

Lagotto Romagnolo Behavior Questionnaire  
Conducted by the Lagotto Romagnolo Foundation, Inc.  
Research Design by Elizabeth Williams  
Report by Charlotte Rohrer

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## Introduction

This report details and analyzes the responses to the Lagotto Romagnolo Behavior Questionnaire conducted by the Lagotto Romagnolo Foundation. The questionnaire seeks to better understand how individual Lagotti react and behave in different environments or situations.

## Research Design

This survey was designed as a quantitative research to gain in-depth information about the breed and collect data to describe, but not predict, the breed.

The study design was inspired by the Canine Behavioral Assessment & Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ) which is a standardized, behavioral evaluation tool for dog owners/guardians, handlers and professionals. [According to the University of Pennsylvania](#) who maintains the C-BARQ database, “Behavior problems are widely acknowledged to be the most important cause of premature death (by euthanasia) in companion dogs, as well as being the primary reason why dogs are surrendered to animal shelters and rescue groups. They also contribute to dogs being neglected or abandoned by their owners, and/or subjected to punitive, and generally inhumane, training techniques. Among working dogs, behavioral problems are the single most common reason why dogs are released from training programs.”

Our research goal was to develop a deep understanding of the behavior to use as a foundation to come up with a hypothesis for a follow up research.

Therefore, no clear hypothesis was tested for this research as the questionnaire does not seek to explain a certain behavior in Lagotti but merely explore and understand the variety of behaviors exhibited by different Lagotti.

For purposes of this research, a questionnaire with 35 questions, pertaining to the birth, gender, age and behavior of the dog was conducted over the span of two years. However, this report focuses specifically on the behavior related questions of the survey, being Q9, Q10, Q11, Q12, Q16, Q17 and Q18. The questionnaire was first published in August 2017 and closed in August 2019. However, most of the answers were recorded in an 8-week span. The English questionnaire had 926 different responses, each pertaining to a different dog. However, it is important to note that questionnaire takers could click on several options in some of the questions, which is why the percentage often adds up to more than 100%. Out of these 926 responses, on average 72% of the survey was completed. The survey was also conducted in Greek, German and Italian and collectively over 1300 dogs were included in all surveys. While this report briefly mentions the survey conducted in other languages, this report only analyzes the English responses. The questions of the survey were as follows:

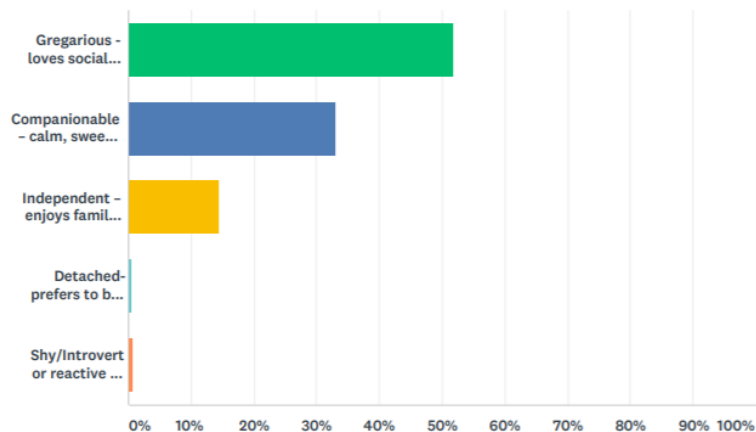
1. Dogs Date of Birth?
2. Gender (with options of spayed, neutered or intact)
3. Age at the time of spay or neuter?
4. At what age did you get your Lagotto?
5. Is this dog deceased?
6. Environment this dog is being raised in?
7. What type of diet do you feed this dog?
8. General daily exercise routine for this dog
9. Describe your dog's overall social behavior in the home environment with family
10. Describe your dog's overall social behavior in the home environment with visitors
11. Describe your dog's overall social behavior outside the home with people
12. Describe your dog's overall social behavior with other dogs outside the home
13. Alert Barking – Select the statement that best fits for this dog
14. Digging – Select the statement that best fits for this dog

