

NORTHWEST LAGOTTO

The Pre-Pickup Checklist

Less than you think. Better than the generic list.

Everything you need ready before your puppy comes home — and
the things popular shopping lists tell you to buy that you should
skip.

PREPARED BY
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Lynden, Washington

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nwlagotto.com

FOREWORD

Less than you think

What we provide, what to buy, and what to skip.

This is the list we wish every Lagotto buyer received from their breeder and almost none do. Most pre-pickup checklists circulating online are padded with affiliate links, generic to all breeds, and recommend products we actively advise against. The pages that follow are the minimum, curated for the breed and the way our puppies are raised.

WHAT WE PROVIDE AT PICKUP

Every Northwest Lagotto puppy goes home with a substantial pickup kit. The list is current at the time of writing and may evolve — Tracy will confirm exact contents in your pickup-week email — but you can plan around the following items being in the kit and crossing them off your shopping list:

A bag of the food she has been eating since weaning, sufficient for the first week or two. **A piece of bedding scented with her littermates and mother**, for the crate the first nights. **A printed copy of her health records, vaccination schedule, and microchip registration paperwork**. **Her registration documents** from the appropriate registry. **A comprehensive new-owner binder** covering the first eight weeks at home — feeding, training, socialisation, and the absence-training protocol.

Several items families commonly buy in advance are therefore unnecessary. Save the money for the things that matter and the things you will actually want to upgrade later.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

The list that follows is organised by zone of the house, not by retailer. Walk it once with your phone before you shop — most families discover they already own three-quarters of it. The closing page lists what we recommend you *not* buy. Read everything before placing any orders.

THE LIST · PART ONE

What to have ready

Sleeping, feeding, outdoor.

SLEEPING AND CONTAINMENT

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| ☐ Crate, 24-inch wire | Folding wire crate with divider panel. Skip the plastic airline crates — adult Lagotto needs ventilation and visibility. Replace at six months with a 30-inch. |
| ☐ Exercise pen, 30-inch tall | Eight panels minimum. The pen is where she lives during the day for the first month — between the crate and the world. |
| ☐ Two washable crate pads | Two so one can be in the wash. Avoid memory foam — she will chew it. Microfibre or canvas only. |
| ☐ Baby gate | A pressure-mount gate for doorways. Used for the visual-separation training in Weeks 1–2. Tall enough that an adult Lagotto cannot jump it (30 inches minimum). |

FEEDING

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| ☐ Stainless steel bowls, two | One for water, one for food. Stainless does not harbour bacteria the way plastic does and is dishwasher-safe. Avoid raised feeders for puppies. |
| ☐ Slow-feed bowl or puzzle feeder | Lagotto eat fast. A slow-feed bowl or rotating puzzle feeder doubles meal time and adds enrichment. The Outward Hound Fun Feeder and the Kong Wobbler are both reliable. |
| ☐ Lick mat | For chew-training and during nail trims. A silicone mat that suctions to the wall — fill with wet food or yoghurt. |
| ☐ Treat pouch | A clip-on pouch for training. You will reach for it forty times a day in the first month. |

OUTDOOR AND TOILETING

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| ☐ Six-foot flat lead | Standard cotton or biothane, six feet, no longer. Not a retractable. See “What to skip” at the back. |
| ☐ Y-front harness | Front-clip Y-harness — Perfect Fit, Ruffwear Front Range, or Balance harness. Sized for current puppy weight, replaced at six months. |
| ☐ Long line, 15-foot biothane | For recall training in safely fenced spaces. Biothane is waterproof and washable — Lagottos are water dogs. You will be glad it is washable. |
| ☐ Enzyme cleaner | Nature’s Miracle, Rocco & Roxie, or similar. Plain soap-and-water does not eliminate the scent markers that drive repeat accidents in the same spot. |
| ☐ Waste bags | Leakproof, sized appropriately. Earth Rated is the standard. |

THE LIST · PART TWO

What to have ready

Safety and paperwork.

SAFETY AND PUPPY-PROOFING

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| ☐ Cord protectors | Cable management on every lamp, charger, and TV cord at puppy height. Lagottos chew. Plan accordingly. |
| ☐ Cabinet locks | Magnetic child-locks on every cabinet within reach. The bathroom and kitchen are the first priorities. |
| ☐ Houseplant audit | Lilies, sago palm, philodendron, dieffenbachia, oleander, and pothos are toxic. The ASPCA toxic plant list is comprehensive — check every plant in the house against it before pickup day. |

PAPERWORK AND VET

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| ☐ Vet appointment booked, week one | Booked before pickup. Establishment visit only — not vaccines unless your vet specifically schedules around our records, which we will provide. |
| ☐ Pet insurance researched | Decide before pickup. Coverage is meaningfully better when initiated before any condition is documented. Trupanion, Healthy Paws, Embrace, and Spot are the four most commonly recommended; compare exclusions carefully. |
| ☐ Microchip registration confirmed | We register the microchip at our end. You will receive transfer paperwork — complete it within the first week so the chip points to your contact information, not ours. |
| ☐ Local emergency vet noted | Hours, address, phone, route. Saved in your phone. Posted on the fridge. You hope you never need it. |

BY OMISSION

What to skip

Items that appear on every generic puppy list and do not belong on yours.

Some items appear on every generic puppy shopping list and we recommend you skip them. The reasoning below is breed-specific and grounded in what we have learned from over a decade of placements.

Retractable leads	We have never recommended a retractable lead and never will. They teach the puppy that pulling extends her range, which is exactly the opposite of leash manners; they fail mechanically at the worst possible moments; and the thin cord causes serious injuries to dogs and humans alike. Use a fixed six-foot lead and a long line for recall work. There is no scenario in which a retractable is the right tool.
Puppy pads	Puppy pads teach the puppy that toileting indoors is acceptable, and that lesson persists. A puppy raised on pads typically takes longer to fully house-train than a puppy taken outside from day one. We do not use pads in our raising and recommend you do not introduce them. The exception: if you live in a high-rise where outdoor access requires a long lift ride during the night, a real-grass patio patch (such as Doggie Lawn) is a better solution than synthetic pads.
Plastic food and water bowls	Plastic bowls develop micro-scratches that harbour bacteria, and the contact dermatitis caused by plastic on a Lagotto's muzzle is one of the more common minor health issues we see in placement reports. Stainless steel only.
Rope toys and rawhide	Rope toys shed fibres that cause intestinal blockages, and rawhide is a choking hazard, a digestive irritant, and frequently chemically processed. Neither belongs in a Lagotto household. Substitute Benebones, Kong-brand toys, frozen carrots, and bully sticks (supervised, removed when small).
Citronella, ultrasonic, or shock bark deterrents	Same position as our absence protocol: aversive bark-suppression devices do not address underlying causes; they suppress the symptom by adding a second source of fear. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior position statement on humane training is unambiguous on this point. Devices of this kind do not belong in a Lagotto household.
Designer puppy clothing and accessories	We are not the breeder for buyers who want to dress their dog. The breed has a working coat that regulates temperature efficiently in most climates and is uncomfortable in clothing for any duration. A waterproof shell for genuine winter weather is sometimes appropriate; everything else in the dog-clothing category is not.

When in doubt, ask before you order. Tracy and Mark are reachable at the email address below and respond to pre-pickup questions within twenty-four hours. We would rather answer a question in advance than help you return a product you should not have bought.

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This document is reviewed and updated periodically. Always consult the latest edition.