



# Xolo World News

## 3rd Quarter 2010

Well Fall is nearly here and (at least here in the Desert Southwest we are starting to look forward to cooler weather.

The National Show is fast approaching. Final date for entries is September 15th. There will be loads of fun activities in addition to the show. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you up in cool cool Portland.

As this is a club newsletter if you get any good pictures, brags, jokes, recipes, training tips etc. Please feel free to send them to me at any time. If I can't use them in one newsletter I will surely be able to use them later



#### President's Report

By Barbara Griffin, XCUSA President

**National and Regional Specialties:** XCUSA's main focus at present is our upcoming weekend of specialty shows. They will be held October 15 -17th in Vancouver, Washington. The Red Lion at the Quay is where our shows will be held. <http://www.xcusa.net/> is our specialty website.

Conformation, obedience, and rally, as well as a Parade of Companions and Rescues will give Xolo lovers a wonderful weekend! Plan to join us!

**Rescue:** There has been an influx of Xolos and "Fauxlos" (hairless mixes) in shelters and rescue recently. (I know, I currently have one of them.) XRUSA, Xolo Rescue USA, has been working hard to find foster and forever homes for these Xolos in need. Anyone who can help through fostering or donations will be greatly appreciated. These Xolos deserve and need a loving family and forever home. If you can help, contact Lisa Windflower, [Lweske@weskefamily.com](mailto:Lweske@weskefamily.com).

**New Members:** We have 2 new members. Welcome to both of them.

Cindi Hughes, Coatesville, PA

Has 4 Xolos- 2 minis and 2 standards, all hairless

Interested in: Rescue and Pet Not a member of any other dog clubs

Special Talents: "good knowledge and experience with the breed. I used to show other breeds."

Marie Lundbom, Montgomery, AL

Hopes to have a Xolo in the future

Other Dog Clubs: American Chinese Crested Club

Special Talents: Gab, Art (etching, drawing, small sculpture, painting, woodburning

Plan to join us at XCUSA's 10th anniversary celebration at our National Specialty!

## Brag and Activities

Shannon Batchelor from Prescott AZ wrote about her dog Moche

One day this summer I went to the grocery store, parked my truck and brought the groceries inside. I had just started to put the groceries away when I hear Moche barking furiously! So, I go outside to see what was going on and my truck is rolling backwards down the driveway heading for some trees!

Luckily I was able to jump in and pull the parking brake.

I guess I didnt set the brake right, and then Moche got really mad the truck was moving when it shouldn't have been moving, haha He got a nice chicken breast for dinner, too.

So while the Xolo brain may have some quirks while in training, this is the best watch dog I have ever had.

Malinche is 15

Brenda Armstrong

Malinche turned 15 on August 8th and is the last of the xolos from Lascelles del Primo Real Kennels. She is a queen as you can see and has been part of our family for ten years since Patty Hoover generously shared her with us.



## Brag At Gwinn-Dell

### Baalche

Baalche is back! After almost a year out of agility due to a leg problem, Baalche ran in two agility trials this summer. He ran beautifully, completing 2 AKC titles, earning 3 Qs, and 3 first places. He earned 4 Qs the NADAC weekend. At the NADAC trial in Regular (has contact equipment) and he ran 125 yards in 30.5 seconds, taking first. It was a 50 second course so he had plenty of time to spare. Baalch-A-Roo was soooooo thrilled to be back. He wiggled, wagged, leaped, bounced, and barked in total joy.

SBIS Ch Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI CGC ThD OA OAJ



### Chica

Chica (Besitos Quichica Mex FCI) has joined the boys as an agility Xolo. She ran in an AKC agility trial and took 3 first places. She earned a Q (Qualifying score) in Jumpers with Weaves and two Qs in FAST.



# Health

## What is Normal

Kim Lovewell

By knowing what's normal in your dog, like body temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate, you can better tell if your pet needs medical care. Here are some norms to consider:

### **Body Temperature**

Body temperature in animals is taken rectally. The normal body temperature for a dog is 100 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. If your pet has a temperature less than 99 or over 104, contact your veterinarian immediately.

### **Mucous Membrane Color**

The most commonly examined mucous membranes are the gums. The color of the gums is a good indicator of blood perfusion and oxygenation. The normal gum color is pink. If your pet has pigmented gums, lowering the eyelid can also give you an indicator of mucous membrane color. Pale, white, blue or yellow gums are cause for concern and you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

### **Capillary Refill Time**

Briefly apply pressure to the gums and release.

