

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Code of Ethics

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America members are expected to adhere to the following rules:

I. Conduct:

A. The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, LRCA, members shall be dedicated to the preservation and welfare of the Lagotto Romagnolo.

B. All LRCA members must ensure that their actions are in the best interest of the breed.

C. Members will at all times, whether at home, traveling, at shows, or at motels, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the breed and the LRCA.

D. Novices are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced breeders and owners, and those sought out will graciously provide assistance and share the benefits of their knowledge.

E. Each member of the LRCA who is a breeder will keep accurate records of breedings as per American Kennel Club, AKC, Rules and Regulations, pedigrees and registrations. They will also maintain the best possible standard of care for their dogs with regard to proper nutrition, housing, cleanliness, and veterinary care.

F. Breeding programs should exist for the betterment of the breed. Each member will plan their breeding program to maintain and intensify the virtues of type, quality, temperament, and to eliminate faults. All breeding shall be done selectively towards this goal and not purely for financial gain.

G. Breeders may not intentionally allow a Lagotto to be bred to any other breed of dog.

II. Breeding:

A. The breeder will only breed dogs whose progeny are eligible for AKC registration (Foundation Stock, Full registration, or Limited registration.)

B. The breeder will make every effort to prove their dogs by showing them in conformation events, dog sports, and/or working events. The breeder will uphold the AKC's Code of Sportsmanship,

http://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC_code_of_sportsmanship.pdf

C. The breeder will not act as a “BROKER”, by sell-ing dogs/litters under the age of 6 months that were bred by others of which they had no part in the breeding. Further the Breeder will not supply dogs to retail sellers, auctions, or as raffle or other contest prizes.

D. Because it is in the best interest of the breed to only breed individual dogs that have had a chance to reach maturity, be evaluated in both conformation and/or working ability, no Lagotto will should be bred until they have had such testing as to qualify for a Canine Health Information Center, CHIC, number with clear/acceptable test results, along with the other required health tests as listed below.

E. All Lagotto under consideration for breeding will be tested for known diseases and conditions common to the breed. Proof of this testing must be made available to puppy buyers and be recorded in the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, OFA, public database.

F. Affected Lagotto will not be bred.

G. Dysplastic Lagotto will not be bred.

H. OFA-CHIC Health Testing Requirements can be changed if the Health Committee discovers scientific evidence to indicate them.

i. Hip Dysplasia (One of the following)

a) OFA Evaluation

b)University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program, PennHIP Evaluation

ii. Eye examination by a boarded American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, ACVO Ophthalmologist each year

a) Results registered with the OFA

iii. Patellar Luxation

a) OFA Evaluation

iv. Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy

a) DNA based test results from an approved lab registered with the OFA

v. Lagotto Storage Disease

a) DNA based test results from an approved lab registered with the OFA

vi. DNA Repository (Optional)

a) Participation in the OFA/Chic DNA Repository

I. In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

J. A CHIC number is generated automatically once all requirements have been recorded at the OFA.

K. Foreign-born dogs must have clearances from their country's equivalent and must meet the age requirements for evaluation. CHIC numbers for foreign born dogs with foreign health screening results may qualify for CHIC, but their numbers will not generate automatically. Results must be manually forwarded to the OFA (fees apply) and CHIC numbers requested after a review.

III. Selling of Puppies:

A. Buyers will be carefully screened for puppies and/or older dogs that are sold or placed.

B. A Club member-breeder will use a contract stating the terms and conditions of the sale of the puppy.

i. The contract between breeder and buyer should articulate the circumstances that a puppy can be returned to the breeder for health reasons and what (if any) refunds should be applied.

ii. All pet puppies should be sold on a non-breeding contract with AKC Limited Registration.

iii. Further, the breeder will provide the new puppy owner with health records of the puppy, AKC registration materials and proof of health and genetic tests of the parents.

iv. No puppy will be released until 8 weeks of age.

IV. In all questions of ethics, covered or not covered by this Code of Ethics, the individual member shall act solely in the best interests of the breed, and the membership as a whole. He/she shall also willingly aid any fellow member in upholding these interests.

V. Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding and that adherence to the spirit of the Code is as important as adherence to its law.

VI. Any violations of the Code of Ethics will be brought, in written format, to the Board's attention for deliberation and potential disciplinary action at the sole discretion of the Board.

(Approved by the membership November 23, 2019)