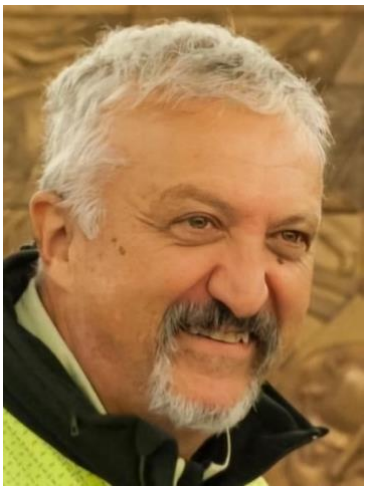
The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Great Britain

TRUFFLE TRIAL FOR LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO
Judges: Fabrizio Caira & Maria Cristina Sanguinetti
29 November 2026
The Cotswolds, near Cirencester

We are proud to be hosting the first Truffle Trial in the UK to be judged by FCI judges to FCI/ENCI standards





SCHEDULE FOR ENTRIES AND THE TRIAL

Entries	Entries will open online via the following link at **6pm (UK-time)** on **Sunday, 8 November** **https://www.cognitoforms.com/LRCGB/EntryForm**
Closing date	Friday, 20 November
Notes	You will need your dog's registered name and microchip ID number to complete your entry (your dog's microchip will be scanned at the start of its run). There are two classes each with 12 places: Junior ("Giovani") from 9–30 months & Open ("Libera") from 15 months. Classes will run simultaneously. One dog per entry form. If you have more than one dog, please enter them in priority order. Club members will be given priority. Places will be allocated in the order in which they are received and by membership status. Your place will be confirmed when spaces are filled and/or after bookings have closed. Payment is not required at the time of entry but will be due upon confirmation of your place(s) when bank payment details will be given. Fees are £40 for members and £45 for non-members. Successful applicants will be entered into a draw for the running order of both Classes, which will be available on the day of the Trial. Unconfirmed places will be held on a waiting list – also according to date/time of submission and membership status – pending any cancellations. The Trial will be run to FCI/ENCI standards. Please read the Working Standard and Regulations attached. According to the Regulations, dogs are not to wear a collar nor be on a lead during their run but must be on a lead at all other times.
Timings for the day	Please note all attendees must be present from 9.30 a.m. through to prize-giving at the end of the Trial.
9.30 a.m.	Registration for all entrants. Coffee and Tea will be available.
9.45 a.m.	Briefing and introduction to our Judges.
10.00 a.m.	Trial begins
Please bring	Your own lunch and refreshments (we will be offering bread, cheese and cakes at the end of the Trial) | Treats/toy for rewarding your dog | Your own vanghetto/digging tool if you have one.
Contact	Louise Ferguson: lmizenferguson@gmail.com

LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO

WORKING STANDARD FOR TRUFFLING

Gait and Tail Carriage

The gait of the Lagotto Romagnolo is characterised by a free, lively, and cheerful trot, which expresses its deep joy in performing its truffle-searching task. Short bursts of gallop are permitted at the beginning of the session, when passing through ground previously inspected, and when transitioning to new areas to be searched. A walk is allowed when needed to confirm the actual presence of the truffle.

The gait should adapt to the nature of the terrain, expanding or narrowing the range of motion as needed to work and cover the ground effectively. The search must be continuous, eager, attentive, and extremely diligent.

The dog's gait and speed define how the head is carried. During the faster search phases, the head is held slightly raised, but with the nose mostly inclined towards the ground. When verifying the presence of truffle at a walking pace, the head gradually lowers until the nose touches the ground. In the presence of a strong scent, the Lagotto may raise its head significantly to let the wind guide it towards the source of the scent (referred to as "tirata di naso" – "scent pulling the nose").

The tail may be carried in line with the dorsal spine or higher, but never curled over the back or tucked underneath. While trotting, the tail moves cheerfully, often with wide and fast lateral movements. The Lagotto uses its tail to signal the presence of a truffle to the handler, accentuating its movement when a truffle is actually found. It is important that the Lagotto expresses joy and willingness to work, and this is visible thanks to its tail.

The Search

The search is executed with an eager and determined action, showing natural instincts and initiative. It is carried out in diagonal patterns with frequent changes of direction, thoroughly and precisely covering the ground to be inspected.