The area should blanch and rapidly return to the normal pink color. This test is referred to as the capillary refill time and is a crude method of assessing circulation. Normal refill time is 1 to 2 seconds. If the refill time is less than 1 second or over 3 seconds, immediate veterinary care is recommended. To practice, you can do a quick capillary refill test on yourself. Press down on the tip of your fingernail. The pink skin underneath the nail will blanch. When you release the fingertip, the color rapidly returns to normal.

### **Heart Rate**

You can feel your pet's heartbeat on the left side of the chest at the area where a raised elbow will touch the chest. Your pet should be calm and quiet. Place your hand over this area of the chest and feel for a heartbeat. You can also use a stethoscope if you have one. Count the number of heartbeats for 15 seconds and multiply that number by 4. Be aware that a dog's heartbeat will normally slow down and speed up with each breath. This is not an abnormal heart rhythm and does not require veterinary care.

If you cannot determine your pet's heartbeat, you can try to determine the pulse rate. The easiest pulse to feel is the pulse associated with the femoral artery, which is best felt inside the back leg in the groin area. Place your first two fingers up high on the inside of your pet's thigh. Slowly feel the area until you can detect a pulse. This method may take some practice and you may want to ask your veterinarian for guidance during a routine exam.

For dogs, a normal heartbeat varies on size:

- Small dogs and puppies normally have heart rates of 120 to 160 beats per minute.
- Dogs over 30 pounds have heart rates of 60 to 120. The larger the dog, the slower the normal heart rate.

If your pet has a heart rate outside the normal range, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Respiratory Rate

Counting the number of breaths per minute and determining the breathing pattern can be very important in an emergency. Learn the normal breathing rate and pattern for your pet.

Count the number of breaths your pet takes in one minute. Avoid counting when your pet is panting. A good time to count the normal breathing rate is when your pet is asleep.

Normal respiratory rates:

- For dogs: 10 to 30 breaths per minute. Dogs can also pant normally up to 200 pants per minute.

Determining the breathing pattern is also important. In a normal breath, the chest expands as the breath enters the chest. The chest then sinks as the breath leaves the chest. Exhalation requires no effort. If you notice your pet using his abdominal muscles to breathe, gasping, making loud noises, taking shallow breaths, panting excessively or exhalation seems to be difficult, consult your veterinarian immediately.

If you are unsure if your pet is breathing, place a cotton ball or tissue immediately in front of the nose and mouth. If you see movement of the cotton or tissue, your pet is still breathing. Another method is to use a mirror. Place the mirror in front of the pet's mouth and nose. If you see condensation on the mirror, your pet is still breathing.

## Health Emergency Symptoms

Kim Lovewell

There are serious symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog. A symptom is defined as "any problem that can indicate an underlying disease" and may be your first clue to the presence of a life-threatening problem in your dog. Here is a list of 21 symptoms that should never be ignored if you see them from your dog!

1. **Pacing and Restlessness.** In dogs, pacing and restlessness can be indicate pain, discomfort or distress. Restlessness can be associated with a condition called "bloat" in which the stomach. Bloat and most commonly occurs in large breed or deep-chested dogs. Pacing and restless can be an indicator of a serious problem.
2. **Unproductive Retching.** Dogs that attempt to vomit and are unable to bring anything up is a common sign of "bloat". You should call your veterinarian immediately.
3. **Collapse or Fainting.** Acute collapse is a sudden loss of strength causing your dog to fall and be unable to rise. Some dogs that suddenly collapse will actually lose consciousness. This is called fainting or syncope. Some dogs recover very quickly and look essentially normal just seconds to minutes after collapsing, whereas others stay in the collapsed state until helped. All the reasons for collapse or fainting are serious and should not be ignored. See your veterinarian immediately.
4. **Not Eating or Loss of Appetite.** Anorexia is a term used to describe the situation where an animal loses his appetite and does not want to eat or is unable to eat. There are many causes of a "loss of appetite" and is often the first indication of illness. Regardless of cause, loss of appetite can have a serious impact on an animal's health if it lasts 24 hours or more. Young animals less than 6 months of age are particularly prone to the problems brought on by loss of appetite.
5. **Losing Weight.** Weight loss is a physical condition that results from a negative caloric balance. This usually occurs when the body uses and/or excretes essential nutrients faster than it can consume them. Essentially more calories are being burned than are being taken in. Weight loss is considered clinically important when it exceeds 10 percent of the body weight and is not associated with fluid loss. There are several causes for this, some of which can be very serious.

