

# THE LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO HISTORY OF THE BREED



The Lagotto Romagnolo is a dog that has been specially bred to find truffles on all kinds of terrain; it is the only breed in the world specialised in tracking down this precious tuber.

A typical water dog of small-medium size, it is a light mesomorph with a rather stocky trunk. Its general appearance is rustic, strong and well-proportioned and its utility as a working dog is immediately obvious. The expression is one of attentiveness, intelligence and vivacity. The Lagotto works enthusiastically and efficiently, making the most of its inherent search-and-find skills and excellent sense of smell. The hunting instinct has been suppressed so that it is not distracted by game. An affectionate animal, it forms a close bond with its owner and also makes a fine, easy-to-train companion.

The Lagotto Romagnolo has the restrained character of the true country dog, the typical appearance of a dog which has its roots in history and the gentle, attentive expression common to all dogs of Italian breed.

A first glance gives an impression of something historic and archaic that has miraculously survived to the present day – a living challenge to time and history.

Many centuries ago the people of Italy developed a thriving trade with the Orient. This system of commerce involved continuous contact at every level, thus allowing the different populations to learn much about each others' cultures and customs - and a knowledge of dogs was no exception to that rule. This explains why so many archaeological sites, especially in north-east Italy, have revealed the presence of various canine breeds, especially a small water dog with a bristly, crimped coat.

Images illustrating hunting and fishing activities have been found in the Etruscan necropolis of Spina (near Ferrara): they regularly depict a dog that is extremely similar to our Lagotto. The Etruscans, in fact, because of their proximity to the northern Adriatic Sea between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, were able to establish close ties with many eastern populations and this undoubtedly aided the spread of typical eastern breeds in areas to the north of the Adriatic.

While it is true that the expansionism of many eastern populations was responsible for introducing these breeds as far afield as the Iberian peninsula and the British Isles, it should be noted that this happened centuries after the initial contact with Italian populations.

When water dogs reached Spain via North Africa at the time of the Moorish conquests, giving rise to the present-day *Perro de Agua Español*, they had already been on the Italian peninsula for centuries, especially in the wetlands and marshes of Northern Italy.

It is thus quite probable that the *Canis aquaticus* of which Linneo spoke, defining it as having “been around for some time” in the Mediterranean Basin, is none other than our Lagotto. In its morphology, the drawing made by Linneo bears a striking resemblance to the curl-coated dog of the Romagna.

Following the disappearance of the Etruscan civilisation water dogs continued to flourish, remaining a common sight throughout Roman and medieval times, especially along the tract of coast that runs from Ravenna, through the Comacchio and Veneto lowlands to Friuli and the Istrian peninsula.

In the frescoes of the Bridal Suite of Palazzo Ducale dei Gonzaga di Mantova, created by Andrea Mantegna in 1456 there is, in the scene representing the “meeting”, at the feet of the marquis Ludovico III Gonzaga, a dog which is apparently the same as today’s Lagotto.







From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards books on folklore, local culture, customs and hunting are full of citations that mention the utilisation of a small curly-coated dog used to retrieve water game.

Impressive is the painting dating back to the mid 1600s, attributed to the workshop of the "Guercino" from Cento of Ferrara which portrays the same painter together with a Lagotto that extraordinarily looks like today's dogs.



These dogs carried out a number of activities, providing support for the *vallaroli* (or “lagotti”), picturesque folk who, prior to the sweeping land reclamation of the late 19th century, were the real soul of those game-rich lagoons. The *vallaroli*, who were granted use of the famous “tinelle” or “botti” (marshland hides made from barrels) for lowland hunting, generally accompanied the local gentry in the fascinating, yet difficult practice of hunting.

The *vallaroli* were also trained to find truffles: back then far less was known about truffles and they were far more abundant. The inseparable companions of the *vallaroli* were the small Lagottos, guardians of boat and house, and excellent retrievers (especially of coots) way back when hundreds of small boats would “beat” the hunting ground and surround and kill flocks numbering thousands. The Lagotto would, often for hours on end, dive into the water whatever the season, even breaking through ice to swim under it and drag the fallen birds back onto the shore (an activity made possible by the animal’s compactly crimped coat and thick undercoat which forms a water-repellent layer that keeps the water off the skin).

The name Lagotto derives, then, from its original “career” as a water dog. In the local dialect of the Romagna “Càn Lagòt” is synonymous with “water dog” or “wetland hunting dog with crimped, curly coat”.

A sharp aptitude for searching, a steep learning curve and an unbeatable sense of smell, would, in time, make the Lagotto an efficient truffle-finder.

Land reclamation has, over the decades, steadily shrunk the immense wetlands of Comacchio and other parts of Romagna, causing the *vallaroli* to all but disappear and the Lagotto to lose its function as an aquatic dog to become a truffle specialist. The switch-over from water dog to truffle dog can be dated between 1840 and 1890. It can even be said that in the inter-war period nearly all the truffle dogs used in the Romagna were Lagottos.





In subsequent decades the use of concrete pylons to support grapevines and the steady disappearance of woodland have made the truffle a somewhat rarer find, especially on the plain. The Lagotto then turned out to be the perfect choice for searching in hilly woodland and thorny scrub during the autumn-winter period on account of its tightly-knit coat.

Even as far back as 1920 the Lagotto was well known in the valleys of the Romagna Apennines, in the Senio Valley, Lamone Valley and especially in the Santerno Valley.

It should be born in mind that back then no-one was interested in the Lagotto as a pure breed: the existing breeds were considered to be more than sufficient and the cross-breeds were often even more appreciated on account of their robustness, character and resistance to disease. Truffle hunters have always bred their dogs on an entirely empirical basis (outside of any genetic rules), taking into account only the immediate, practical outcome: a brilliant truffling dog, whether Lagotto or not.

Thus the Lagotto, which had reached the Romagna valleys in a pure-bred state on account of constant consanguine mating among the vallaroli of the Comacchio wetlands, began being adulterated by the repeated and unjustified introduction of foreign blood.

However, merit where merit is due: the truffle hunters of that period did not let our Lagotto fall by the wayside, allowing it to survive - almost by miracle – to the present day in near-perfect phenotype and genotype form.

Towards the mid 1970s a group of Romagna-based dog lovers decided to save the breed, which was risking extinction as a result of the incompetence, ignorance and negligence of owners:

The group was led by the gentlemanly Quintino Toschi, President of the local dog society and the E.N.C.I. breeder and judge Prof. Francesco Ballotta (who still remembered the Lagotti of his youth perfectly). They were supported by dog expert, judge and world-famous breeder Dr. Antonio Morsiani and Lodovico Babini, a Romagna-born dog lover with extensive experience. They were to set a genetic reconstruction programme in motion that would save the Lagotto from the one-way tunnel to extinction.

The reunification of the two parallel stories of the Lagotto – the one that took place in the wetlands and the one that took place on the Apennine hills – were to lay the basis for the renewed purity of the breed.

With the founding of the *Club Italiano Lagotto* (C.I.L. – Italian Lagotto Club) in Imola in 1988, which now has 300 members all over the world, a firm foundation for official acknowledgement of the breed on the part of E.N.C.I. and F.C.I. was created.

Official recognition by E.N.C.I., with approval of the morphological Standard drawn up by Dr. Antonio Morsiani (following years of biometric measurements on hundreds of subjects), was achieved in 1992. In 1995, thanks to the constant dedication of the Club and its technical bodies, provisional international recognition by F.C.I. was won.

In the meantime the breed has enjoyed European and even worldwide success and the number of pups registered at the various F.C.I., British and American Kennel Clubs is constantly growing.

In order to safeguard and coordinate proper morpho-functional selection at international level 1997 saw the establishment of U.M.LAG (World Union of Lagotto Clubs - Unione Mondiale dei Club Lagotto Romagnolo),

In 2005 the Lagotto Romagnolo achieved the definitive recognition by F.C.I.

In order to maintain the original working capacity of the Lagotto Romagnolo, the “Quintino Toschi” Italian Lagotto Club has, for some years now, organised truffle-finding (working) aptitude tests and trials throughout Italy and has obtained excellent results in terms of both quantity and the perfecting of the breed’s functional qualities. This allowed the Club to draw up a Working Standard Proposal for the breed (together with Working Trial Regulations) that the E.N.C.I. has approved in 2006.. Over recent years we have also trained Club judges to carry out the above Working Trials. From the outset, the Club has engaged in the formation of a group of Judges for these tests which continued their training under the aegis of the E.N.C.I. that in 2012 he appointed 15 Expert Judges for the truffle hunting tests for the Lagotto Romagnolo.