The Lagotto must demonstrate intelligence, concentration, and a strong sense of smell, adjusting its gait and the breadth of its search according to the conditions on the ground. The dog must strike the right balance between good ground coverage, a sufficiently lively gait, and a very accurate inspection of the ground. This will allow it to detect the most difficult truffles even at a reasonable distance from the handler.

When the Lagotto enters an area with a hint of a scent, it slows its pace to a walk, tracing back towards the presumed source, progressively lowering its nose to the ground and increasing its tail movement. It may stop, sniff deeply, and begin to scratch slightly. If the presence of a truffle is not confirmed, it immediately resumes its search at its usual gait. If a truffle is detected the dog begins to dig decisively.

If during the search the dog picks up a scent that makes it immediately certain of the presence of a truffle, it moves confidently towards the origin of the scent and begins digging without hesitation.

When it detects scent carried by the wind, it moves towards the truffle even at a distance from the handler. If necessary, the Lagotto slows its pace or even stops to better locate the source of the scent, with its head held high and turned into the wind.

The Lagotto is characterised by an absolute and extremely natural connection with the handler. Even while demonstrating independence and initiative, it is always ready to follow the handler's directions in all circumstances, ready to return or redirect the search in the indicated direction.

Its willingness to work and its open character, along with its natural predisposition for work, make it relatively unaffected by external stimuli that could otherwise cause distraction. It shows no interest in the presence or scent of wild animals, except in the case of a sudden and unexpected encounter. In such a situation, it may show brief interest but quickly resumes its search at the first instruction from the handler.

The digging ("Forata")

Once the truffle has been identified, the Lagotto must perform a decisive digging action. It may pause to verify the scent, sniffing the walls and bottom of the hole to better locate the truffle and adjust its digging accordingly. It may even search outside the hole if it believes it has already extracted the truffle.

If digging is interrupted by the handler, the dog must promptly resume it when requested. The Lagotto's action on the truffle must allow the handler to successfully retrieve the truffle.

Please see the following pages for:

The Regulations for Truffle Trials for Lagotto Romagnolo

Regulations for Truffle Trials for Lagotto Romagnolo

1 Purpose

The trials for Lagotto Romagnolo aim to assess dogs in their truffle searching skills, highlighting~~, for breeding selection purposes, those~~ dogs that distinguish themselves for their natural qualities, method of work, and ability to respond to the training typical of the breed.

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2 Types of Trials

Trials are held with species of truffles that the current law allows to be collected and consumed in the specified period.

The ENCI (Italian Kennel Club) recognises the following types of trials:

A) Truffle searching trials in natural truffle grounds.
B) Special truffle searching trials in natural truffle grounds.

- Type A trials must be conducted in truffle grounds which, in that season, could naturally produce the species of truffle under test. Depending on seasonal conditions, it is permitted to enrich the terrain before the trial begins (never during the trial) with truffles of the same species to increase the chances of encountering truffles and to standardise the ground available to competitors.
- Type B trials must be done in truffle grounds naturally producing the truffle species under test, exclusively with truffles naturally present in the ground at that time. Entry to these trials is open to dogs that have already obtained at least a CAC or Reserve CAC in Type A trials, or an equivalent certification obtained abroad.
- The trial grounds for Type B must be proposed and authorised by ENCI.

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3 The Judges – Accompanying Personnel

- Trials will be judged by an expert judge or by a multiple-judge panel. A multiple judge panel is mandatory in Type B trials and in paired trials, even when these are divided into batteries. Multiple judge panels must always consist of three judges.
- The judge(s) may be accompanied by an ENCI judge, aspiring judges during authorised assistantships, the handler, and any other persons authorised by the judge.
- The organisers of the trials should, as far as possible, allow the public access to view the trials. Depending on the nature of the terrain, spectators, possibly divided into small groups, may follow the judge under the judge's guidance, in complete silence and without disturbing the competitors. The judge(s), at their sole discretion, may decide to prohibit spectator access to follow the trial.

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4 Entry and Admission to the Trials

- ~~Italian and foreign Lagotto Romagnolo registered in pedigree books recognised by the FCI may compete. A qualification book ("libretto delle qualifiche") is required (except for beginners and foreign dogs).~~
- Entries must be submitted by the deadline and will only be accepted if accompanied by the required payment.
- Withdrawal of a dog, before or during the trial, does not lead to a refund of the organisational fee, except in the case of females on heat, on presentation of a veterinary medical certificate.
- Dogs that are aggressive, females on heat, ~~and neutered dogs~~ are not allowed. ~~Males must have two testicles of equal size and properly descended into the scrotum.~~
- By submitting an entry, the handler declares to have read and accepted the Regulations for Truffle Trials for Lagotto Romagnolo, and all official rules issued by ENCI for recognised events.