6. **Breathing Problems.** Respiratory distress, often called dyspnea, is labored, difficult breathing or shortness of breath. This can occur at any time during the breathing process, during inspiration (breathing in) or expiration (breathing out). When your dog has trouble breathing, he may not be able to get enough oxygen to his tissues. Additionally, if he has heart failure, he may not be able to pump sufficient blood to his muscles and other tissues. Dyspnea is often associated with accumulation of fluid (edema) in the lungs or the chest cavity (pleural effusion). This fluid can lead to shortness of breath and coughing. This is a very serious symptom and should be evaluated immediately.

7. **Red Eye.** A "red eye" is a non-specific sign of inflammation or infection. It may be seen with several different diseases including those involving different parts of the eye including the external eyelids, third eyelid, conjunctiva, cornea, and sclera. It may also occur with inflammation of the structures inside the eye, with glaucoma (high pressure within the eye) or with certain diseases of the orbit (eye socket). Either one or both eyes can become red, depending upon the cause of the problem. Some of the possible causes can be serious and ultimately cause blindness.

8. **Jaundice.** Jaundice, also referred to as icterus, describes the yellow color taken on by the tissues throughout the body due to elevated levels of bilirubin, a substance that comes from the breakdown of red blood cells. There are several causes for jaundice and regardless of the cause, jaundice is considered abnormal and serious in the dog.

9. **Trouble Urinating.** "Trouble urinating" can include straining to urinate, frequent attempts at urination, and evidence of discomfort when urinating. Discomfort may be demonstrated by crying out during urination, excessive licking at the urogenital region or turning and looking at the area. There are several underlying causes. Some of the causes if left untreated can result in death in as little as 36 hours.

10. **Urinating and Drinking Excessively.** These signs are often early signs of disease including kidney failure, diabetes mellitus, thyroid gland problems, uterine infection (called pyometra), as well as other causes. Dogs normally take in about 20 to 40 milliliters per pound of body weight per day, or one to two cups per day for a normal sized dog. If you determine that your pet is drinking excessively, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

11. **Fever.** A fever is defined as an abnormally high body temperature resulting from internal controls. It is believed that fever is a method of fighting infection. The body resets the temperature control area of the brain to increase the body temperature – probably in response to invasion of foreign matter such as bacteria or viruses. The normal temperature in dogs is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. If your pet's temperature is high, call your veterinarian. .

12. **Seizure.** A seizure or convulsion is a sudden excessive firing of nerves in the brain. The severity of the seizure can vary between a far-away look or twitching in one part of the face to your dog falling on his side, barking, gnashing his teeth, urinating, defecating and paddling his limbs. A seizure can last from seconds to minutes. Seizures are symptoms of some neurological disorder – they are not in themselves a disease. They can be caused by several disorders including epilepsy, toxins or tumors

13. **Bruising and Bleeding.** Abnormal bruising and bleeding arises with disorders of hemostasis (clotting). Clotting abnormalities are also called coagulopathies, because they reflect the inability of the blood to coagulate or clot. Bleeding from clotting disturbances may occur into the skin, the mucous membranes, and various internal organs, tissues, and body cavities. The impact of such bleeding on the affected individual may be mild or severe depending on the degree of blood loss.

14. **Coughing.** Coughing is a common protective reflex that clears secretions or foreign matter from the throat, voice box, and/or airways, and protects the lungs against aspiration. It affects the respiratory system by hindering the ability to breathe properly. Common causes include obstruction in the windpipe, bronchitis, pneumonia, heartworm disease, , lung tumors, kennel cough and heart failure. Some of the causes are life threatening and all pets with a cough should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

15. **Bloated or Distended Abdomen.** Abdominal distension is an abnormal enlargement of the abdominal cavity. This term is usually reserved for abdominal enlargement due to causes other than simple obesity. One cause of abdominal distension is abnormal fluid accumulation. Another cause of abdominal distension is enlargement of any abdominal organ including the liver, kidneys, or spleen.