In 2014 with the establishment of the CAC in work, the Lagotto Romagnolo became a breed subjected to work trial in Italy and the working class was established in beauty shows.

The working tests allow the Club to constantly monitor not only the morphofunctional characters of the breed, but also the character, which has always been one of Lagotto's Romagnolo basic principle.

From a morphological viewpoint the Lagotto Romagnolo has, over recent years, been consolidated even further. Our frequent biometric checks carefully made at conventions, rallies and Club meetings have highlighted that the breed’s morpho-functional characteristics are perfectly in line with the official morphological standard drawn up in 1991 by Dr. Antonio Morsiani. For some time now, the Lagotto Romagnolo has shown good overall homogeneity, with constant transmission of characteristics down through the various bloodlines.



## **Comment on the Lagotto Romagnolo Standard**

by prof. Giovanni Morsiani, approved by the Technical Committee of the Italian Lagotto Club "Quintino Toschi" of 11/18/2017



Maschio.

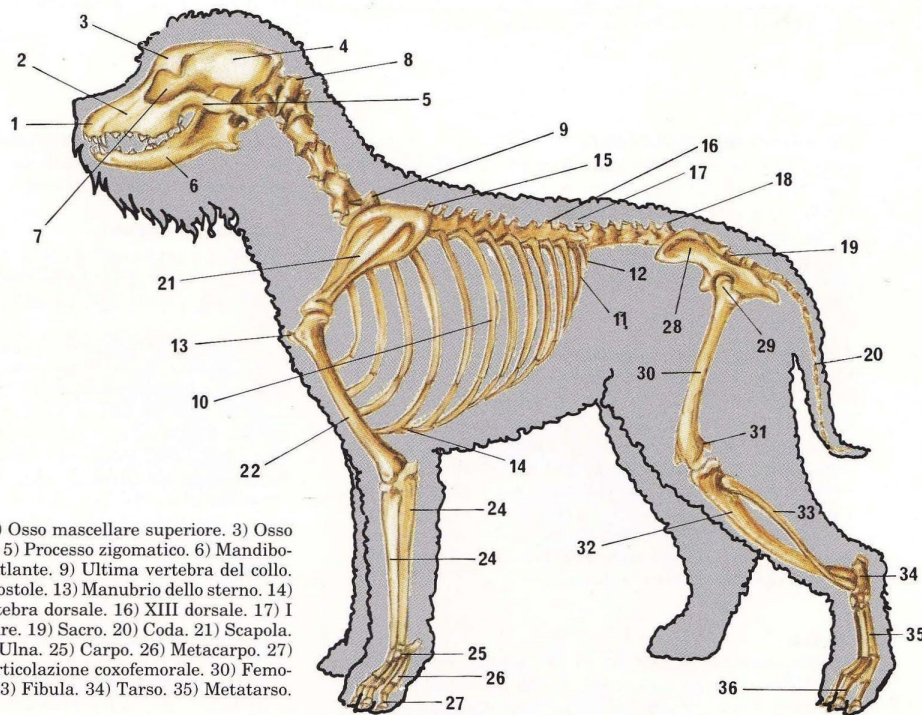


Femmina.

### **General Characteristics**

The Lagotto Romagnolo's simple, sober appearance is immediately endearing and despite its small stature, its nobility and athletic power are evident. The nobility (which is not simply a distinction) essential to this breed in that connected to the type, originates from the shape, colour and posture. The Lagotto has a corporal index of about 85/88 and a somewhat square torso. It is therefore, a lightweight mesomorph.

The Lagotto is harmonious with respect to its shape but unharmonious in profile as the profile of the head is convex and that of the back is rectilinear. This typical working dog, equipped with great endurance, has smooth and elegant movements.



**Scheletro.**

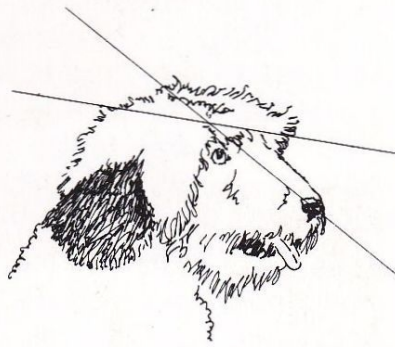
- 1) Osso intermascellare. 2) Osso mascellare superiore. 3) Osso frontale. 4) Osso parietale. 5) Processo zigomatico. 6) Mandibola. 7) Cavità orbitale. 8) Atlante. 9) Ultima vertebra del collo. 10) I costola. 11-12) False costole. 13) Manubrio dello sterno. 14) Apofisi xifoidea. 15) V vertebra dorsale. 16) XIII dorsale. 17) I lombare. 18) Ultima lombare. 19) Sacro. 20) Coda. 21) Scapola. 22) Omero. 23) Radio. 24) Ulna. 25) Carpo. 26) Metacarpo. 27) Falangi. 28) Bacino. 29) Articolazione coxofemorale. 30) Femore. 31) Rotula. 32) Tibia. 33) Fibula. 34) Tarso. 35) Metatarso. 36) Falangi.

**Head**

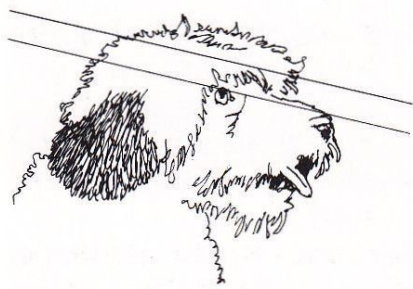
**Comportamento degli assi longitudinali superiori del cranio e del muso.**



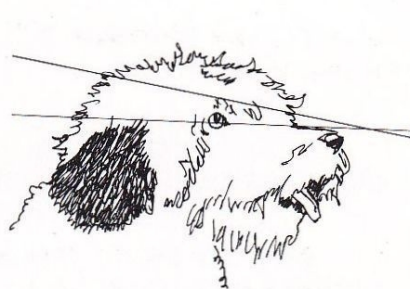
Lieve divergenza (corretto).



Eccessiva divergenza (difetto).



Parallelismo (difetto).



Convergenza (difetto).



An axiom used by all experts is 'the head tells the breed', i.e. the head is considered fundamental in determining the type. This is indiscriminately valid for every breed of dog.

The Lagotto's head amazes and fascinates for its characterisation: its predominant ethnic features require absolute priority in the judgement of the type. The skull-muzzle set must always show symmetry and balance. Its expression is of dignity and at times, astuteness. Characterised by a slight divergence of the upper longitudinal axes of the skull and the muzzle, its head has a total length and byzigomatic width of respectively 40% and 25% the height of its withers. The byzigomatic width coincides with the length of the skull. The total cephalic index is, as we have seen, approximately 50/54 (mesaticephalic with a tendency to imperceptible subbrachycephalic)

### **The Nose.**

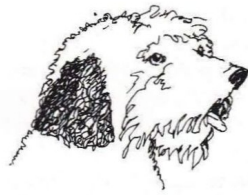
The nose is quite voluminous and has well defined margins (if the sides curve too much then it will be penalised), it is rigorously in shades of brown from dark brown to hazel, depending on the colour of the coat, the nostril wings are not particularly fleshy and the rather ample nostrils are open and mobile. Buttons, dimples and median groove are visible. The width of the nose in good male subjects is over 3cm and can be up to 4cm. Dogs with a very small nose associated with a decidedly conic muzzle should be declassified. Sometimes an exemplary muzzle, i.e. sufficiently wide, can have a very narrow nose and this particularity removes the typical characteristic of the head. Male dogs, in particular, should be penalised for this. Small or insufficiently open nostrils should be penalized.

Viewed in profile the upper margin of the nose must be in line with the nasal bridge forming an 86/87° angle. The front face of the nose is on a vertical axis with the front face of the muzzle. The nose must not be raised higher than the profile of the nasal bridge or have the front face tilted backwards ( in hypertypes the two faults add up and often accompany a miniaturisation and a rounding of the nasal mirror), it should be neither too low nor protruding forward (excessive divergence). The margin formed by the upper face of the nose with the front face is rather well defined. Excessively rounded is not appreciated.

