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ORIGIN: Italy.

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UTILIZATION: Truffle Dog.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I.: Group 8 Retrievers-Flushing Dogs-Water Dogs. Section 3 Water Dogs. Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Ancient breed of retrieving water dogs in the lowlands of Comacchio and marshlands of Ravenna. During the centuries, the great marshlands were drained and turned into arable land. Subsequently the Lagotto changed from being a water dog to an excellent dog for searching truffles in the flat open country and in the hills of Romagna.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small to medium-sized dog, well proportioned, powerfully built, of a rustic appearance, with a dense, curly coat of woolly texture.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The length of the head is 4/10 of the height at the withers. The dog is nearly as high as long (square). The length of the skull should be slightly more than 50 % of the total length of the head. The length of the muzzle is 2/10 less than that of the skull (44 % to 56 %). The depth of the chest is less than 50 % (about 44 %) of the height at the withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

A natural gift for searching and its very good nose has made the breed very efficient in truffle searching. The former hunting instinct has been eliminated; hence his work is not distracted by the scent of game. The Lagotto is tractable, undemanding, keen, affectionate, very attached to his owner and easy to train. He is also a very good companion and an excellent watch-dog.

HEAD

Viewed from above trapezoidal in shape and moderately broad; the upper longitudinal axes of the skull and the muzzle diverge slightly.

CRANIAL REGION

- **Skull:** Wide at the level of the zygomatic arches, and as long as wide. Viewed from the side, from occiput to stop, the skull should be longer than the muzzle. It is slightly convex and tends to flatten out at the back skull. Frontal sinuses well developed, superciliary arches marked, medio-frontal furrow pronounced, occipital crest short and not very developed, supraorbital fossae slightly marked.
- **Stop:** Not too pronounced.

FACIAL REGION

- **Nose:** Large with wide open and mobile nostrils. Naso-labial line strongly pronounced. Viewed in profile, the nose continues on the same level as the muzzle and protrudes very slightly from the front edge of the lips. The colour ranges from light to dark brown, depending on the colour of the coat.
- **Muzzle:** Fairly broad, a little shorter than the skull (ratio : skull 56 %, muzzle 44 %), its depth being only slightly less than the length. It is slightly wedge shaped, with a moderately flat front face. The nasal bridge has a straight profile.
- **Lips:** The lips are not too thick, they are rather tight, so that the lower profile of the muzzle is

determined by the mandible. They are covered with a long and rather bristly moustache. Viewed from the front, the lips form a wide semi-circle. The colour of the edges ranges from light to dark brown.

- **Jaws/Teeth:** Jaws strong with almost straight branches and a relatively large mandibular body. Complete scissor or pincer bite with white and well developed teeth. Slightly undershot mouth acceptable.
- **Cheeks:** Flat.
- **Eyes:** Fairly large, rounded, filling the socket, set fairly apart. The colour of the iris ranges from ochre to hazel and dark brown depending on the colour of the coat. Close fitting eyelids; the colour of the eye-rims ranges from light to dark brown. Eyelashes very well developed. Look alert, expression keen and lively.
- **Ears:** Medium-sized in proportion to the head, triangular with rounded tips; their base is rather wide; they are set just above the zygomatic arches. Hanging at rest or slightly raised when the dog is attentive. If pulled towards the nose they should reach the muzzle at 1/4 of its length. On the ears, the hair tends to show looser curls, but remains very wavy. No short hair on the ears. The inner part of the auricle is also covered with hair.

NECK

Strong, muscular, lean, of oval cross section; well set off from the nape and absolutely free from dewlap. Topline slightly arched. In males the perimeter of the neck can reach the double of its length. The length of the neck is a little less than the total length of the head.

BODY

Compact and strong; as long as the height at the withers.

- **Topline:** Straight from the withers to the croup.
- **Withers:** They rise above the level of the croup; the highest points of the shoulder blades are not too close, but quite high set and well laid back.
- **Back:** Straight, very muscular.
- **Loin:** Short coupled, very strong, in profile slightly arched. Width is equal or exceeds their length.
- **Croup:** Long, wide, muscular, slightly sloping (coxal inclination ranges from 25° to 30°).
- **Chest:** Well developed, reaching down to the elbows. Although fairly narrow in front, from the sixth rib the chest widens backwards.
- **Underline and Belly:** Long sternal section in form of a straight line; the following tuck-up is only slight.

