capable of instructing new owners in the specific grooming and clipping techniques of the Lagotto coat.

j) Must agree to abide by any other health or welfare requirements as proposed by the Health sub-Committee and ratified by a simple majority of Members at the Annual General Meeting.

k) In order to ensure that potential puppy owners can follow the Club and BVA “see the puppy suckling” advice and that the health status of the parents may be confirmed via the Kennel Club Health checking facility, only Club Members domiciled in the UK may be listed on the Member Breeders list on the Club website.

Note: Any Member who knowingly infringes the Breed Specific ethics will have their name removed immediately from the list.