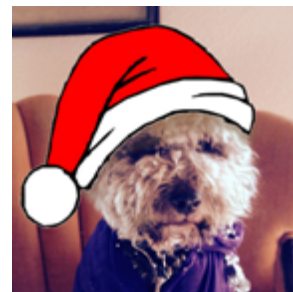


*In This Issue*

<i>Holidays!</i>	1
<i>Gluten-detecting</i>	2 - 3
<i>Peppe the sea dog</i>	4 - 5
<i>Pets and Holidays</i>	...5 - 6
<i>Dog Show Standings</i>	7
<i>Club News</i>	9 - 10

Christmas is here and I love the excitement, the visits, the delicious smells; even though I never get a taste, sometimes I can grab a bit that lands on the floor! I love the colorful lights, the decorations, the excitement, the visitors, and it is so much fun to get a new toy, or two. Since I have enjoyed over 10 holiday seasons with my family, I pretty much know what to expect. I know to be on my best behavior and not create any drama in our household. For some of you younger puppies, we have included some great items that will help your family get through the holidays. We have the next chapter of Sea Dog, Peppe, as his family prepares for their holiday adventures.



Adrina - with a Photoshop Santa hat.

The Bollettino team wants to wish all Lagotti in our club and their owners the very best of Christmas and a dog-filled fun New Year. For those who celebrate Channuka, we hope it was a wonderful time of remembrance and blessings. Winter is a time enjoyed by many of our brother and sister Lagotti. In my area of Arizona, I and my house partners had snow two times already and were able to drag some of that into the house. It doesn't snow here very often, so Vando, Pesca, Giuditta and I were quite excited by the white stuff. We had some new puppies in the house, but they didn't get to play in the snow.

This will be the last issue of the Bollettino for Judith and me. It has been over 3 years and it is time for a new Editor; so no more silly hat photos!

Adrina saying goodbye for Judith Martin, Editor



Would you like to submit an article for the next issue?

This will be our end of year Holiday Edition. Send your photos and greetings! Also, please email submissions for the following topics: News and Events, Health, Breeding, Tips on Training, Nutrition, activities or just for fun Photos. Please include any representative photos with your submission, along with your dog's name, age, and a photo caption. Email your submissions to:

Bollettino@LagottoUS.com

Deadline for next issue:
to be announced



Cupido - The Gluten Detecting Dog

Heather Holt



This is how Cupido detects gluten in food



Cupido's Christmas socks

The Nose Knows. With more than 220 million olfactory receptors in its nose, a dog has an impeccable sense of smell. Humans have only a tiny five million. This makes canines perfect service animals for individuals with food allergies or intolerances.

Lagotto Romagnolo Cry Out Cupido from Bertinoro, Italy, is one of just a handful of dogs in the world trained to detect gluten. Cupido's human, Heather Holt, has celiac disease, a genetic autoimmune disease that damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food. The only cure for celiac disease is to maintain a strict gluten free diet. Gluten is a protein found in wheat, barley, rye, and some oats. It's hard to ensure that your diet is 100% gluten free because even the slightest crumb can make someone with celiac disease incredibly ill. Although those with celiac disease strive toward a gluten free diet, it may be difficult. Errors are made and those with the disease get ill. But, now you could definitely KNOW whether or not there is gluten in the food.



Born in Italy, trained in Slovenia, and now in Minneapolis, MN, United States –he's a world traveling canine. Cupido was trained by a world-renowned scent trainer, Maja Golob (*K9 Services*, www.k9services.si). Maja recommended that Heather get a Lagotto because the breed is hypoallergenic, smart, trainable, medium sized and a breed that has the stamina to work as a service dog.

A service dog is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Disabilities include physical, sensory, psychological and intellectual disabilities. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, a service dog can come with their handler any place the public has access to. For instance, grocery stores, restaurants, workplaces, doctor appointments, etc. Service dogs are different than therapy dogs in that therapy dogs, while specially trained, do not have full access to public settings.

When Cupido checks his handler's food, she places a microwave cover with holes over the food and asks him to sniff it. If he does not detect any gluten, he will look away from the dish. On the other hand, if he detects gluten, he will bite the edge of the cover alerting Heather to gluten. This means that Cupido sniffs warm, tasty food, and does not eat it! That takes discipline.