### **The Nasal Bridge**

The nasal bridge is quite broad, rather flat and crossed sagittally by an evident, although not deep groove, it has a straight profile. A nasal bridge that narrows too much towards the tip (giving the muzzle a rather conical look) will cause its declassification. The lateral margins of the nasal bridge are sufficiently well defined. Sometimes the nasal bridge has a slightly curved profile and this fault (if accentuated and linked to a very short muzzle, conveys a hypertype) cannot be tolerated even in a modest amount. Nasal bridges with a clearly ram-like profile (sheep nose or Roman nose) that is frequently combined with a very protruding nose and an excessive divergence of the axis should be banned/disqualified. Often the nasal bridge, not particularly convex, has a more or less accentuated gibbosity halfway up which is never appreciated.

A narrow or a slanted nasal bridge or one with particularly converging lateral faces is also considered a fault.



Tartufo eccessivamente sporgente sul profilo anteriore del muso: angolo inferiore a  $86/87^\circ$  (difetto).



Canna nasale corta (inferiore ai  $4,4/10$  della lunghezza totale della testa) (difetto) con tendenza al parallelismo (difetto).



Stop eccessivamente segnato (difetto).

## Lips and muzzle

Underdeveloped and rather flat upper lips have a barely visible labial commissure. When the jawbone is not broad enough (consequently the canines are very close together and the incisors arranged very much in a curve) and the chin is receding or narrow, the anterior surface of the muzzle is not flat, tending to significantly curve or recede laterally. The labial margins must have brown pigmentation. Viewed in profile with the nasal bridge in a horizontal position, the commissure is placed slightly further forward (towards the mouth) than the vertical axis below the lacrimal caruncle (inner corner of the eye) and always represents the lowest point of the inferior margin of the muzzle. This means the buccal opening is sufficiently large and that the anterior margin of the upper lips must not be any lower (when the nasal bridge is in a horizontal position) than the level of the labial commissure. Somewhat behind the labial commissure, the zygomatic muscle determines a fold in the skin which, going upwards, outlines a double s-shaped curve, ending somewhat behind the external corner of the eye. This fold must not be too pronounced. The suborbital region is not chiselled due to the thickness of the skin, of the subcutaneous tissue and muscle and the extent of the zygomatic bone and upper jaw. A chiselling of this region, which often accompanies an excessive gauntness of the head, gives a slight and fleshless appearance to the head and is thus penalised. The muzzle must be  $4.4/10$  of the total length of the head, relatively massive, sufficiently full and broad (transverse diameter at the height of the 1st true molar is equal to  $3.2/10$  of the bizygomatic width). The front platform, formed by the anterior surface of the nose, by the upper lips and the chin, is sufficiently extended both in height and in width, flat and covered with thick whiskers. The bone substratum of the muzzle is developed in three dimensions and the relative muscular part is very solid. Dogs with slight muzzles and over converging sides are declassified. Dogs whose muzzles are too long or too short with respect to the aforementioned ratio will be penalised.



## The Jawbone

The jawbone and the mandible, both thick and robust, are of equal length. A receding chin is a fault.

## The Teeth

Typical teeth have a strong scissor or pincer bite, properly related to the dog's size, complete with sufficiently distanced canines. It is considered a pincer bite when the lily flower of the upper incisors overlaps that of the lower incisors. According to some authors, the scissor bite (with implant both in anteversion and in retroversion) is preferable to the pincer bite for the less wear it causes on the incisors.

We are not of this opinion because the scissor bite in an orthognathic subject like the Lagotto implies a more or less accentuated inclination of the incisors – the scissor bite with anteversion or retroversion has the same value. It is a scissor closure with an anteversion of the upper incisors (properly called scissor bite) when the inner face of the upper incisors (or lingual) touch the external (or vestibular) face of the lower incisors. Aforementioned types of teeth mainly follow a vestibular inclination of the upper incisors, rarely a lingual inclination of the lower ones. Lack of contact between the arches indicates that such characteristics are added up or accentuated (not a serious fault), if instead, there is a retraction of the lower arch because of a shortening of the mandible, i.e. an overbite; a very serious fault which entails disqualification.

With an anteversion of the incisors, there is a scissor bite (reverse scissor bite - not to be confused with prognathism) when there is an inversion of the vestibular-lingual relation between the incisors of the two arches, meaning the upper incisors with their external (or vestibular) face touch the internal (or lingual) face of the lower incisors. Such type of teeth mainly follows a vestibular inclination of the lower incisors, rarely a lingual inclination of the upper ones.

The lack of contact indicates that such characteristics are totalised or accentuated (serious fault) or rather there is a protrusion of the inferior arch due to the shortening of the jawbone (i.e. inferior or mandibular prognathism), a fault whose entity is related to the distance between the two dental sections. Sometimes, due to the excessive curve of the incisor implant, only the lower contour has contact with the upper one and this is a fault to penalise. They are called alternated teeth when, due to the abnormal direction of the longitudinal axis or the dislocation of any incisors, a vestibular-lingual inversion of such teeth with their antagonists arises. This is not serious and is related to the number of teeth in question and if it does exist, to the entity of the translocation.

The lack of major premolars, always an expression of unusual shortness of the muzzle, entails severe penalisation (up to a complete loss of points in the case of serious anomalies). The loss of P1 and M3 cannot be considered a serious fault.

Some dogs present a minimum, inferior prognathism that, as can be seen, is always penalised. Nevertheless, when such fault determines a space between the incisors of less than one millimetre and does not modify the shape of the muzzle externally, class examples cannot be denied access to maximum qualifications. There are numerous examples concerning this. However, there is a need to distinguish inferior prognathism in dogs with a normal length muzzle, (most cases) from inferior prognathism in dogs with a normal sized muzzle.

In dogs with a short muzzle (that is under 4.4/10 of the total length of the head) the fault also involves an upper jaw which remained shorter than the mandible during growth (practically, here our faults are totalised: a short muzzle, a short upper jawbone, prognathism, protrusion of the lower arch).

In dogs with normal muzzle size, (that is, without shortening of the upper jawbone) the prognathism can be caused, either by the exaggerated forward projection of the mandible, because of its excessive bone growth, or by an abnormal relation between the condyle and the glenoid cavity in some alterations of the temporo- maxillary joint (therefore the two faults are totalised: prognathism and the protrusion of the lower arch).

It can also occur that the jawbone and the mandible are of equal length, but (as can be seen), because of a rotational movement of the incisors around their horizontal axis, with the inversion of the vestibular-lingual relation, a more or less ample space between the arches is determined. In this case (what is sometimes defined improperly as a strong reverse scissor bite) prognathism

does not subsist and the fault only concerns the teeth. Often inferior prognathism follows the mating of subjects with different muzzle lengths.

## The Skull

The skull or cranium, has a length and bizygomatic width equal to 5.6/10 of the total head length, viewed from the front it looks arched and viewed in profile it forms an irregular arch shape: more pronounced in the frontal sub-region. Flatter in the cranial subregion, along the sagittal crest (which is pronounced), the occipital crest is only moderately developed. In dogs the frontal sinuses are divided into cross sections with 3 parts for each side: lateral (the biggest), medial (averagely developed), rostral (the smallest).

In the Lagotto, these three parts must be well developed in all three dimensions. In the frontal subregion the two bones of the same name elevate from the processes of the nasal bones and of the upper jawbones giving place to the nasal-frontal depression (stop) whose corner, in the central area of the forehead (middle furrow), is of approximately 140% (craniofacial corner) and at the level of the frontal lumps it is 120% (sinal-nasal corner).

Furthermore, in the Lagotto, the axiofacial-side angle (obtained from the crossing of two straight lines, one which touches the external zygomatic arch, not that of the cheek, and the external face of the muzzle at the canine level, the other one is given by the median axis of the head), due to the development of the zygomatic arches, is approximately 45/50°. Some subjects have the highest point of their cranium at the front, 2cm orally from the craniometric Bregma point (that is approximately 2cm from the connection point of the two frontal crests in the sagittal crest, whereas others have the most elevated point on the top of the occipital apophysis. Frequently an excessive prominence of the occipital apophysis and of the sagittal crest is also connected to a flattening of the cranium (a serious type of fault in the breed).