15. Chewing – Select the statement that best fits for this dog
16. Fear and Anxiety: Dogs may show signs of anxiety or fear when exposed to sights, sounds, objects, or situations. Use the following scale to rate your dog's response
17. Aggression and Reactivity: Dogs can display aggressive/reactive behavior to a variety of situations. This may include barking, growling, baring teeth, biting etc. Rate with the choice that best describes your dog's behavior.
18. Attachment and Attention Seeking: Some dogs prefer to stay close to their people and demand attention and some may show signs of anxiety when left alone, even for short periods. Rate the following with the choice that best describes your dog.
19. Has the dog had any health concerns or health testing that was not in the normal range? Select all that apply.
20. If your dog has been clinically diagnosed with allergy issues check all that apply.
21. The Sire of this dog had the following health certifications. Select all that apply.
22. The Dam of this dog had the following health certifications. Select all that apply.
23. Are there any other health related concerns regarding this dog?
24. What training has your dog had? Select all that apply.
25. What training method(s) have you used in training? Select all that apply.
26. What statement best describes your dogs 'trainability' with basic obedience skills?
27. Other activities: Do you participate in any formal activities with this dog? Select all that apply.
28. Did you meet the sire and dam of the litter in person?
29. Do the sire or dam participate in any sport or working activities? Check all that apply.
30. If you purchased a puppy, did the breeder follow any specific program or process when raising the litter?
31. If this dog has any behavioral concerns did you contact the Breeder for assistance or support?
32. If Breeder was contacted for support what was the outcome?
33. If this dog has behavior that is extremely fearful, reactive or aggressive please select any that apply
34. Any additional comments regarding this Lagotto - temperament, behavior, training or Breeder support?

## Analysis - English Responses

### Q9 Describe your dog's overall social behavior in the home environment with FAMILY. Choose the best fit.

Answered: 886 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Gregarious - loves social interaction with the family, eager to join in activities	51.69%	458
Companionable – calm, sweet and snuggly with family, likes to be close to us	33.07%	293
Independent – enjoys family but prefers to be more independent, chooses when to seek attention or interact with family	14.33%	127
Detached- prefers to be left alone, interacts with family if encouraged	0.34%	3
Shy/Introvert or reactive - rarely interacts with family, difficult to engage with, carefully managed with people in the home	0.56%	5
TOTAL		886

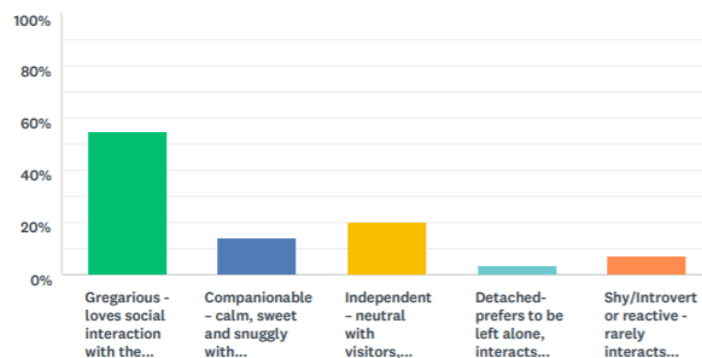
Question 9 seeks to identify the overall social behavior of the Lagotto in the home environment while spending time with family. 51.69% of the dogs are eager to join in activities and love social interaction with the family, showing that the majority of surveyed Lagotti are gregarious and social. In addition, 33.07% of surveyed Lagotti are companionable, meaning they

are calm, sweet and snuggly with their family. Another 14.33% are more independent with their families, and below 2% are detached or shy and reactive with their families.

Question 10 asks for the dog's overall social behavior at home with visitors. 55.19% of the dogs are eager to join in activities and love social interaction with visitors. Further, 14.22% of surveyed Lagotti are companionable, meaning they are calm, sweet and snuggly with visitors. Another 20.09% are more independent with visitors, while around 11% are detached or shy. It is