Tips about service dogs and their handlers:

Greet the handler. Ignore the dog.

Identification. Service dogs are not required to have any certifications

Continued next page

or ID.

Not all service dogs are the same. They come in all shapes, sizes, breeds and colors.

Work. The service dog is working. Please do not touch, talk, make eye contact or pet the service dog. Ignore the dog and talk with their handler.

Questions? Sometimes the handler does not want to answer questions. If the handler answered every question, they would have to stop every 5 feet or so. Sometimes they may just want to grab their groceries and get on their way.

Medical Equipment: A service dog is considered the same as medical equipment. Just as people do not gawk over wheelchairs.

Feeling Lucky. Although the handler feels lucky to have their pup. Please refrain from stating that they are “lucky” or fortunate to take their dog anywhere. The handler would be grateful to not have a disability that requires a service dog.

Fake Service Dogs. There is a movement amongst the general public that they may be able to pass their dog off as a service dog because they want to have their dog with them all the time. Please do not impersonate a service dog. In many states, it is against the law.

Business and Public Settings. If a service dog and handler go to a business. A business MAY ask: 1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? 2) What tasks does the service animal perform? Businesses may NOT: 1) Require special identification for the animal. 2) Ask about the person’s disability. 3) Charge additional fees because of the animal. 4) Refuse, isolate, segregate or treat this person less favorable than other patrons. A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove the service animal from the premises unless: 1) The animal is out of control and the owner does not take effective action to control the animal. 2) The animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. 🐶



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year



Scott Carver & Augi

Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season. May the New Year be like a puppy, full of excitement and joy. At the end of each day, may you enjoy peace, knowing you did your best to make someone happy!



Mel and Hilarie.

Peppe Goes To Sea For The Holidays

Eddie and Glenn Tuttle

Merry Christmas to All My Friends! Well, this is Peppe and I have gone to sea for real this time. First, let me catch you up on my life since the last letter. I am now 7 months old and about 30 pounds and tall like my father, Ferrero. Everyone says I am smart and have a sweet personality. That is what I want them to keep thinking. Easier to play tricks on them! Since the last Bollettino, I graduated from an Obedience One Class and got my AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Certificate. I also, have been taking some classes to be a service dog for my Dad's hearing disability. Most of all I like meeting all the other dogs at these classes.

I plan to take Obedience Two and take the Comfort Dog Test in March. I have been comforting people as I meet them. I met this boy in a Tiki Bar that broke his leg really bad. I had fun playing with his big blue cast. I also have met my neighbor in a house, who uses a walker and on my morning walks I took a stroll one morning with a lady using a walker. Speaking of my morning walks, I am also learning Italian. Every morning I meet a very elderly couple from Italy. The lady almost cried when she met me. I will miss them while on my boat cruise.

With all of that training behind me, my parents installed the dog door at our house and I mastered it with no problems. I can go out on the enclosed lanai and do personal jobs on the pee pad when I want to. My Mom still keeps me on a reminder schedule to do my jobs outside.

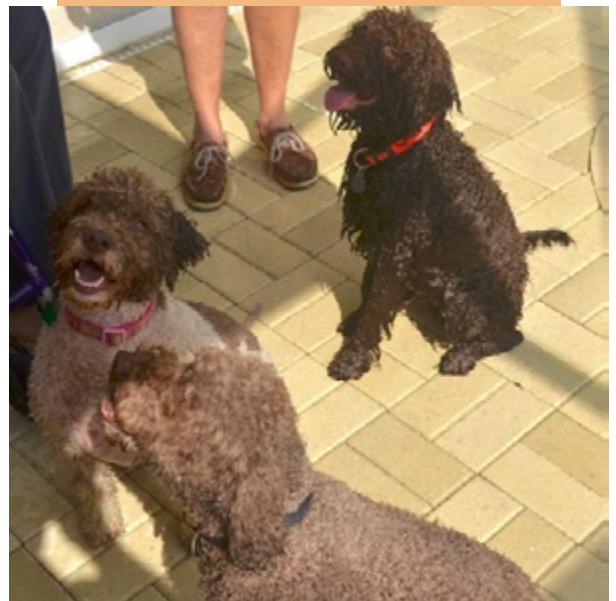
We first took a three-day trip on the boat to a local anchorage to see how I would like the boat and salt water. The pee pad from the lanai was put on the bow for my convenience and that has worked out really well. We took rides in the dinghy to the beach where I went swimming and digging. The first day, I drank too much salt water and lost my lunch. I have not made that mistake again.