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5 Classes

Separate trials are provided according to age:

- Beginners (“Esordienti”) – from 4 to 12 months
- Junior (“Giovani”) – from 9 to 30 months
- Open (“Libera”) – over 15 months
- Veterans (“Veterani”) – over 7 years (optional, at owner’s choice in place of Open)

There may also be separate trials for males and females.

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6 Batteries and Draws

- Depending on the number of dogs entered, dogs in a trial may be divided into batteries, provided that the number of runs relative to the number of dogs present is greater than twelve. In any case, no trial or battery can require the judge to conduct more than sixteen runs.
- Each battery must have at least six dogs. In allocating batteries, organisers should where possible put dogs with the same handler in the same battery.
- In paired trials, pairs should be made by draw, avoiding where possible putting dogs with the same handler in the same pair. The order of runs in each battery is decided by a draw. Draws are carried out at the place and time announced in the event programme, in the presence of the ENCI delegate and any handlers who wish to attend.
- Assignment of the judge to each trial may be decided by draw on the day of the trial, in the presence of the ENCI delegate and any handlers who wish to be present, or it may be determined by the organising committee in which case this must be indicated in the event programme.
- If the trials are divided into batteries, the judges and grounds will also be assigned by a draw on the day of the trial, in the presence of the ENCI delegate and any handlers who wish to attend.
- For trials taking place over multiple consecutive days, the draws must be held only for the first day; for subsequent days the grounds and judges will be rotated.

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7 Handler Conduct

- Handlers must, under penalty of exclusion, be present for the roll-call at the place and time scheduled, and must comply with the judge's instructions.
- Handlers waiting must show the greatest respect for the trial ground. It is forbidden, under penalty of exclusion, to release dogs outside of the designated areas provided by the organisers.
- When called, handlers must present themselves to the judge with the dog on a leash, without coercive or training devices. The judges will indicate the ground to be explored. Only at the judge's command may handlers release their dogs, free of any restraint including a collar.
- Handlers, whether competing alone or in pairs, must stay close to the judge to follow any instructions. The dog should be guided preferably by hand signals; frequent voice or whistle calls will be penalised. In paired turns, one handler must not disturb the other competitor by calling or otherwise.
- The handler must carefully close up holes dug by their own dog or risk disqualification.
- If requested by the judge, the handler must recall their dog and put it back on the leash, returning to the judge to await instructions.
- At the end of the allotted time for each run, the judge will signal the end of the run, and the handler must promptly recall the dog and put it back on the leash. A dog which at the end of their run repeatedly ignores the handler's calls will be deemed to be "out of control".
- Any misconduct or mistreatment by the handler towards their dog will result in immediate exclusion.
- Before a run begins, the judge may check each dog's identification; at the end of the run the judge must verify the identification codes of the qualified dogs.

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8 Runs – Duration – Completions – Recall Runs – Single and Paired Runs

- Runs are normally undertaken individually; the organisation may provide paired runs, specifying for which trials.
- The standard duration of runs is 10 minutes for Type A trials and 15 minutes for Type B trials. Depending on the type of trial, terrain, and the number of entrants, the organising committee may fix longer durations, up to double, in agreement with the judges.
- The first run for each competitor must last the full time planned for that trial.
- If paired runs are in place, after the first round of all competitors, dogs which, through no fault of their own, had to stop their run before the time ended, will be called back for "completion" of the run. The duration of the completion time equals the time not used in the interrupted run.
- Dogs that have not been eliminated and have not made a valid dig ("forata") may be subject to one or more repeat runs. The duration of the repeat runs is at the judge's discretion but must be sufficient to allow the opportunity to fulfil the objective of the repeat run. Dogs must be stopped after their first valid dig.
- Each dog shall have available some virgin (previously untouched) ground, and may spend part of its run on ground already searched by others. The judges must ensure, as far as possible, that each competitor works in the best possible conditions.