**Q10 Describe your dog's overall social behavior in the home environment with VISITORS. Choose the best fit.**

Answered: 886 Skipped: 40



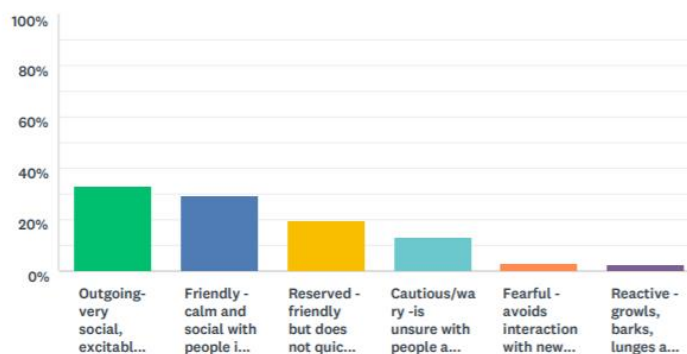
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Gregarious - loves social interaction with the visitors, eager to join in activities	55.19%	489
Companionable – calm, sweet and snuggly with visitors.	14.22%	126
Independent – neutral with visitors, chooses when to seek attention or interact with visitors	20.09%	178
Detached- prefers to be left alone, interacts with visitors if encouraged	3.27%	29
Shy/Introvert or reactive - rarely interacts with visitors, carefully managed with people in the home	7.22%	64
TOTAL		886

interesting to note that, while the amount of gregarious and independent Lagotti remained around the same as with their families, the percentage of companionable Lagotti dropped significantly, while the percentage of detached and shy Lagotti increased.

Question 11 seeks to understand the dog's overall social behavior outside the home with people. 32.96% of the dogs are outgoing, very social and excitable with all environments. Another 29.35% of surveyed Lagotti are calm and social with people in any environment. Further, 19.30% are reserved, meaning they are friendly but not quick to seek out social interaction with people. 12.98% are cautious or wary of other people and take time to relax. Around 5% of Lagotti are fearful or reactive, meaning they either avoid interaction with people or growl, bark or lunge at people. Here it stands out, that overall Lagotti are more reserved when

### Q11 Describe your dog's overall social behavior outside the home with people. Choose the best fit.

Answered: 886 Skipped: 40

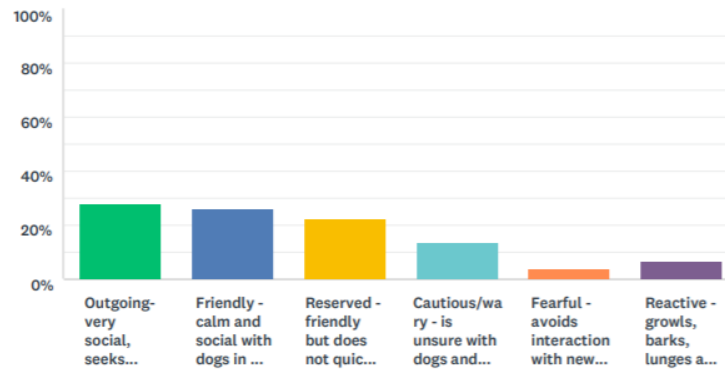


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outgoing- very social, excitable with all people in all environments	32.96%	292
Friendly - calm and social with people in a variety of environments	29.35%	260
Reserved - friendly but does not quickly seek out social interaction with people	19.30%	171
Cautious/wary -is unsure with people and in new environments, takes time to relax around new people	12.98%	115
Fearful - avoids interaction with new people at home & new environments	2.82%	25
Reactive - growls, barks, lunges at new people in new environments	2.60%	23
TOTAL		886

outside their homes, while still friendly and social. Interestingly enough, more Lagotti are calm and social with people other than their family when outside their homes than inside their homes.