The temporal muscle must be well developed, although never hypertrophic. It is slightly marked in the region of the conchae (fontanelle) and is moderately arched in the parietal-mastoid-temporal area. Vice versa, if the bone development of the cranial box and of the zygomatic arches is normal but the temporalis is hypertrophic, the fontanelle is highlighted too much, the eyebrow arches are rounded, the head becomes full of parietals, flat (devoid of reliefs) and of course appearance.

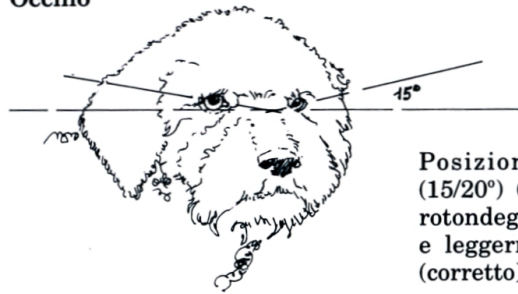
When the temporal hypertrophy is of such a thickness to have inhibited the cranial development, then the head is equally swollen at the sides but flat on the top. This last fault, which makes the head lose its characteristic plasticity and nobility, is very serious. If, vice versa the head muscles and in particular the temporalis are hypertrophic then the osseous saliences will result in being over highlighted and the conchae sunken (bony heads, emaciated, fleshless and aged expressions). Such fault is even more serious than the two aforementioned ones.

The orbital arch is pronounced and sculpted (ethnic characteristic). The zygomatic arch is developed but at the masseters, the cheek tends to flatten so that the masseteric area is full but not swollen. The eyebrow arches are developed. Excessively swollen masseters take away nobility from the head and will, therefore, be penalised. In the Lagotto the masseter muscle, which is attached to the mandible fossa of the same name is, like the temporalis, restrained in its forward expansion.

As far as the pterygoid muscles are concerned, internal and external, their development is good but not excessive.

## Eyes

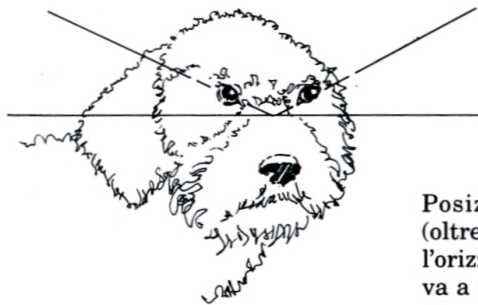
### Occhio



Posizione sub-frontale (15/20°) (corretta), occhio rotondeggiante (corretto) e leggermente affiorante (corretto).



Posizione frontale (0°) (difetto), occhio troppo affiorante (difetto).



Posizione semi-laterale (oltre 20° con la linea dell'orizzonte) (difetto) e oghi-va a mandorla (difetto).

The eyes are roundish, larger than average, moderately bulging, placed in the sub-frontal position (15/20° angle). The frontal position (which is determined when the palpebral axis forms a right angle with the medial axis of the head) is to be ban because these coarse hypertype craniums are almost always associated with exophthalmos (Ox Eye). A semi-lateral position is always a serious fault in

females too and is normally associated with ovalish (almond shape) eyes. Lateral and ultralateral positions entail complete downgrading. Sunken eye globes (enophthalmic), small (microphthalmic) or protruding (exophthalmic) are severely penalised because they alter the physiognomy of the subject. The iris must be dark brown, (generally, the iris should be the same colour as the darkest part of the coat excluding the mask). A light coloured iris leads to a considerable loss of points. In the Lagotto an eye is defined as being light when it is the colour of blonde beer.

A hazel-brown iris is tolerated. Light grey/blue\* eyes lead to disqualification. It

is very important that the dog's gaze is intelligent, friendly and alert. Some males and many females have a particularly gentle gaze that must not, however, stray to submission or worse to timidity. An eye with the correct characteristics of form and colour, but not benevolent, will be penalised. Close-set eyes modify negatively the dog's expression and are frequently linked to a flat skull and transversely underdeveloped frontal sinuses.



## Ears

### Orecchio



Orecchi a riposo  
Portamento corretto, inserzione corretta.

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Orecchi a farfalla a causa della base troppo larga (difetto).

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Orecchi con padiglioni afflosciati a causa della base stretta e dei muscoli auricolari rilassati (difetto).

The ears are as important as the eyes in giving the head its typical appearance. Compared to the volume of the head they are of average size, they are of a tilting triangular shape with an ample flap. They are attached right above the zygomatic arch, are spaced well apart and are very mobile. They have a broad base and powerful auricular muscles. At their point of attachment, they protrude externally making the upper part of the skull look broader. When the dog is alert, the upper side margin of the head is formed by the ear raised at the insertion point so that viewed from the front the attachment of the ear along with the skull form a gently rounded outline.

In profile, said insertion point has its oral limit at  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length of the skull, starting from the occiput. Aborally it can almost reach the attachment point of the head to the neck. The anterior margin of the ear adheres to the cheek and in a horizontal head position, going from the top to the bottom, its profile outlines a double inverted 's' curve. The posterior margin extends outwards and along with the lower margin forms a well defined angle, level with the eyes when the dog is alert. Ears which fall backwards (from the occiput, less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the skull), timid dogs – depriving the head of an incisiveness, and ears attached too high or too low will be penalised.

If the base of the ear is narrow and the auricle muscles are relaxed, the pinnae droop, if the base is too wide they are placed butterfly-like. In both cases, the upper outline of the head is altered. These faults entail severe penalisation. When spread out, an ear with the correct dimension will cover one-quarter of the length of the nasal bridge.

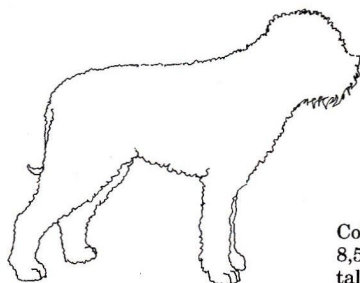
## Observations regarding the head.

The most difficult thing in the breeding of the Lagotto is the preservation of the typical shape of the head. An ideal head is a happy medium between the hypotype and the hypertype. A typical Lagotto is a work of nature that man has perfected and regulated. This means that, if the type is not constantly cured in the selection of the breed, in a short time nature will have the upper hand and will bring us back the archetype: the Lagotto's far ancestor with a flat forehead and a decidedly conical muzzle. Such characteristics, which still sometimes appear today in breeding establishments, are the signature of the hypotype. In opposition to the hypotype, we have the hypertype in which the typical characteristics are pushed to extremes, meaning the head becomes a caricature, i.e. presenting parallel or even convergent cranio-facial axes, a globular skull, a short muzzle, and often incomplete and atrophic teeth.

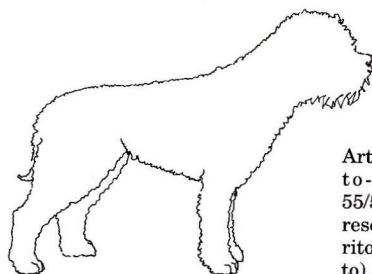
## The Neck

The neck must blend in harmoniously with the withers, the chest and the shoulders. In males, its perimeter corresponds to double its length. Keeping in mind that the length of the neck is measured with the head in a horizontal position or better, slightly lowered towards the ground. " The measurement is made on the upper edge of the neck from the nape to the cranial angle of the withers "(Solaro). Correctly inclined shoulders and high withers will make the neck appear longer and more harmonious, vice versa short withers and an excessively small scapulo-humeral angle will make it appear short. A slight neck devoid of detachment between the nape and a fleshy neck which overloads the anterior column is banned.

A neck which is not well fused with the withers, chest and shoulders with scarce convergence of the upper profile, too long or too short will be severely penalised. The neck muscles must be sufficiently long and strong. A correct neck is fundamental for the role this region plays in the mechanics of the animal. In fact, the cephalo-cervical balance ( the neck and head), moves the centre of gravity forward.



Collo corto, inferiore agli 8,5/10 della lunghezza totale della testa (difetto).



Arti corti: distanza gomito-suolo inferiore al 55/56% dell'altezza al garrese (difetto); tronco inserito nel rettangolo (difetto).