After returning to the house we invited two other Lagottos, Bacci and Dixie to visit. Well, within five minutes we were all in the pool! Was my mother surprised at how fast we jumped in! I had a great time with these new friends.

Now, we are on our long boat trip to the Florida Keys. We stopped in Ft. Myers Beach and met an Italian family from near Rome. They were really excited to meet me and want a Lagotto for their children. I have been taking dinghy trips and seem very interested in smelling the water. I usually ride on the bow of the dinghy, with my mother right behind me.

From Ft. Myers we anchored in Naples and took a long dinghy trip up the river to a restaurant for a walk. There are many new sounds and sights for me to absorb. One I don't really care for is my Dad's big Boat Horn. It sounds like a freighter's horn! But the more he blows it, the more I get used to it.

From Naples, we crossed the Florida Straits to Marathon, where we are on a mooring buoy. I experienced my first big waves, both the movement and sound. I am getting around the decks of the boat and



climbing the stairs with no problem. My parents are also very happy that I have learned to do my personal jobs on the bow of the boat. Some older dogs never learn to do this and their parents must take them to shore for their business. Many times this is impossible on long passages. It has been raining here for about 5 days so we have not been going to the beach. I have adjusted to life on the boat better than they thought.

Our dinghy is like our car on this trip. In order to go ashore we take the dinghy to restaurants and stores. In Marathon there are many fishing boats. I like all the smells here! I am out growing Coco's Outward Hound life jacket. My Mom is ordering me a life jacket from Ruffwear.

My Mom used Coco's Christmas hat and made letters for my name. It has the Venezuelan flag on it because that is where they were on the boat when Coco was a baby. I am amusing her by pretending to like wearing it. We plan to spend Christmas in Ft Lauderdale with some of my parents friends and luckily some of Coco's old girl friends. I am looking forward to meeting all of these new people and four legged friends as we travel on the boat. I will also be getting a hair cut so look for a new grown up Peppe in the next issue! 🐶



KEEP YOUR PET'S HOLIDAYS MERRY AND BRIGHT

Cathy Dronen



KEEP YOUR PET'S HOLIDAYS MERRY AND BRIGHT During Thanksgiving weekend my friend took her beautiful boxer Salee to visit relatives. Salee is one of the most well-mannered dogs I have ever met. The hosts were considerate and swept the house for potentially dangerous items and safeguarded the place for their guests-not that Salee would bother anything!

Sometime during the visit Salee became very sick. She asked to go out and once outside experienced severe diarrhea. Salle vomited on the sidewalk and then collapsed. My friend was scared and with help she loaded Salee into the car and rushed to the closest emergency animal clinic.

Among the series of questions the medical staff asked, "Was she exposed to chocolate?" It turns out chocolate is one of the most common, natural poisonous substances for dogs. Vets treat many cases of canine chocolate ingestion during the holidays so it was an appropriate first guess given Salee's symptoms.

My friend remembered a tray of chocolate rum balls on the shelf in the family room. She thought they were out of reach but someone may have dropped one. Worse, someone may have "treated" Salee with the yummy snacks not realizing how potentially dangerous feeding a dog chocolate could be. Never mind the deadly mixture of chocolate and alcohol!

During the holidays our pets are exposed to many new environments. They are such important members of the family it is only normal they be

Continued next page

included in the holiday festivities. Equally important to dog-proofing your house for your fur-child's safety you must monitor for potential dangers away from home.