Distension of the stomach with air ("bloating") or fluid or distension of the uterus (womb) during pregnancy, can result in abdominal distension. Pressure from the abdomen pushing into the chest may make breathing more difficult and pressure within the abdomen may decrease the appetite. NOTE: It is important to recognize abdominal distension because it can be a symptom of potentially life-threatening diseases and should be investigated thoroughly.

16. **Bloody Diarrhea.** Blood in the feces can either appear as "melena" which makes the stools appear black and tarry is the presence suggests digested blood in the feces. Melena is different from fresh blood in the stool (hematochezia). Bleeding into the colon or rectum appears as fresh blood in the stool. Bloody diarrhea should be evaluated by your veterinarian as soon as possible.

17. **Bloody Urine.** Hematuria is the presence of red blood cells in the urine. It may be gross (visible to the naked eye) or microscopic. There are several possible causes including bacterial infections, cancer, stones in the urinary tract.

18. **Bite Wounds.** Bite wounds are often the result when two animals engage in a fight or aggressive play. Bite wounds, which may only appear as a small puncture wound in the skin, can actually be quite extensive. Once the tooth penetrates the skin, severe damage can occur to the underlying tissues without major skin damage. Some wounds may appear deceptively minor but may have the potential to be life threatening, depending on the area of the body bitten. All bite wounds should receive veterinary attention.

19. **Bloody Vomit.** Vomiting blood can be fresh blood, which is bright red or partially digested blood, which has the appearance of brown coffee grounds. There are a variety of causes of vomiting blood and the effects on the animal are also variable. Some are subtle and minor ailments, while others are severe or life threatening.

20. **Lethargy or Weakness.** Lethargy is a state of drowsiness, inactivity, or indifference in which there are delayed responses to external stimuli such as auditory (sound), visual (sight), or tactile (touch) stimuli. Lethargy is a nonspecific sign associated with many possible underlying systemic disorders. It may have little to no impact on the affected individual; however its presence may represent severe or life-threatening illness. Lethargy of more than a day's duration should not be ignored, and should be addressed, especially if it persists.

21. **Pale Gums.** Pale gums or mucous membranes can indicate blood loss or "shock". The possible causes for either blood loss or shock are life-threatening and thus should be evaluated immediately.

# XOLOITZCUINTLE

## Terms

K R T K X X R G Z P A W H E C  
 I W N V F O Q C F Z H V F O V  
 T N E G I L L E T N I Q N N L  
 O A D L I O G E B K C F D T K  
 C H N O I I C U N K O C O E E  
 I U E V O T N U A R P L S C M  
 X A P I Y Z Y A M R O T N E W  
 E T E N Z C O A L X D E X V B  
 M L D G N U T C B T I I V U M  
 S J N W B I A G Z D C U A V Z  
 O A I W O N G D E A H I K N P  
 F X C N H T G B N R J N M X B  
 K E A R N L O H A I R L E S S  
 W O R K E E Y T I L I G A X K  
 C O A T E D M K Z K Z N F H Z

AGILITY  
 AZTEC  
 COATED  
 CONFORMATION  
 GUARDIAN  
 HAIRLESS  
 INDEPENDENT  
 INTELLIGENT  
 LOVING  
 MEXICAN  
 MEXICO  
 MICTLAN  
 NAHUATL  
 OBEDIENCE  
 SACRED  
 XOLOITZCUINTLE  
 XOLOTL

Jewel Waldrup

# An Interview with Patricia L Hoover

From an interview with an Australian Dog Magazine

1. How long have you been breeding/involved in the breed?

I have worked with the Xolos consistently since 1988, owning, breeding, showing and educating the public.

I have bred and worked with the three sizes of the breed and I have introduced many new bloodlines as the years have gone by. These were Xolos that were brought from remote villages and registered with the Mexican Kennel Club on an inspection protocol which is used for this rare and primitive breed.

2. If you had to describe the perfect person for this breed, what type of person would it be?

I believe that the ideal person to be a Xolo owner is a person who is open to learning, consistent in lifestyle, patient with problems, sensitive to animals needs and willing to work with the dog to build a positive and mutually supportive relationship.

3. How would you describe the breed's personality?

The Xoloitzcuintle personality varies from one dog to another, but in general they are alert, perceptive, pack-oriented, eager to work and learn and devoted, with an acute memory.