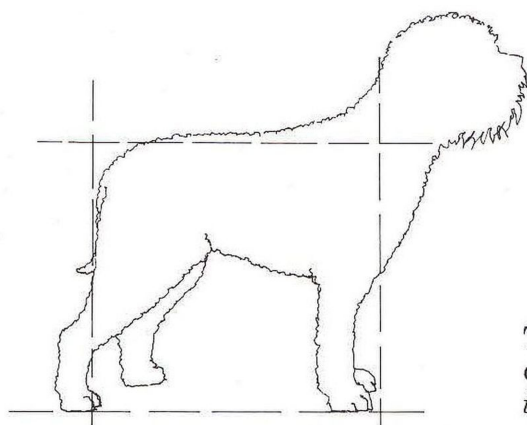


Groppa a tetto (difetto).

## The body

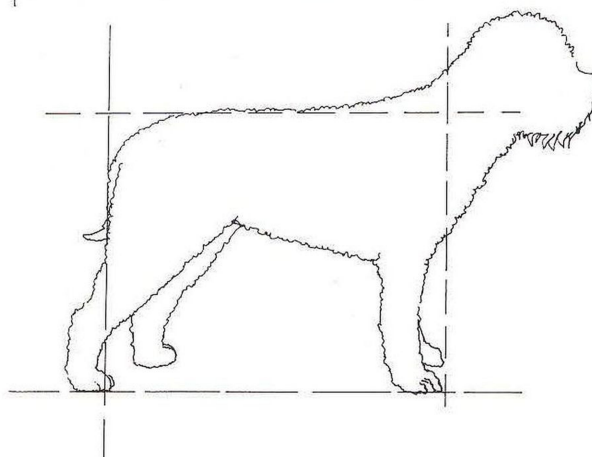
The length of the trunk, from the tip of the shoulder to the tip of the buttock (ischial tuberosity) is equal to the height of the withers (a trunk in a square).

There will be no difficulty inserting the best subjects in such a square. This does not mean the judge has to evaluate such measurement arithmetically, but it goes without saying that the Lagotto is a short dog, with a trunk tending to be equal to the height of the withers. For those subjects in which the trunk is more than 10% of the height of the withers, a maximum qualification will not be possible.



Tronco inserito nel quadrato (corretto). *Il Lagotto ideale secondo l'Autore.*

Tronco inserito nel rettangolo (difetto).



## The Chest

It is sufficiently broad and open, with well developed pectoral muscles. It's width, in proportion to the width of the thorax, in good male subjects, reaches 31% of the height of the withers. A narrow and underdeveloped muscular chest will be penalised.

## The Rib Cage

The role of the Lagotto as a working dog requires a good sized pulmonary area and cardiovascular system, therefore it should have a rib cage well developed in three dimensions (height, depth, width) and in its perimeter. The front rib presents a slight hint of a keel before considerably widening backwards from the sixth rib.



## **The Height of the Thorax**

Generally defined from the top of the withers to the lower margin of the sternum (sterno-vertebral diameter), the thorax corresponds to less than half of the height of the withers, it must reach down to the elbow without exceeding it and the sternal profile should be long. Short withers, which somewhat reduce the distance between the elbow and the withers (lowering the sternal margin above the level of the elbows) making a correct sized thorax seem too high up, is a rather common fault and will be penalised. In bitches and elderly dogs that are particularly corpulent or have a relaxed shoulder girdle, sometimes a perfect rib cage may appear excessively sloped. A thorax poor in height compromises the functionality of the animal and therefore represents a serious fault.

### **Depth of the Thorax**

The depth of the Lagotto's thorax is considerable, measured from the tip of the sternal manubrium to the centre of the second last false rib (sagittal diameter), it is equal to 54% of the height of the withers. Aforesaid substantial depth consents the conservation of a short solid kidney.

### **The Width of the Thorax.**

The width of the Lagotto reaches a high value (it corresponds to 31% of the height of the withers) and is determined by the transversal diameter of the most convex part of the rib, which is always preferable. When the transversal diameter is under 31% of the height of the withers, the forearms are spaced too close (the dog is narrow at the front), when it is over 31%, the forearms are spaced too far apart (the dog is broad at the front). The first fault is more serious than the second and therefore will be severely penalised.

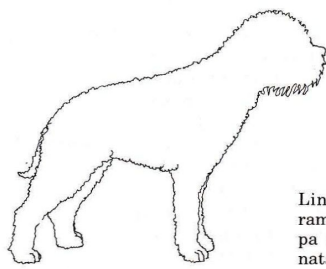
### **The Thoracic Perimeter**

It is at least 1/5 more than the withers. The body index, as can be seen, is 85/88 (slight mesomorphism).

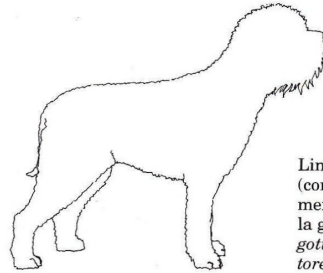
## **The Withers**

The first five dorsal vertebrae and the top of the scapula form the anatomic base of the withers which are long, relatively wide, sufficiently prominent, lean and clear-cut, harmoniously blended with the back and are the highest points of the topline. Prominent long withers indicate above all a considerable length of the spinous processes which accompany the top of the scapulae to make up the skeletal base. Since the height of the spinous processes increases up to the 5th dorsal vertebra, the stature of the animal is determined from this vertebra to ground level. The spinous processes which are the tension levers of the vertebral column and of some levator shoulder muscles (trapezius, rhomboid), the higher they are the more they favour the rigidity and the solidity of the back and lumbar regions, the expanse of the contraction of the levator shoulder muscles and indirectly, the propulsive force of the rear. High withers extended towards the rear, therefore, contribute to giving a straight dorsal contour, a well inclined shoulder and a long, powerful stride.

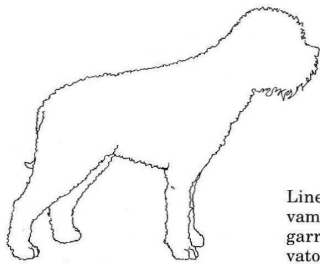
Low, short withers making the topline appear long, concurring with an excessively small scapula-humeral angle or an excessive inclination of the arm move the centre of gravity to the front and is a common fault. Dogs with this series of faults are thrust forward and consequently tend not to raise their front legs high enough, they have an awkward and not particularly energetic stride because of the reduction in length of the shoulder levator muscles and weakening of the rear drive. High, short withers which determine an excessively defined demarcation with the dorsal outline, impeding a harmonious blend of withers and back will be penalised. Sharp withers (the tips of the scapulae are too high and too close) are rarer in this breed. Short and fat or worse, sunken withers are serious faults in a working breed.



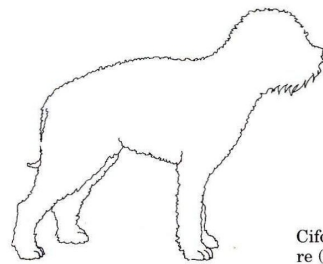
Linea superiore troppo rampante (difetto) e groppa eccessivamente inclinata (difetto).



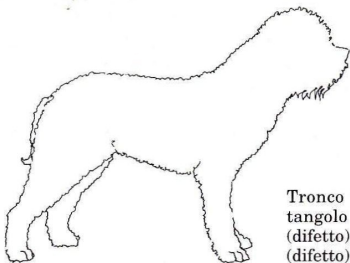
Linea superiore rettilinea (corretta) e garrese lievemente rilevato rispetto alla groppa (corretto). Il Lagotto ideale secondo l'Autore.



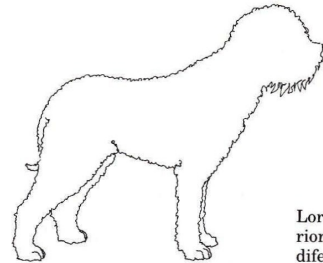
Linea superiore eccessivamente rampante per il garrese troppo sopraelevato (difetto).



Cifosi della linea superiore (difetto).



Tronco inserito nel rettangolo (difetto), lordosi (difetto), groppa avvallata (difetto).



Lordosi della linea superiore e groppa avvallata (2 difetti).