### Q12 Describe your dog's overall social behavior with DOGS outside your home. Choose the best fit.

Answered: 886 Skipped: 40

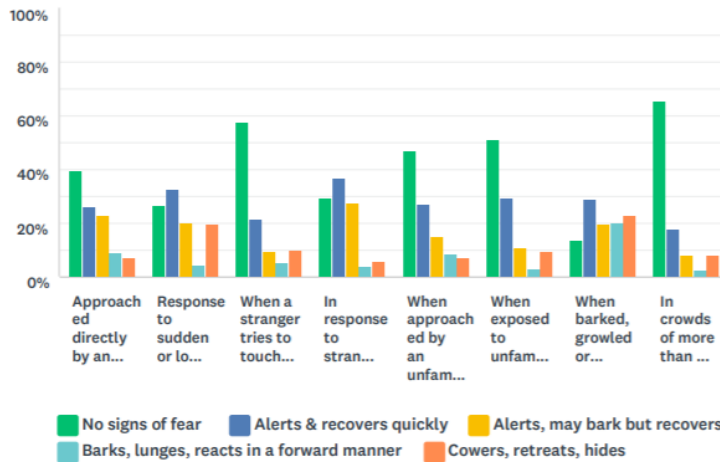


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outgoing- very social, seeks interaction from other dogs, excitable with all dogs in all environments	27.77%	246
Friendly - calm and social with dogs in a variety of environments	25.96%	230
Reserved - friendly but does not quickly seek out social interaction with other dogs	22.35%	198
Cautious/wary - is unsure with dogs and in new environments, takes time to relax around new dogs	13.54%	120
Fearful - avoids interaction with new dogs, chooses to move away or hides	4.06%	36
Reactive - growls, barks, lunges at dogs in new environments	6.32%	56
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>886</b>

Question 12 seeks to understand the dog's overall social behavior with other dogs outside the home. 27.77% of the dogs are very social, excitable and seek interaction from other dogs. Another 25.96% of surveyed Lagotti are calm and social with other dogs in any environment. Further, 22.35% are reserved, meaning they are friendly but not quick to seek out social interaction with other dogs. 13.54% are cautious or wary of other dogs and take time to relax. Around 11% of Lagotti are fearful or reactive, meaning they either avoid interaction with new dogs or growl, bark or lunge at other dogs. Here it stands out, that overall Lagotti are sociable and relaxed around new people than new dogs. The percentage of outgoing and friendly Lagotti is higher when interacting with people. Meanwhile, the percentage of reserved, wary, fearful and reactive dogs is higher with other new dogs than with people.

**Q16 Fear and Anxiety** Dogs may show signs of anxiety or fear when exposed to sights, sounds, objects or situations. Use the following scale to rate your dog's response. Select the option that best describes the dog's usual response.

Answered: 813 Skipped: 113



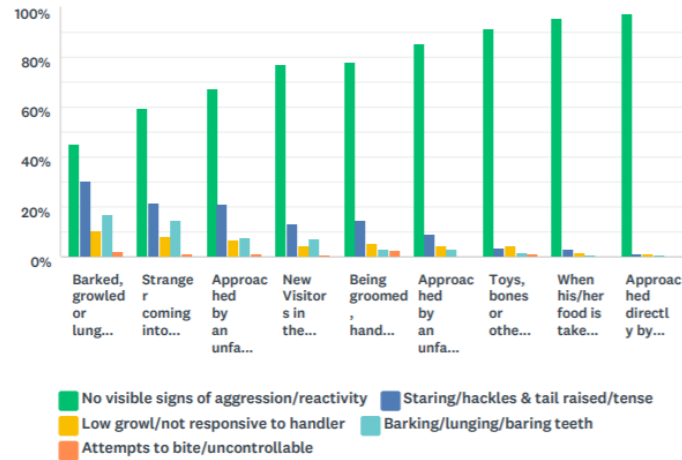
	NO SIGNS OF FEAR	ALERTS & RECOVERS QUICKLY	ALERTS, MAY BARK BUT RECOVERS	BARKS, LUNGES, REACTS IN A FORWARD MANNER	COWERS, RETREATS, HIDES	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Approached directly by an unfamiliar person outside the home.	39.58% 321	25.77% 209	22.93% 186	8.88% 72	7.15% 58	811
Response to sudden or loud noises (thunder, vacuum cleaner, car backfire, objects dropped, etc.)	26.39% 214	32.55% 264	20.22% 164	4.44% 36	19.61% 159	811
When a stranger tries to touch or pet	57.44% 463	21.71% 175	9.31% 75	5.46% 44	9.80% 79	806
In response to strange objects in the environment (trash cans, flapping things, objects on the ground, etc.)	29.56% 240	36.82% 299	27.71% 225	3.82% 31	6.03% 49	812
When approached by an unfamiliar friendly dog	47.04% 381	27.04% 219	15.06% 122	8.27% 67	6.79% 55	810
When exposed to unfamiliar situations (car trip, veterinarian, elevator, dog shows, etc.)	50.93% 412	29.67% 240	10.88% 88	2.84% 23	9.39% 76	809
When barked, growled or lunged at by an unfamiliar dog	13.36% 107	29.09% 233	19.35% 155	20.10% 161	23.22% 186	801
In crowds of more than ten people	65.67% 528	18.16% 146	7.84% 63	2.74% 22	7.84% 63	804