4. Does the breed require much training/are they easy to train? Do they participate in agility etc?

The Xoloitzcuintle is generally easy to train, very smart, very agile and athletic. Many of them excel in Agility although this may not be the case with every Xolo.

5. Does the breed require much exercise?

The Xoloitzcuintle enjoys and excels in physical play. They often create their own games and when an area is provided for them, will run and play endlessly. They especially love being with another Xolo. Xolos always recognize their own breed. Any object will become their toy and many throw things into the air and then catch them when playing alone.

6. Does the breed require a lot of grooming/care?

The hairless Xolo needs to be kept clean with a weekly bath and ear cleaning and nail clipping. The coated Xolo can go longer in between baths but needs the weekly ear cleaning and nail clipping and a good brushing. The most important part of their 'grooming' is good diet which keep their skin smooth and healthy. The second thing which contributes to the health and beauty of the Xolo is adequate exercise. Xolos that do not have sufficient exercise, especially the larger ones, tend to develop skin problems.

7. Is the breed good for families/children?

We can not generalize that the breed is good for families and children. Each Xolo must be evaluated individually. Some are fine with children and families and others are better with mature or individual owners. Temperament varies from one bloodline to another and depends heavily on early socialization with humans. Each breeder, of course, has their own protocol for raising their dogs.

8. Does the breed make a good watchdog?

The Xoloitzcuintle makes an excellent watchdog and alarm dog. They do not do well at all if an attempt is made to teach them to be aggressive to humans, for example, attack dogs. A well-bred Xolo that has been taught to love humans is not happy harming them.

9. Are there any hereditary diseases in the breed?

I have not seen any disease which consistently appears in the Xolo breed. I have seen random occurrences of medical conditions, about the same as one would expect in any breed of dog.

9. Do you have any funny stories/moments about the breed you could share with readers?

The memories are endless of the entertainment that the Xolos have provided. One of my favourites is of Multi Ch. Multi BIS, Wld.Ch. Chak-Tepal(Hoover) MexFCI. He travelled a great deal to many countries with my handler, Maureen Pinto. Without fail, when she would leave the room for a meal or any short time, he would take everything out of her suitcase and pile it in the middle of the floor and lay on it until she returned. If she left her purse, he would remove the money from the wallet and eat all of it. He was such a rascal.

11. What do people need to be aware of before becoming a proud guardian?

People need to know that this is a dog that must be taught expectations. The owner must be willing to work with the dog and communicate to it what they want the dog to do, and be, and they must be very consistent in all things with the dog. The human who will do best with a Xolo is one who can be a very temperate and consistent alpha. This is what the Xolo needs from its pack leader.

12. How much do pups cost? How often are pups available?

The cost of a Xolo varies from one breeder to another. It should reflect the quality of the dog and that is what we hope for. A good breeder will be able to evaluate their dogs and charge a fair and equitable price for them. At the present time I charge from 3 to 4 thousand for a top quality breeding/show dog. Of course the 4 thousand dollar Xolo is the best that I can produce and one that I expect top winnings for. There is a great deal of variety in what is considered show quality. Each breeder sets their own standard. My pet xolos can vary from \$300. To \$1500., again based on quality, age, training. We put an enormous amount of effort and time into our Xolos.

13. What is the breed's lifespan?

I have observed that the Xolo lifespan can be expected to be from 10 years to 20 years. Many Xolos live to be 14 to 16 years old with good care. It is rare but I have known of Xolos that lived to 20 years.

14. What backyard requirements does the breed require?

A well fenced recreation area is very important, especially for the larger size Xolos. It should provide a shaded area and protection from the wind and weather. For cooler climates the Xolo needs a well insulated sleeping box with an electropad for heat and warm fluffy blankets. They will toss a blanket to the side and wrap it around themselves like a cocoon.

15. What is the breed standard?

There is a variety of breed standards for this breed. I personally prefer the FCM/FCM breed standard which is the original, from the mother country of the breed. Canada, the US and other countries have variations of the standard. The breed standard for each country can be found at the website for that country's kennel club and the breed standard for FCI can be found at the FCI website. It is an interesting study to compare them.

16. What is the average size of the breed?

There are actually three breeds within the breed. Miniature, Intermediate and Standard. Again, the size of these varies from one country's standard to the next.

17. Anything else you would like to add?

Yes, I would like to add that the Xolo has an uncanny ability to estimate and appraise each human, even from a fairly long distance, and they respond accordingly. Their instinct to protect is very strong. From my experience with them, I can say that they are seldom in error when it comes to judging a person's intentions.