## The Back

The role of the back is that of support and it has the task of transmitting the rear propulsion to the front. In the Lagotto the back is pretty long, broad, muscular, solid, rigorously straight and in a slightly downward sloping inclination from the front towards the back. It is well known that there are three dorsal profiles in canine breeds: convex (the greyhound), straight (the pointer), concave (the Italian Bracco); the Lagotto has a straight profile. The most common faults of the back are kyphosis and lordosis. The convex back or roach back (kyphosis), physiological in young Lagottos from 4-6 months, is characterised by a lengthwise convexity which, generally starting from the 10th dorsal vertebra, joins up at the lumbar curve. Dogs with a roach back, which are shorter and less flexible, undergo a reduction of movement and ability to develop a fast stride because the thrust of the hind legs finds a glitch in the dorsal-lumbar kyphotic segment thus attenuating propulsion.

It must be underlined that, although the roach back has the fault of being excessively rigid and slowing down movement, it has, however, the advantages of an actual bridge, that is, being resistant and very solid. We, therefore, retain that when the malformation is of a modest entity and is not associated with a muscular deficiency of the rear and a dipped croup and, considering the Lagotto is not a particularly fast animal, it should be forgiven. The swayback (or lordosis) is quite frequent in the Lagotto, it is connected to the relaxing of the inferior ligaments of the vertebrae in dogs with short withers, long back and lumbar regions. It consists of a lengthwise concavity which can be limited to one portion of the topline but that often extends from the withers to the croup.

Dogs with this serious malformation are not very solid, they are weak and scarcely mobile because (as well as having obstacles to the transmission of the impulses like the kyphotic dogs) the energy they spend on opposing to the lowering of the column is at the expense of the propulsive strength of the rear.

Swaybacks will, therefore, always be severely penalised. In some dogs, an interrupted back margin can be observed at times, in correspondence to the 11th dorsal vertebra. This fault, often combined with high withers and short and insufficient development of the dorsal muscles, is not serious if it is reduced to modest limits. Nevertheless, it will be penalised because, as mentioned, the back must be perfectly straight. A narrow back, a sharp back, a roof-shaped back or a so-called false swayback (apparent swayback) related to the raising of the rear part of the dog will all be strongly penalised.

### **The renal or lumbar region**

The lumbar region, the joining bridge between the rear and the front, must be short in the Lagotto (a long lumbar region determines an oscillating rear with damage to the transmission of the propulsion). The renal region must be very solid, broad (because the transversal apophysis of the vertebrae are well developed in length and the muscular mass are equally developed), slightly convex and harmoniously blended with the back and the croup. Its length is equal or slightly less than the breadth and corresponds to 17% of the height of the withers. A tapering or long and sloping (muscular atrophy) renal region will be penalised as will a faltering gait and excessive sensitivity to pressure (on the other hand absolute insensitivity to pressure is an indicator of vertebral ankylosis). A flat, short and badly set renal region will also be penalised (badly set loins - sunken renal region, as already said regarding the back, the propulsive force of the rear tends to break in this region and the subject will have to consume a lot of energy to oppose to the lowering of the renal axis.).

### **Belly and Hips**

The belly is full and moderately retracted. Its lower profile elevates harmoniously towards the hips. A clearly retracted belly (hare's belly) generally accompanies a convex back (follows rickets and dysfunction of the digestive system) which will be penalised as will a sunken belly (always an expression of obesity, verminosis or incorrect nutrition). The hips are rather short like the lumbar region. The hip socket is scarcely pronounced. Long and sunken hips will be penalised.

### **The Croup**

The croup, which is the fulcrum of the transmission of the hock impulses to the front, has a great influence on the angulation of the hind limbs and therefore must also be judged in relation to them. The Lagotto's croup is long, with ischial tuberosity towards the back, it is broad and slightly rounded for an optimal skeletal and muscular development. Its length, measured from the tip of the hip to the tip of the buttock, corresponds to 32% of the height of the withers. Its front width is determined cranially between the two tips of the hips (bisiliac width), its average width is the distance between the two trochanters (bitrochanteric width), its rear width is the distance between the tips of the buttocks (bi-ischial width).

Its inclination, along the coxal axis (the straight line which unites the tip of the hip to the tip of the buttock), must form an angle between 25° and 30° with the horizon - It can, therefore, be defined as slightly inclined. To keep in mind that the croup is defined horizontal when the coxal inclination is 15/25° and is defined inclined between 25° and 35°, it is defined as oblique or dipped when it is more than 35°. Numerous subjects present an inclined croup of over 30°. Since, as aforementioned, the Lagotto is mainly a galloper, our opinion is that although it is not favoured, an inclined croup can be tolerated. Over such limits though (inclined or dipped croup) it will be severely penalised because it is always accompanied by 'standing under itself', hamstring muscles which are too short and consequently a faultive gait. Another fault that will be severely penalised is an excessively horizontal croup (below 15°) which determines a straightening of the femoral-tibial and consequently, angles which are too large and straight hocks. When the croup, as well as being too horizontal, is also short, a series of limitations in movement are determined.

The pelvis is very broad both in males and females. The tip of the hips, in stacking position, is slightly lower than the withers. In young dogs up to 18 months old, a slightly higher rear can be

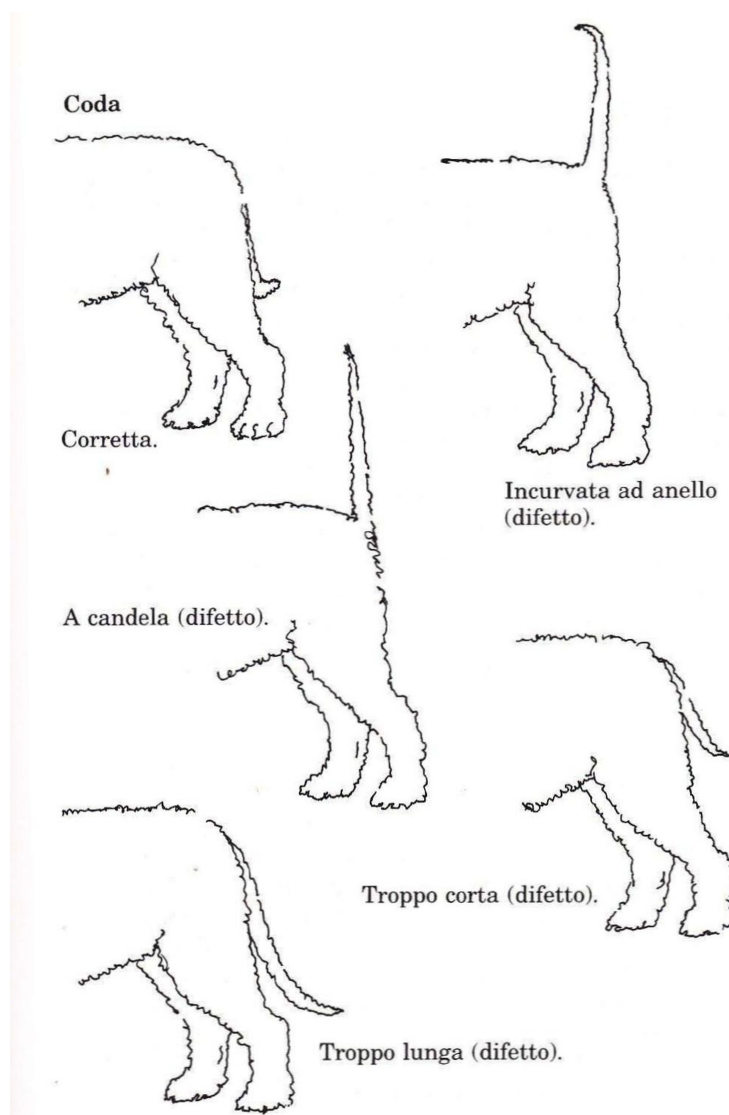


tolerated. Furthermore, narrow, sharp, skinny, angular or sloping croups will be penalised. The latter, which is a very serious fault, occurs when a more or less accentuated anterior-posterior inclination is combined with a roof-shape, i.e. prominent soprasacral spine.

## The Tail

The tail, set on at the halfway mark of the animal, is tapered at the tip, when stretched out it almost touches the hock. The tail is curved scimitar-like when the dog is relaxed and raised when it is alert. When the animal is excited or working, it can be more or less carried along the line of its back, but never curled in a ring (fox-tail) or bent over the back. Puppies always have their tail

curled. A short flag tail (above the tarsus) or candle-like tail will be penalised. Another serious fault is the 'tail between their legs' which is a sign of timidity and character disorders. For a working dog, like the Lagotto, who must have character and temperament, between the two faults, the less serious is the so-called happy tail, provided it is not like a terrier.