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9 Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation will take into account the following parameters:

- **WILLINGNESS**: The Lagotto must show constant determination and eagerness to work. It must display its own independent initiative, without being repeatedly encouraged by the handler. The dog must also show the ability to deal with difficult ground.
- **SEARCH**: The dog should adapt its search to the type of environment, with a sufficiently wide radius to cover a good amount of terrain, and should at the same time be extremely attentive and diligent in scanning the entire assigned area. Its pace will reduce progressively when checking for the actual presence of truffle or in zones indicated by the handler; the dog should work mainly in front of the handler, and should not be distracted by game or other scents.
- **GAIT**: The optimal gait is a bright and lively trot that shows the dog's joy in doing its work; short galloping parts are permitted at the start of the run and when returning over already inspected ground. Walking is permitted when checking for the actual presence of truffle during verification phases.
- **OLFATORY ABILITY**: This is demonstrated by the ability to identify the origin of a scent and move decisively to the digging point, and by being able to demonstrate "scent pulling the nose" (tirate di naso) where a scent of mature truffles is carried by the wind.
- **CONNECTION WITH THE HANDLER**: While maintaining an independent and determined action, the dog must show an excellent connection with its handler without showing any fear. If requested, it must search in the direction indicated by the handler and return promptly to the handler's call, unless it is about to dig.
- **DIGGING SITES ("forate")**: Judges will consider not the number of digging sites but their quality. Digging actions must be decisive, and if interrupted by the handler, must resume when requested. An ability to stop digging on command and/or handing over the truffle will be positively evaluated. The dog's action at the digging site should allow the handler to retrieve the truffle.

In the **Beginners** and **Junior** classes, special importance must be placed on natural qualities, initiative, and the other parameters that determine the competition's ratings, with a measured leniency in assessing deficiencies in training and correctness.

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10 Faults – The First Minute

Defects and errors which entail a penalty or possibly elimination include:

a) Lack of initiative and inconsistency of action
b) Disorderly and inconclusive search
c) Style of work not conforming to the breed
d) Abandonment of the digging site
e) More than two digs without a result
f) Serious lack of obedience or "out-of-control" behaviour
g) Lack of stamina/endurance
h) Constant pursuit of game scents
i) In paired turns, disturbance of the paired dog and/or persistent interest in the other dog
j) Fear of gunfire and loud noises; timidity or aggressiveness

The judge is responsible for objectively assessing the seriousness of an error committed by the dog, taking into account the different circumstances that caused it.

Any error committed during the first minute of the run or repeat run does not lead to elimination.

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11 Qualifications – Standards of Digging Required for Qualified Dogs

- Judging results are expressed through the assignment of qualifications. At the end of the trial, the judge must immediately produce a ranking limited to the first three qualified dogs. A report will also be prepared for all dogs that participated.
- First place in the ranking cannot be awarded to a dog that obtained a qualification lower than **Very Good (M.B.)**; in such cases, the first place will be withheld.
- To be qualified, a dog must have performed at least one successful dig ("forata") on the truffle species under trial.
- Qualifications are assigned as follows:
    - **Excellent (Ecc.)**: For a dog that has demonstrated all the style attributes and natural qualities of the breed to the highest degree. Moreover, a dog awarded Excellent must have shown no obvious defects and must not have had serious errors; it must be an exceptional subject capable of perfectly performing the work laid out in the standard.
    - **Very Good (M.B.)**: For a dog that has worked at a high standard, demonstrating a considerable degree of the breed's unique qualities. The "Very Good" rating is also given to those who might have deserved Excellent for their work and qualities, but who have committed errors which prevent them from being awarded the higher qualification.
    - **Good (B.)**: For a dog that possesses the breed's characteristics to a good degree and performs well, without serious errors, or with only minor defects.
    - **Fairly Good (A.B.)**: For a dog that possesses sufficient natural qualities and has done a decent job to still merit a qualification.
- For **Beginners** class, the qualifications are **Very Promising**, **Promising**, and **Quite Promising**, which are *not* entered in the qualification booklet.