TAIL

Set on neither too high nor too low; tapering towards the end. When hanging, it should barely reach the hocks. At rest carried scimitar like; when attentive decidedly raised. When working or excited can be carried over the back, but never curled.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

- **Generally:** Vertical, seen from the front and in profile.
- **Shoulder:** Shoulder blades long (30% of the height at withers), well laid back (52-55°), muscular, strong and closely attached to the chest, but moving freely. The scapulo-humeral angle ranges from 110° to 115°.
- **Upper arm:** Muscular, of thin bone structure, as long as the shoulder blade; its inclination to the horizontal ranges from 58-60°.
- **Elbows:** Well attached to the chest wall, but not too tightly; covered with thin skin; parallel to the median sagittal plane of the body as are the upper arms. The point of the elbow is located on a vertical line lowered from the back end of the scapula to the ground.
- **Forearm:** Perfectly vertical, long (36% of the height at withers), with compact, strong bone of oval cross-section).
- **Carpus:** Viewed from the front in a vertical line with the forearm; fine, robust and mobile; pisiform bone markedly protruding.

- **Pastern:** Rather less thick and of finer bone compared with the forearm, mobile; seen in profile, it forms an angle of 75° to 80° with the ground.
- **Forefeet:** Slightly rounded, compact, with arched and tight toes. Nails strong and curved. Pads well pigmented. Interdigital membranes very well developed.

HINDQUARTERS:

- **Generally:** Vertical and parallel, powerful, well proportioned to the size of the dog.
- **Upper thigh:** Long (35% of the height at withers), with clearly separated and visible muscles. The axis of the femur has a distinct inclination of 80° to the horizontal line. The coxo-femoral angle ranges from 105° to 110°. The thigh is parallel to the median plane of the body.
- **Stifle:** The angle of the stifle joint ranges from 130° to 150°.
- **Lower thigh:** Slightly longer than the upper thigh (36% of the height at withers), well boned and muscled, with marked muscular groove. Its inclination to the horizontal ranges from 50° to 55°.
- **Hock joint:** Wide, thick, lean, with clear-cut bone; parallel to the median plane of the body; the tibio-metatarsal angle is ca. 140°.
- **Metatarsal:** Thin, cylindrical, perpendicular to the ground.
- **Hindfeet:** Slightly more oval-shaped than forefeet and toes slightly less arched.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Walk regular, trot energetic and brisk, gallop for short periods.

SKIN

Close fitting all over the body, without wrinkles, thin, with sparse subcutaneous tissue. Pigmentation of mucous membranes and of pads ranges from light to dark and very dark brown.

COAT

- **Hair:** Of woolly texture, somewhat rough in surface, forming tightly curled, ring shaped curls with the undercoat shining through. Curls must be evenly distributed all over the body, except on the head, where the curls are less tight, forming well-furnished eyebrows, whiskers and beard. Even the cheeks are covered with dense hair. The topcoat and specially the undercoat are water-proof. If not clipped, the hair tends to become felted; therefore a complete clipping must be performed at least once a year. Felted topcoat and undercoat must be removed periodically.
- **Colour:** Off-white solid colour, white with brown or orange patches, brown roan, brown solid colour (in different shades), or orange solid colour. A brown to dark brown mask acceptable.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at the withers:

- **Males :** from 43 to 48 cm (ideal height : 46 cm),
- **Females :** from 41 to 46 cm (ideal height : 43 cm).

Tolerance of 1 cm more or less.

Weight:

- **Males :** 13 to 16 kg,
- **Females :** 11 to 14 kg.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

- Axes of the skull and the muzzle converging.
- Partially depigmented nose.
- Dish-faced.
- Pronounced undershot mouth.
- Strabismus.
- Docked tail.
- Dewclaws.
- Coat not curled or clipped short.

- Black coat or black patches.
- Oversize or undersize.

ELIMINATING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Totally depigmented nose.
- Overshot mouth.
- Wall-eye.
- Corded coat.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B. : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.