## **Sexual organs**

The testicles are regularly developed, mobile in their involucre and descended in the scrotum.

## **Fore Legs/ Thoracic Legs**

Regular Perpendicular Profile:

1. The vertical axis is lowered from the tip of the shoulder to the ground and must almost touch the tips of the toes.
2. The vertical axis lowered from the centre of the elbow joint must divide the limb into two almost equal parts, (the anterior part is the longest) touching the ground just behind the foot.
3. The height of the foreleg at elbow level (the olecranon point) is 56% of the height of the withers.

Regular Perpendicular – Frontal View

1. The vertical axis lowered from the tip of the shoulder to the ground must divide the forearm, the carpus, the metacarpus and the foot into two almost equal parts.

## **The Shoulder**

The shoulder is lean, long and oblique, with adequately long, powerful muscles without being overloaded (enough to allow an ample oscillation around its extremity), it must be close to the thorax but free to move. Its length, from the scapula-umeral (tip of the shoulder) to the top of the withers, corresponds to 30% of the height of the dog. The angle of the scapula horizontally ( the acromion spinal horizontal angle) is about 52°/55°

The tips of the scapulae, in relation to the vertical plane of the body, are spaced relatively far apart; if they are set too close or too far apart and short they will be penalised. As aforementioned, regarding the withers, a straight shoulder is quite common in the Lagotto and when it is associated with an excessively inclined arm, it modifies the construction and movement negatively. A straight shoulder will be penalised and likewise shoulders which are not muscular enough, with a relaxed scapular girdle or those that are fat, slight or heavy and impeded in movement.

## **The Arm**

The arm is strong, long (its measurement is taken from the tip of the shoulder to the tip of the elbow), and of well developed bone and muscle, it has a length equal to 30% of the height of the withers (that is, equal to the length of the shoulder) and forms an angle with its horizontal axis at 58°/60°. If however, the shoulder is straight and the arm is excessively inclined, the centre of gravity moves forward (trunk launched frontwards), the foot becomes overloaded and the stride becomes lower because the legs aren't being lifted high enough. Lengthening is reduced and the subject's movements are too close to the ground. This is a common fault in the Lagotto and is severely penalised. If on the contrary, the neck is raised, the centre of gravity moves backwards, the rear is overloaded and increases the static nature of the subject. The scapula-humeral is about

110°/115°. Arms which are overly inclined or too straight, arms which are slight, short and not muscular enough will be penalised. The arm must be, just as the scapula should be, on a plane parallel to the body.

### **The Forearm**

The elbow, long and prominent, like the arm, must be on a plane rigorously parallel to that of the median body plane, this condition is necessary to have a regular perpendicular since elbows outwardly deviated or open frequently produce toeing in, while those that tend inwards (closed) provoke toeing out Both deviations will be penalised. The tip of the elbow is situated on the vertical axis lowered from the caudal angle of the scapula to the ground. This is also a good point of reference to measure the right inclination of the humerus. The forearm is perfectly vertical, a cross-section shows it to be oval, strong, well-muscled with good compact bones. Carpal-cubital grooves are visible, with good development of the pisiform bone. The length of the forearm, measured from the tip of the elbow to the first carpal joint, is superior to that of the arm (36% of the height of the withers). A Lagotto with narrow, short, slight forearms (which often accompany a narrow chest) will be penalised and likewise, forearms deviated from the perpendicular or arched.

### **The carpus**

The carpus is lean, well defined, broad, thick and straight like the forearm. In an adult, if it is anteriorly convex or of a spongy texture, it will be penalised. The carpus is sometimes further forward than the vertical axis (ARREMBatura) or arched backwards. Frequently it is turned backwards and consequently the metacarpi and the feet turn outwards(toeing out) or it is turned outwards and the metacarpi and feet are turned backwards (toeing in) All these deviations will be penalised.

### **Metacarpus**

The metacarpus is somewhat smaller than the forearm it is very robust, slightly slanted, without any excess length. Viewed front on it follows the perpendicular line of the forearm and the carpus. Viewed in profile it is only slightly extended and forms an angle with the ground at 75°/80°. Its length is equal to 8% of the height of the withers. If the metacarpus is excessively long and bent, the dog is defined as long jointed. Although this fault (penalised in adult dogs) is very common in young dogs up to 12 months old it almost always disappears in maturity. If the metacarpus is short and hence straight, the dog is defined as short jointed or straight pasterned. Such fault is not serious, considering the digging role of the Lagotto.

### **The Feet**

The feet are round, compact with arched and gathered toes (cat foot) and with well developed webbing (ethnic characteristic). They have plantar pads, fleshy digits, a particularly hard, sturdy sole and very strong arched nails. Long feet, oval feet (hare feet), \*flat/pressed feet, feet which are not arched enough or with toes set apart, inward or outward turning feet will all be penalised. A foot in which toes are separated is a sign of lymphatism which is hereditary. Flat feet tire the animal out in that it has to dig up truffles.

The most common deviations of the perpendicular of the forelimbs may be summed up with the following:

### **Profile View**



a) Complete deviation of the limb

1. The dog thrust forward or too closed at the front (the vertical axis falls beyond the tip of the paw.). The opposite fault (dog extended at front; the vertical axis falls on the paw) is rare in the Lagotto.

b) A partial deviation of the limb.

1. A long jointed dog (pasterns are excessively long and bent).

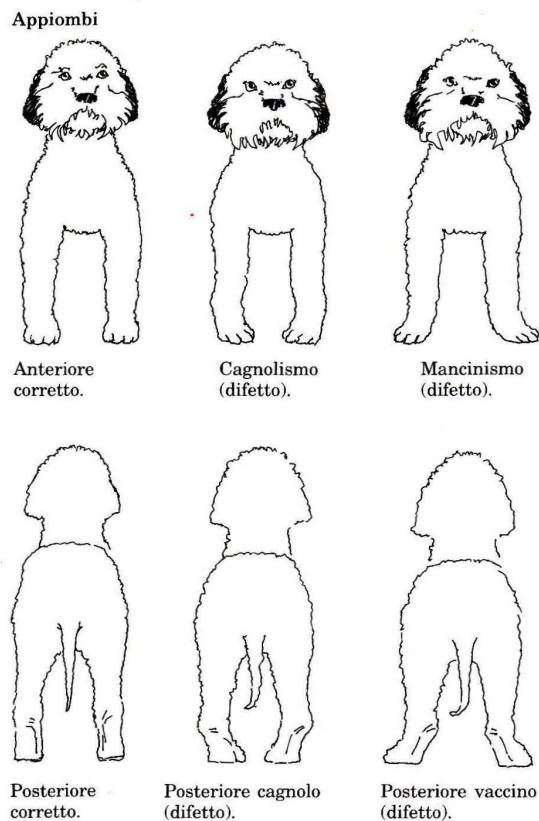
**Frontal view**

a) Total deviation of limb.

- 1. dog with frontal closure (limbs converging in a lower vertical axis).
- 2. dog with frontal opening (low diverging limbs so off the axis)
- 3. dog with an arched (lyre-like) forearm

b) A partial deviation of the limb.

- 1) Left-handed (forearm is on the vertical axis but from the carpus to the foot the limb rolls outwards).
- 2) Cagnolo (forearm is on the vertical axis but from the carpus to the foot the limbs rolls inwards).



**Hind legs**

Regular Perpendicular in Profile:

The vertical axis is lowered from the tip of the buttock to the ground, it must be closer without touching the tip of the toes. The metatarsal is always vertical.

Regular Perpendicular from Behind.

The vertical axis lowered from the tip of the buttock to the ground divides the whole limb into two equal parts.

## **The Thigh**

The thigh is long, wide, convex with extremely well developed long and prominent muscles, the set of croup-buttock-thigh muscles must be powerful. A deficient muscular development in these regions compromise the functionality of the rear and in young dogs favours the deprecated subluxation of the coxo-femoral joint.

The suggestion made by some cynologists to select the lightest puppies with the purpose of obtaining dogs exempt from such malformations is not applicable in the Lagotto. Since 1991, the C.I.L. have been officially controlling coxo-femoral dysplasia. Only the subjects on which such control has been done can be added to the list of breeders advised by the club.