Question 16 seeks to identify the behavior Lagotti exhibit when confronted with new or unusual sights, sounds, objects or situations. Here it is important to understand whether or not the Lagotto responds to fear or anxiety and exhibits such and how. Five situations can especially be highlighted. 39.58% of Lagotti show no signs of fear when approached directly by an unfamiliar

person outside the home. 64.73% of Lagotti react to the fear by alerting, braking, lunging or cowering. The majority of Lagotti react by alerting but recover. (Here it is important to note that some dogs have several reactions, hence why the percentage does not add up to 100%). Another interesting situation is when a stranger tries to touch or pet the dog. 57.44% of dogs do not show a sign of fear here, while 46.28% do react. Out of those 46.28%, around 21.71% react but recover quickly. In the third situation, 50.93% of dogs react without fear when exposed to an unfamiliar situation such as car trips, dog shows and vet trips. 52.78% of dogs do show signs, mostly by reacting, maybe barking and then recovering quickly. Further, when a Lagotto is approached by a barking or growling dog, only 13.36% show no signs of fear. While 29.09% alert and recover quickly, another 23.22% will cower and hide. Meanwhile 20.10% will growl or bark back. Lastly, out of all possible situations most Lagotti are the most comfortable in crowds of more than ten people. 65.67% of Lagotti show no signs of fear. This shows that Lagotti are mostly fearless dogs, however especially when confronted with unfamiliar noises or objects most react.

**Q17 Aggression and Reactivity** Dogs can display aggressive/reactive behavior to a variety of situations. This may include barking, growling, baring teeth, biting, etc. Rate with the choice that best describes your dog's behavior.

Answered: 813 Skipped: 113



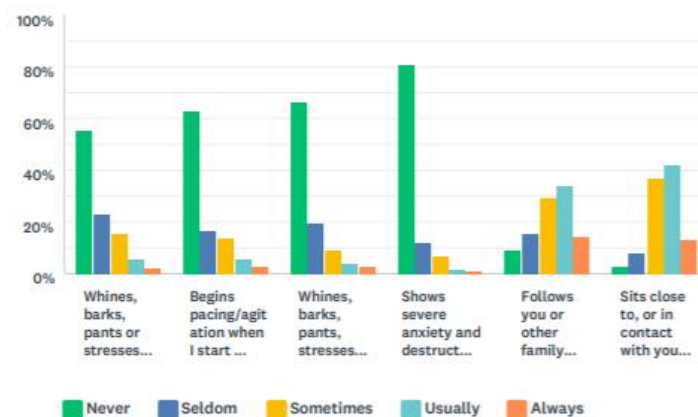
	NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF AGGRESSION/REACTIVITY	STARING/HACKLES & TAIL RAISED/TENSE	LOW GROWL/NOT RESPONSIVE TO HANDLER	BARKING/LUNGING/BARING TEETH	ATTEMPTS TO BITE/UNCONTROLLABLE	TOT. RES
Barked, growled or lunged at by another (unfamiliar) dog	45.08% 362	30.26% 243	10.71% 86	16.81% 135	1.87% 15	
Stranger coming into the dog's property (visitor, mailman, utility worker, etc.)	59.65% 482	21.53% 174	8.04% 65	14.36% 116	0.87% 7	
Approached by an unfamiliar dog while walked on leash	67.45% 547	21.09% 171	6.66% 54	7.27% 59	1.11% 9	
New Visitors in the home	77.13% 624	13.10% 106	4.70% 38	6.80% 55	0.74% 6	
Being groomed, handled by a stranger	78.18% 627	14.59% 117	5.36% 43	3.12% 25	2.49% 20	
Approached by an unfamiliar person while being walked/exercised on leash	85.31% 691	9.14% 74	4.57% 37	2.84% 23	0.00% 0	
Toys, bones or other objects being taken away by a household member	91.74% 744	3.58% 29	4.32% 35	1.48% 12	0.86% 7	
When his/her food is taken away by a household member	95.31% 773	2.96% 24	1.60% 13	0.49% 4	0.25% 2	
Approached directly by a household member while the dog is eating	97.29% 790	1.23% 10	1.23% 10	0.49% 4	0.12% 1	