YUMMY DECORATIONS Certain plants like poinsettias and holly are toxic if ingested. If your pet is visiting someone whose holiday cheer includes live plants watch your dog. Prevent poisoning by keeping him away from the plants including leaves that may fall to the floor. Tinsel and gift ribbons pose a choking hazard for dogs. If the bright, shiny, tasty looking bits go down they may cause serious intestinal obstructions. Clean up every bit of wrapping debris and sweep up the fallen pine needles-they can cause similar problems if swallowed. Candles are a curiosity for dogs and cats alike. It is an object they love to explore. The aroma of a candle is interesting, flickering flames are a lure and fragranced candles smell good enough to eat. Serious burns from flames and hot wax, and stomach issues aside an animal can easily knock a burning candle over creating a fire hazard. Make sure candles are well out of reach and checked frequently.



PET PARTY FAVORS What could possibly be more inviting than a room full of people with loaded plates of food? Tasty morsels falling to the floor and the occasional hand out treat- it is a dog's holiday dream! Be proactive and request that your guests refrain from sharing food with all four-legged partiers. Human food is not great for dogs in most cases. Pets can choke on bones. Swallowing small, whole bones may create digestive problems and obstructions. Bone fragments can result in perforations of the throat, stomach and intestines. Included on the toxic list with chocolate and alcohol are onions, grapes and macadamia nuts. All are unsafe for dogs to eat. Feed your pets before a party. If they are full they are much less likely to "beg" for the scraps from your guests. Do your pet a favor and post please do not feed the pets" notices in apparent places to ensure everyone is aware of the house rules.

TREASURES AND TRASH Few things a dog loves more than digging for delicious treasures in the trash. One year my Luke ate an entire turkey roasting bag. It's a miracle it didn't kill him! The lure is simply irresistible. Make sure your trash out of reach of pets immediately. Put it in a container with a secure lid. You may be best friends with your vet but you do not want the holiday tradition to include an emergency visit.



WARNING SIGNS You can't be everywhere all the time especially at a party. If there is a danger of your dog wandering in to a hazardous situation anywhere keep him home in a safe place. Crate or close him off in a room that is off limits to guests. Make sure you leave fresh food and water. Turn on a television or radio for company and give him special toy to play with. Don't forget he will need the occasional potty break. Watch for key signs of poisoning:

- Weak-slow movements
- Loss of consciousness
- Vomiting (often blood tinged)
- Excessive panting
- Lethargy
- Pain
- Dehydration
- Diarrhea
- Seizures
- Foaming around mouth
- Sudden collapse
- Coma

Keep the emergency animal clinic's numbers and your vet's emergency call list handy!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Salee spent 24 hours in the animal hospital but thankfully she recovered. No more rum balls for that girl! 🐾

LRCA Member Dog Rankings as reported by Canine Chronicle Top 20

New Stats - Sporting Group - Lagotto Romagnolo Jan 1, 2015 – November 20, 2015

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>POINT</u>	<u>GRP1</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
#1	GCH Pinon Massaggero Di Pinon CM	M	350	2	Robin. Morehouse
#6	Dolce Vita Pienza	F	104		Christine Stenner
#8	CH Nostryffels Ottima Opera CM BN RN	F	57		Adrienne Perry/Jane Lash
#9	Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Adriano CM2 CGC	M	40		Carolyn Talbert/Jim Talbert
#10	CH Dig'N Il Principe Della Pineta	M	26		Robin Morehouse
#11	Boardwalk Fiesta	F	18		M. Amis/Kendall Walters
#12	CH Terzo Kleo of Golden Comfort CM2 CDX BN RE TD	M	17		Adrienne Perry/Jane Lash
#12	CH Comes Cordis Orcia CM	F	17		Sandy Mignogna
#16	Siena CM	F	12		Lisa Sobon/Robert Sobon
#17	Il Granaio Des Malesta Ivano CM DI CGC	M	8		R. McKnight/R. McKnight
#18	Il Granaio Des Malesta Quintilla	F	6		A.Sikorski/S.Sikorski
#20	Lk Benedetto CGC	M	5		Jean Davis-Burger

Congratulations to all !