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12 Eliminated and Non-Qualified Dogs

- A dog which has committed errors leading to elimination, or that has been withdrawn at the handler's request, will be described in the judge's report as "Eliminated".
- A dog which at the end of the run is not qualified because of not encountering a truffle will be described as "Non-Qualified".
- ~~The ENCI delegate and organising committee are obliged to record these designations in the qualification booklet.~~

~~13 CQN – Certificate of Natural Quality [MAYBE ADD AN ALTERNATIVE?]~~

- ~~A CQN may be assigned to a dog that, having obtained at least one useful dig on the species of truffle under test, has shown natural distinguishing and breed-type qualities over a reasonable part of the run, but which has incurred errors due to lack of education and/or training that prevent it from achieving a full qualification.~~

~~14 CAC and CACIT and Related Reserves Available~~

- ~~Regarding the award of **CAC**, **CACIT**, and their Reserves, reference is made to the rules contained in the ENCI's *General Rules for Canine Events*.~~
- ~~Only in the *Open Class* may the judge award CAC and Reserve CAC. If the trial is divided into batteries, CAC and Reserve CAC may be awarded for each individual battery.~~

- ~~In international trials the CACIT is awarded if there are at least six competitors and when males and females compete together. The criteria for awarding CACIT are identical to those used for CAC; thus in international trials with multiple judges the CACIT is awarded simultaneously with the CAC, except in cases where the trial requires batteries to be formed.~~
- ~~In international trials with batteries, only one CACIT may be awarded. If there are two or more battery winners who have earned a CAC, they will undergo a run-off under three judges authorised to award a CACIT for the possible CACIT and Reserve CACIT awards.~~
- ~~If there is only one battery winner with a CAC awarded by a single judge, that dog will be put forward for verification by three judges authorised to award the CACIT. If a CACIT is awarded, the dog that obtained the Reserve CAC will undergo the same verification under the same conditions.~~
- ~~During the verification for the CACIT and Reserve CACIT, it is essential that the dog provides a performance at an adequate level, even if in that run it does not have the opportunity to dig.~~

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15 Results Announcement – The Report

- At the end of the trial, the judge will announce the qualifications and rankings at the assembly location. Unless a particular need arises, the technical report must always be presented at the end of the event during the awards ceremony.

~~16 Qualification Required for Entry into a Working Class at Shows or Breed Events~~

~~In order to compete in the working class at a show or breed event, a dog must as a minimum have achieved a **Very Good (M.B.)** or **CQN** qualification in a truffle searching trial.~~

~~17 Aptitude Tests for Truffle Searching~~

- ~~Within selection programmes designed for the protection of the breed, the Club Italiano Lagotto (CIL), together with ENCI, may organise events that deviate from the articles provided in these regulations. These can consist of work exhibitions without awarding qualifications valid for championship titles, or aptitude tests for dogs for which the formal correctness required by the preceding regulations is not necessary.~~
- ~~These events may be judged by persons with proven experience appointed by the CIL, and also by ENCI expert judges, according to criteria laid out in a special regulation prepared by the CIL.~~
- ~~For these kinds of events the CIL must submit a programme to ENCI for approval, specifying the objectives – coordinated with the breed's Breeding Plan – and the regulation with the evaluation criteria. At the request of the CIL, the ENCI Board may approve a *Special Aptitude Certification in Truffle Searching* as an alternative title for admission to a working class in shows and/or as an alternative title for admission to the Register of Selected Breeders ("Registro dei Riproduttori Selezionati").~~

~~18 Obtaining qualifications towards the title Italian Working Champion~~

- ~~Attainment of three CACs, at least one in Special type "B" trials, and at least two on different types of truffles. The CACs obtained in single-judge trials must be awarded by different judges.~~
- ~~Achievement of two "Excellent" qualifications, one of which must be on a third type of truffle in the event the CACs have been obtained only on two types.~~
- ~~Minimum qualification of **Very Good (M.B.)** awarded at a breed event or special show with a CAC award.~~
- ~~In type "A" trials, the Reserve CAC is equivalent in value to a CAC at ENCI when the CAC awardee is already an Italian Working Champion or has already obtained a sufficient number of CACs to be declared as such, therefore no longer needing the CAC for the current trial; or if the CAC awarded in the last trial is not validated by ENCI for any reason.~~
- ~~In Special type "B" trials, the Reserve CAC may be used irrespective of the title held by the dog that achieved the CAC.~~
- ~~Official hip dysplasia X-ray with grade A, B or C.~~

These documents have been translated from the Club Italiano Lagotto's regulations and standards for working truffle trials for Lagotto Romagnolo, with the help of Sig Daniele Noris and in conjunction with FCI judges Fabrizio Caira and Maria Cristina Sanguinetti, and are to be approved by ENCI.

Clauses and words that are not relevant to the UK have been crossed through for the purposes of the LRCGB's Truffle Trial November 2026.