

Eyes

Very few cases of juvenile cataracts have been found in the Lagotto. In both Germany and Switzerland, several samples have been taken and are being studied in order to examine the possibility of inherited cataracts, and those results are still pending. LRCA member breeders are required to have any breeding dogs eyes tested and cleared by a board certified ophthalmologist before any breeding. Results are to be submitted for certification either through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, or equivalent in a foreign breeder's country of origin. Breeders are required to have this test done on an **annual basis** on any breeding dog. One condition that has been reported in some Lagotto is called distichiasis. While it has been found in some lines, it has not been found to be a major issue in the Lagotto. Per the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists website:

Distichiasis is a condition where eyelashes emerge from the ducts of glands within the eyelid (Meibomian gland) which does not normally produce hairs. These "extra" eyelashes often rub on the surface of the eye and may cause irritation.

For more explanation of treatment, please refer to the ACVO website on this condition:

http://www.acvo.org/new/public/common_diseases/distichiasis.shtml