



LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO FOUNDATION, INC.

Recommended Breeding Practices

The Lagotto Romagnolo Foundation, Inc. (Lagotto Foundation) is committed to protecting the health and longevity of the Lagotto Romagnolo through education, scientific research, and the breed health database.

The Lagotto Foundation aspires to protect the breed by encouraging breeders to practice high standards when making choices about breeding and placing puppies. All Breeders should be working to propagate dogs that are physically, mentally and temperamentally sound.

This document is meant to be a foundation guide for Breeders to use and for potential puppy homes to consider when searching for an ethical Breeder.

1. Breeder should:

- demonstrate fairness and honesty in dealing with purchasers of dogs and other breeders.
- make documentation available regarding results of screening examinations as required in this document.
- only breed dogs whose progeny are eligible for kennel club registration.
- use a written contract for puppy sales that outlines the full agreement between Breeder and Buyer.
- raise all puppies in a safe, clean environment with a focus on early social & emotional development and enrichment activities.
- take responsibility for all offspring produced in the breeding program and to assist in their lifetime placements and re-homing if it becomes necessary.
- mentor or provide the name of a mentor for those dogs placed for breeding.
- not release a puppy before the age of eight (8) weeks.
- never sell a Lagotto, nor provide stud dog service to: Pet dealers, Wholesalers, Brokers, Laboratories, and Individuals conducting raffles, contests, auctions, or other types of giveaways.

2. Breeder should strongly consider the following breeding policies:

- Breed males and females only after all required health tests are completed & submitted to the database.
- Refrain from breeding a bitch on more than two successive seasons.
- Not breed a dog before 15 months or bitch before 18 months of age.
- Not breed a bitch after her eighth birthday.
- Permit bitches to whelp and rear a maximum of 6 litters in their lifetimes.
- Only breed temperament typical of the breed, i.e., stable, friendly, trainable, and willing to work.
- Breed for conformation typical of the breed.

3. Breeders should have completed the following health testing prior to breeding:

The Lagotto Foundation Board has had contact with Veterinary Specialists, Researchers and the certifying organizations in order to provide the best recommendations for the health issues concerning our breed. **Those recommendations are included below.**

a. Benign Familial Juvenile Epilepsy:

- Breeding stock should be DNA tested for BFJE prior to breeding.
- BFJE carrier should only be bred to a normal certified dog.
- No dogs with results of affected should ever be used in a breeding program.

It is recommended that the DNA test be performed on each dog rather than rely on 'clear by parentage' because it a) provides actual research data on the breed for future scientific learning and b) completes the documentation trail for health in pedigrees.

b. Lagotto Storage Disease:

- Breeding stock should be DNA tested for Lagotto Storage Disease (LSD) prior to breeding.
- LSD carrier should only be bred to a normal certified dog.
- No dogs with results of affected should ever be used in a breeding program.

It is recommended that the DNA test be performed on each dog rather than rely on 'clear by parentage' because it a) provides actual research data on the breed for future scientific learning and b) completes the documentation trail for health in pedigrees.

The recommendation from several researchers we have discussed with has been that when making the choice to breed a dog that is a 'carrier' (to a 'clear' dog) the Breeder should consider all qualities of the dog and when possible consider choosing offspring that are 'clear' to continue on in the breeding program. Dogs that are 'carriers' may have many other qualities to contribute to the breed so it is not necessary at this time to completely remove them from breeding programs.

c. Hips:

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)

- OFA Hips for dogs 24 months and older, dogs with permanent hip evaluations of "Excellent", "Good" or "Fair" are considered passing. "Borderline", "Mild", "Moderate" or "Severe" should not be bred.
OFA Preliminary evaluations (prior to 24 months)- Dogs with preliminary evaluations after 12 months of age of "Good" or "Excellent" could be bred prior to final certification. It is recommended that dogs with preliminary evaluations of "Fair" should not be bred until they receive a final certification after 24 months.

PennHip Evaluations

- PennHip evaluations are considered passing only if the results indicate a "distraction index" (DI) that meets or exceeds the median DI for Lagotto as set forth in the PennHip Evaluation.
PennHip recommends that early evaluations may be used for Breeders as a screening tool when deciding to keep a puppy for potential breeding and that the evaluation be repeated after 12 months of age for a final clearance.

FCI/International

- International hip evaluation scores recommended as 'passing' for breeding are A or B. Dogs with a score below B are not recommended for breeding.
Note: Some countries allow breeding "C" rated hips provided they are bred to dogs with "A" rated hips.

d. Patella Luxation:

- Dogs over 12 months should be evaluated for Patellar Luxation with application sent to OFA.
- Dogs rated with Grade 1 Patella Luxation should only be bred to dogs with normal rating.
- Dogs with Grad 2-4 Patella Luxation should not be bred.

e. Eyes:

- Examination for observable inherited eye disease by an ACVO diplomate (ophthalmologist) with the results registered with either the OFA or CERF.
- Owners of international dogs should complete a certificate issued by a certified national panel which standards are comparable to the U.S. standard.
- Eye testing should be performed no more than 12 months prior to any breeding and recertified annually up until the age of eight years.

Based on the results of the eye exam, the following diseases should be restricted in breeding:

- Distichiasis should only be bred to unaffected Lagotto.
- Early onset cataracts should not be bred.
- Hereditary eye disease should not be bred.

f. Optional Testing:

Breeders may also choose to test or screen for the following conditions:

- Elbows (OFA and FCI)
- Incorrect or short coat- "Furnishings"
- Cardiac Diseases

The Lagotto Romagnolo Foundation provides and supports our Health Database to collect information on test results for individual dogs. This tool is a valuable resource for Breeders, Researchers and people searching for a potential puppy. Learn more about the database www.lagottobreeders.org/site/about-database