# Xolos Down Under

Jacqi Dinis

Besitos Naca and Besitos Taha Daha have introduced the Xoloitzcuintle breed to the Australian show ring, with only ten show dates they have done themselves and the breed very proud.

We arm ourselves with a bag of brochures and cards every trip and always attract lots of questions.

Naca has been shortlisted for a Group Placement in half of his outings and received a Runner up in Group 7 (Non Sporting) out of usually over 100 dogs. Our Group 7 has the Bulldogs, Danes, Poodles, Jap Spitz, Eurasier, Tib Terrier, Lhasa, Shih tzu, in fact over 23 diff stunning breeds.

Taha Daha has won a Group level in her class with an Intermediate in Group against some Australian Champions, we were thrilled in both cases for the breed to be recognised sop early in our campaigning of the breed here in Australia. I honestly really did not expect to have any major awards till the breed was firmly recognised in a year or so.

We have had many judges come and go over the dogs and marvel at the breed, some have even seen them and judged them overseas at various shows. I was very fortunate to have a Mexican Judge Mr Ramirez go over the dogs for me at a show where he was judging another group, he was very impressed with both dogs and I was delighted when he said they were fine specimens of the breed and would do very well in Mexico.

We are a regular known participant in raising funds for many animal rescue charities and at the same time can educate people about the breed whilst getting valuable social time for the dogs, they regularly collect a few full tins of change to help animals less fortunate than themselves and this I would have to say is one of the most satisfying outings the Xolos and I have.

We have met so many interesting people both on the internet and in the streets and we are proud to



Besito's Naca



Besito's Taca Daha

## PET THERAPY – IS YOUR DOG A GOOD CANDIDATE?

June Disotell

In the last newsletter we discussed the why and how of getting your dog into pet therapy volunteering, visiting hospitals, nursing homes, senior care centers, hospice homes and libraries. There are lots of places to visit if you're interested. This time, let's discuss evaluating your dog for this rewarding activity. You may wonder if your dog would really be good at this kind of thing. The standard for the Xoloitzcuintle calls for them to be "aloof and suspicious of strangers". Fortunately many have not read the book. The best therapy dog is convinced people were invented just to pet him. We know the Aztecs and Mayans used Xolos as living hot water bottles and believed their dog could relieve chest congestion and the pain of arthritic joints. Apparently it's in their genes, because they can be wonderful therapy dogs.

I have participated in pet therapy with my three Xolos for twelve years. One hairless boy, Barney, was so attuned to hospital patients' needs that I knew when he was placed on the bed with a lady who had received a knee replacement that he would cuddle up to her chest. When a man showed sutures from open-heart surgery, Barney would stay down by his hip. In hundreds of visits, my Xolos have never stepped on a patient who had abdominal surgery. They just instinctively know where the pain is.

What do you need to train? First, you need good control of your dog. There's nothing worse than having a dog, even a small one, go flying up on someone's bed when they haven't been prepared for the visit! Your dog should have a reliable sit-stay and down stay. She must walk nicely at your side without pulling or dragging behind. He must be friendly toward people and other dogs.



After basic obedience, it's good to teach your dog to get "up" in a chair on command. Another useful command is "wait" so that your dog stands in place while you check to see if the person wants a visit, or when going through a door. And here's one you can use -- teach your dog to place her paws where you indicate...command "paws". This you do to introduce your dog to someone who is a bit hesitant or to hold him near a seated person.

Teach your dog to jump up on the chair near the head of the hospital bed. You can then have the dog put paws on the side of the bed. A very small dog can sit on your lap with you in the chair, and put her paws on your forearm. If they want a bed visit you can place your dog in a comfortable position to be petted, and have her in a down-stay. If you have a standard Xolo, place a chair at the foot of the bed facing the head, have the dog get up in the chair, then onto the bed, then into a down-stay. This is a gentle way to get your dog on the bed and facing the patient.

We always walk down a hall single file, on the left with our dog on our left. That way you are in a position to protect your dog from heavy food carts, laundry carts, gurneys or any other hazard. That is your very first job at the facility...to protect your dog. The most important command you can ever teach is "leave it". A dog can pick up a dropped medical pill and become seriously ill, or be killed. This is a serious hazard and you need to be vigilant. Colostomy bags and waste baskets are intriguing to your dog's sensitive nose. He must learn to stay away.