Question 17 seeks to understand the aggression and reactivity of Lagotti. Here 5 situations can be highlighted. Most Lagotti react when being barked, growled or lunged at by another dog or when a stranger comes into the dog's property. When a Lagotti is barked, growled or lunged at by another dog, only 45.08% show no signs of fear, while 30.26% respond by staring, hackling and a raised tail. Meanwhile, 16.81% respond by barking, lunging or baring teeth. When a stranger comes into the dog's property, 59.65% of Lagotti show no signs of fear. 21.53% respond with a raised tail, hackling and staring, while 14.36% respond by barking, lunging or baring teeth. Lagotti, however react much better to household members. 91.74% of Lagotti show no signs of fear when toys or bones are being taken away by a household member. 95.31% show no signs of fear when their food is taken away by a household member and 97.29% of Lagotti show no signs of fear when a family member approaches them while eating. This shows that Lagotti react better to their owner or family members and most reactive to other dogs.

Question 18 explores the question of attention seeking and attachment in Lagotti. The Lagotto almost never whines, barks or stresses if they cannot see their owner in the home, almost never begin pacing when the owner begins their routine to leave the house, almost never whines, barks or stresses when left home alone or shows severe destructive behavior when left home alone. However, the Lagotto follows their owner around, room to room and sits close to their owner when they are sitting down. Number wise 55.47% never whine, bark or stress if they cannot see the owner, while 23% seldom do. Another 62.85% never begin pacing when their

**Q18 Attachment & Attention Seeking** Some dogs prefer to stay close to their people and demand attention and some may show signs of anxiety when left alone, even for short periods. Rate the following with the choice that best describes your dog.

Answered: 813 Skipped: 113



	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	USUALLY	ALWAYS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Whines, barks, pants or stresses if he/she can't see you in the house	55.47% 451	23.00% 187	15.50% 126	5.66% 46	2.09% 17	813
Begins pacing/agitation when I start my routine for leaving the house (ex: putting shoes on, coat on, picking up keys, etc.)	62.85% 511	16.48% 134	13.28% 108	5.29% 43	2.71% 22	813
Whines, barks, pants, stresses when left home alone	66.21% 537	19.48% 158	9.12% 74	4.07% 33	2.59% 21	811
Shows severe anxiety and destructive behavior when left alone	80.35% 650	12.11% 98	6.30% 51	1.36% 11	0.87% 7	809
Follows you or other family members about the house, room to room	8.87% 72	15.39% 125	29.43% 239	34.24% 278	13.92% 113	812
Sits close to, or in contact with you (or others) when you are sitting down	2.71% 22	8.00% 65	36.58% 297	42.00% 341	12.93% 105	812

owner starts their routine to leave the house, while 16.48% seldom do. 66.21% never show signs of barking, whining or stressing when left home alone. Meanwhile, 19.48% seldom do.

However, 34.24% usually follow their owner around the home, and 29.43% sometimes follow the owner around the home. 42% of Lagotti usually sit with their owners when they are sitting down, while 36.58% sometimes do. This shows that Lagotto are very social animals and enjoy the company of their owners, however, are still independent and have no problem with being home alone or in another room than their owner.

## **Conclusion**

The intent of this research is to better understand the behavior of Lagotto Romagnolo. For this purpose, a questionnaire with 35 questions, pertaining to the birth, gender, age and behavior of the dog was conducted over the span of two years. Specifically, this report focuses on questions pertaining to the behavior of the Lagotto at home, outside of the home, overall fear and anxiety when confronted with unusual situations, overall regression and reactivity when confronted and overall attachment and attention seeking with family members.

The responses to these questions show that the majority of Lagotti are most comfortable and social with their families in the home and more detached and independent with visitors in the home. Further, outside the home, there is a significant number of those same Lagotti that are socially reserved or cautious with new people. The breed can be outgoing and friendly with dogs outside the home; however, it is almost equal to the number of dogs that are reserved, cautious, or fearful/reactive with other dogs. The Lagotto is a dog that can be quick to alert to unfamiliar noises or objects with barking being a very common reaction. The breed is very social and enjoys the company of their owners in the home. They choose to be in close proximity to the family, whether being engaged with or within view when people are not directly engaged.

Overall, Lagotti react best to their owners, to which they are attentive and enjoy being social and close with. Many are also social with visitors but can be more reserved outside the home and tend to be more independent and reserved with other dogs. They alert and react to various environmental challenges with an overall ability to recover.