It is, therefore, appropriate to use breeders which have the largest possible thigh circumference. The length of the thigh is about 35% of the height of the withers. Its direction, with respect to the horizontal axis, is somewhat oblique from both top to bottom and from back to front having an inclination of 80° on the horizontal axis, forming an angle of about 195/115° with the coxal angle (coxal-femoral angle)

Its direction with respect to the sagittal plane of the body is almost parallel. A thigh which is short, flat or with atrophic muscles (a reduced development of the buttock, thigh and leg muscles determines the so-called chicken thigh will be banned.

A thigh which is too straight or too slanted, open (which causes cow hocks), closed (which causes a rear barrel-toeing in) will be penalised. The buttock, under-region of the thigh, is long, i.e. well extended (as should be for a galloper), convex, very muscular and prominent at the tip. Subjects whose muscles are not well developed enough have skinny thighs and a weak rear. Generally, a slightly inclined croup corresponds to a long, well-extended thigh, a croup which slopes too much or worse, dips, corresponds to a short buttock

## **The Leg**

The leg is of medium length with a good bone structure and muscles. Free from subcutaneous cellular tissue, it has a well defined leg groove and it is perfectly parallel to the median axis of the body. Its length corresponds to 36% of the height of the withers. Its horizontal inclination is about 50/55° and depends on the direction of the croup which in the case of the Lagotto is slightly inclined (straight leg = horizontal croup, oblique leg = inclined croup). The femoro-rotuleo-tibiale is of about 130/135°. A leg that is too slight and short should be banned and a leg which is far too oblique or too straight should be penalised.

## **The Hock**

The hock is a very important area, not only because of its supporting role but also because as a propulsive spring to the rear. In the Lagotto the hock must be broad, thick, lean, well defined, very strong and with well defined bone saliences. The top of the hock clearly shows the continuation of the leg groove. The degree of the tibia-metatarsal angle is thought to be about 140°.

Many Lagottos stand under themselves causing a forward sloping metatarsal. This is a serious fault because the centre of gravity is moved backwards and the hock overloaded (elbow hock). On the contrary, if the hock slopes backwards (with a metarsic angle being too great – the dog's rear stance will be external), it is still a serious fault because the drive will result compromised. False positioning of the limbs can provoke a loosening of the tibia- metatarsal joints with an unsteady hock when in movement. In dogs which are raised at the rear, there can even be a tendency to inversion in the angle of the hock. This fault as before will be severely penalised. A hock which is excessively high, narrow, thin and whose angle is too small or too great will be penalised.

## **Metatarsal**

The metatarsal should be lean, very sturdy of good thickness and not too long. It should always be perpendicular to the ground viewed from both the side and the rear. It will be penalised if it is too long, slight or out of line. Dewclaws(both single or double) are a serious fault.

## **The Hind Foot**

The hind foot is not as round as the anterior foot and the phalanges are not as arched. The faults are the same as for the front foot.

Overlooking the numerous variants, in the Lagotto the most common deviations of the perpendicularity of the hind feet are the following:

In profile:

a) total deviation of the limb.

1. Dog too closed at the back (it stands under itself). The foot is in front of the vertical axis and the hind legs are moved under the trunk. The croup is dipped.
2. The foot is in front of the vertical axis, the limbs are moved under the trunk, the leg is almost always perpendicular, the hock is straight (or open). The croup is dipped
3. The dog is extended behind, it stands 'outside itself'. The dog's stance is external. The foot is considerably behind the vertical axis without touching it, so the posterior limbs are moved backwards. The croup is horizontal.

b) partial deviation of the limb.

1. Closed croup: the deviation begins from the croup to the tarsal, the metatarsal and the foot are oblique forwardly.
2. Open croup: opposite fault from the previous:

From Behind

a) total deviation of the limb.

1. Dog with rear closure (limbs converging underneath, so outside the vertical axis).
2. Dog open rearly (limbs diverging underneath so, off the vertical axis).
3. Cow hocked dog-vaccine (the hocks turn towards the vertical axis and the feet turn outwards).
4. Toeing in dog-cagnolo (the hocks turn away from the vertical axis and the feet turn inwards).

## **The Hair**

The hair is of woolly texture, it is semi-coarse on the surface and has very tight curls like rings, with an evident undercoat. It is never twisted to form thin cords nor does it form ringlets. The curls must be evenly distributed all over the body, exception on the head where the curls are not as tight forming abundant eyebrows, whiskers and beard. Even the cheeks are covered with thick hair. Both the topcoat and particularly the undercoat are waterproof.

## **Grooming**

The cure of the Lagotto's coat does not meet any aesthetic criteria. It is just a simple clip connected to practical needs. At one time a truffle dog would have its legs, its tail and the hair around its muzzle clipped to avoid them getting dirty with earth when they were working. However, since the hair, tends to become matted if it isn't clipped, at least one complete clipping a year is necessary. Matted hair should be removed periodically.

A clipped coat must not be longer than 3 centimetres, it should be shorter on the legs, uniform with the silhouette of the dog. The eyes must not be covered by hair. Shaving of the genital and perianal area is allowed. A coat clipped like a Poodle or a Bichon Frise, in such a way that makes it impossible to evaluate the curl and the weave and over-grooming in any way, will be a reason for



the exclusion from competition. A correct, unpretentious clip contributes to maintaining and to accentuate the natural rustic look typical of the breed.

### **Colour**

A solid off-white colour, white with brown or orange patches; orange-roan, brown-roan, brown (in every shade except sable) with or without white, orange with or without white. In some subjects a brown or dark brown mask is present. Tan markings in different shades are allowed.

### **The skin**

The skin is dark pink to brown with scattered pigmented patches. The nose, the rims of the eyelids and the lips range from light brown to dark brown, never black and always related to the colour of the coat. The pigment of the sole of the plantar cushions and toes must be dark. Depigmentation, even partial, of the nose and of the eyelid rims, is considered a serious fault. The skin must be compact and tonic with a thick dermis and well nourished in every part of the body. The skin of an adult dog should be neither overabundant nor have an excess of subcutaneous cellular tissue. The dewlap is absent. Lean subjects with folds in moderation in an upright head position are preferred. Thin soft skin will be banned

### **Height at withers**

Males: from 43-48cm (46cm is ideal).

Bitches: from 41-46cm (43cm is ideal).

There is a tolerance of 1cm more or 1cm less.

### **Weight:**

Males from 13-16kg

Bitches: from 11-14kg

## **Faults**

Every deviation from the previous points must be considered a fault, the seriousness of which will be valued in proportion to its degree, its effect on the health and well being of the dog and of the capability of doing the typical work of its breed.

### **Serious faults**

A convergence of the cranial-facial axis  
A concave nasal bridge  
Partial depigmentation  
Accentuated and disfiguring prognathism  
A tail bent over the back or curved in a ring  
A bilateral strabismus  
The presence of mono or bilateral dewclaws

### **Disqualification Faults**

An aggressive or excessively timid nature  
Any subject which demonstrates clear physical or behavioural problems  
Complete depigmentation  
Converging axes of the cranium and muzzle  
An overshot bite  
Light grey/blue eyes  
Anuria  
Black and grey or black and grey patched coat, the presence of black pigments  
Height of the withers over or under the prescribed limits.

### **Concluding Notes and Recommendations.**

Considering that the Lagotto Romagnolo, as the standard prescribes and as the regulations are dictated in its specific function, must have a limb and elbow sufficiently high (about 56% of the height of the withers), it is recommended not to assign the maximum qualification to subjects who do not respect this important proportion.

Particular attention is paid to the observance of the shape which, as prescribes the standard, in the Lagotto, tends to be square. Rectangular subjects cannot access a maximum qualification. A lot of attention is given to the form of the thorax for which a slight keel in the front part is required.

The thorax widens considerably from the sixth rib. An excessively short, narrow or sloping croup will be banned. Particular attention to the bearing of the tail, which in the case of curving onto the back, curled or candle straight (terrier tail), in a dog judged in stacking position, cannot permit the subject access to maximum qualification.

In a dog in movement a ringed, curled or candle straight tail will be equally penalised. Post-traumatic surgical tail docking which has been regularly certified by a veterinary doctor will not be considered a serious fault. Other forms of tail docking are considered disqualification faults. Excessive length of hair on the head commencing from the nuchal region and the hair covering the eyes cannot permit the subject access to maximum qualification.