AKC Owner Handler Series Points of LRCA Members

Lagotto Romagnolo (2015) Today's Date: December 7, 2015

For Events Processed Through: November 20, 2015

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OHS POINTS</u>	<u>LRCA Member Owner</u>
CH Nostryffels Ottima Opera CM BN RN (1)	F	55	Adrienne Perry/Jane Lash
Dig'N Delicious Cous Cous CM (3)	F	25	Robin Morehouse
Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Quinzia (4)	F	10	Lynn Dawson Looper
Lk Benedetto CGC (4)	M	10	Jean Davis-Barger
CH Boardwalk Fiesta (6)	F	5	Kendal Walters/Mack Amis
CH Comes Cordis Orcia CM	F	5	Sandra Mignogna
Dck Sir Luigi Amico Mio	M	5	Larry / Renee Glick
Dig'N Il Principe Della Pineta	M	5	Robin Morehouse
Invidia De La Foret Des Hauts De Galgals	F	5	Lisa / Robert Sobon
Kan Trace Ondine	F	5	Kendal/David Walters
Siena CM	F	5	Lisa / Robert Sobon

Congratulations!

(x) = AKC OHS ranking for Lagotto Romagnolo



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

*Benni Beckman of Bedford
will not be sending a photo this
year until his hair grows back. He
still wants to wish all his Lagotto
friends a wonderful holiday and a
happy and healthy 2016*



Club News, Notes and Events

2016 Membership Renewal

It is time for the annual membership renewal process. This is the first renewal with our new membership database which should make the renewals much easier. However, since this is the first time with this new process we do expect there will be questions from the membership.

The new system will automatically generate an email reminding you of the renewal on Dec. 15. If you have not been receiving other information from the club via email be sure to check your online member profile and update your email address if needed. Also check any spam filters for '@lagotto.us' emails.

Important reminders about renewal:

- Dues are payable on or before January 31, 2016.
- In order to renew your membership you MUST log onto the LRCA web site. A few questions in your member profile are required to be answered in order to renew. These questions would have been part of the original membership application and those fields were not imported when the new system was set up.
- Members that previously paid for multiple years may not receive a notice to renew however we strongly encourage you to log in and check your membership profile for accuracy.

Note: multiple year renewals are no longer accepted

- A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid after March 1, 2016.

The LRCA Board of Directors has approved the following annual membership dues, effective January 1, 2016

Associate and Junior \$20

International \$30

Regular \$40

Household \$50

Dues paid by December 31, 2015 will be at the prior year's rate. Dues paid after January 1, 2016 will be at the new approved rate

When you log into the web site click on your name at the top.

It will bring up this page with your profile info and you can click on the "Renew Until January..." button and follow the directions. It will ask you to fill out fields in your profile to update them. Some fields are required but did not get filled when we moved to the new system so this will be a chance to get that info updated for everyone.

Considering Breeding....?

If you are thinking of breeding your Lagotto, you need to consider the following:

1. Does your Lagotto have a good temperament?
2. Is he/she a good representative of the breed type and conformation?
3. Have you reviewed the agreement (if any) with your breeder to determine if your puppy was sold with a "restricted from breeding" clause?
4. Have you checked your AKC papers to see if your dog has a limited (from breeding) registration?
5. Have you reviewed the LRCA Code of Ethics to be sure that you are in compliance with the rules pertaining to breeding a litter and placing puppies?

Note: be sure to read the new mandatory requirements on LSD testing to make sure you are in compliance with future breedings.



Notice

The items in the Bollettino are submitted by club members, or other persons with special information to share with the membership. These are strictly the opinions of the writers and do not reflect an official stance of LRCA. Items submitted are edited by the Bollettino team. Official club information from the Board of Directors and Committees will be signed with their name and Board Title.



Upcoming Events

February 15-16 , 2016

Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Madison Square Garden, NYC

Board Meetings are held on 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30 EST. Contact club Secretary if you would like to attend. Secretary@LagottoUS.com



LRCA Board Members for 2015 - 2016

President:	Sandy Mignogna
Vice President:	Theresa Nehemiah
Recording Secretary:	Elizabeth Williams
Corresponding Secretary	Kendal Walters
Treasurer:	Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes
Director:	Jeannine May
Director:	Cathy Dronen
Director:	Christine Stenner
Director:	Susan Scholar

Club website: www.LagottoUS.com

AKC: www.AKC.org

Bollettino Editorial Team:

Judith Martin, Alana McGee, Toni Kay-Wolff, Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes, Mel Sykes, Cathy Dronen, Eddie and Glenn Tuttle, Bonita Uhte

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