Those of us who live with a Xoloitzcuintle agree. Their instinctive empathy for the sick and injured – human or animal – is amazing. Many of us have witnessed our dog lie quietly beside an injured or ill canine housemate, or cuddle up against a human family member who is not feeling well. Whether it's a beloved member of their family, or a total stranger at a care center or hospital, they know their loving presence will help.

You can assess your dog's ability as a therapy dog. You can train any brilliant Xolo to do the things needed to be welcomed at any facility that wants therapy dogs. But how about YOU? Are you the kind of person who will enjoy this kind of volunteering?

Next newsletter we'll discuss the things you need to know to be the other member of a stellar pet therapy team. (You're the one nobody notices, but you ARE needed as a driver, dispenser of treats, and a few other duties.)



# Rescue

Lisa Windflower

Kacie Johnson

## Dogs who need placement

Jo Acton has 2 males, 1 female that need foster homes or a family of their own.

The males are 5 years and 8 months, small dogs.

Mama dog is 5 years old.

These are puppy mill dogs that were abandoned. All are house-trained and chipped.

Jo can hold on to the female until she finds a good home but cannot keep the males, too much testosterone.

There are also the two puppy mill dogs (small) Tanner and Scooter who need forever homes. They are father and son and the father seems to be very dependent on his son so it would be lovely if someone could take both. Contact Lisa at [lweske@weskefamily.com](mailto:lweske@weskefamily.com) Will give a longer update next newsletter.

## Mimi Update

In April Winona who had been fostering Mimi (after Chuchi decided that she was to be the only grown lady dog on my premises) was able to place her with an older friend Neil. He drops her a note now and then to let her know how she is doing. Neil has taken to calling her Myna as “she doesn’t look like a Mimi”.

About a week after she went to live with Neil we went over to see how the placement was going. Myra greeted us with a tail moving so fast it was like a fan and a huge grin on her face. She introduced us to “her cats”, Neil, and her boxer friend who lives in front. When we got ready to leave she and Neil walked us back to the car. The closer we got the slower her tail went, the smaller her smile. When we got into the car and Neil said “Lets go home Myra” she leaped into the air and the tail motor started up full speed again. It appears to be a match made in heaven.



Here are a few excerpts from Neil’s letters.

I am happy to let you know that “Myna” has made herself very much at home, and become good friends with my cats. She has chosen my bed as her official residence both night and day. We all share the same bed together at night.

Myna continues to enjoy the pleasures of a good home, good feline companions, many walks in the neighborhood, and someone who loves and cares for her. For all of which she shows her gratitude and is effusive in her affection. Her eyes literally gleam with happiness, she is very sociable and friendly with everyone in the neighborhood.

She and Scotty, my Siamese cat are such good friends, that when I take them through a walk in the neighborhood they walk side by side constantly rubbing against each other. Perhaps a romance is in the offing.

# The Doggie Bowl

We all like to do nice things for our dogs (and sometimes for ourselves). This was posted to our local Raw Feeding listserve and I thought I would pass it on.

## Lori Kelsey

### Crock Pot Yogurt

Recipe notes: This recipe uses a 2 quart crock. In using a 4 or 4 1/2 quart crock I found the yogurt to have a bit of a "springy" texture. I was able to alleviate this by heating the milk an additional 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours and 45 minutes.

- Turn your crock pot to low and pour in 1/2 gallon of milk.
- Heat on low for 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- Once 2 hours and 30 minutes have elapsed turn your crock pot off and unplug it. Let the milk cool in the crock with the lid on for 3 hours.
- After 3 hours remove 1-2 cups of the warmed milk and place in a bowl. To that add 1/2 cup of yogurt with live active cultures and mix very well.
- Pour the yogurt-milk mixture back into the milk and whisk thoroughly but carefully.
- Place the cover back on the crock and wrap the entire crock pot in a thick bath towel or two.
- Let it culture overnight, 8-12 hours.
- In the morning stir yogurt (if desired) and store in glass quart jars or a container of your choice in refrigerator.
  - For optimum texture, refrigerate for at least 8 hours before using.

Goat's milk will produce a thinner yogurt than cow's milk. A higher % of fat in the milk will produce a more creamy yogurt. More starter and a longer time in the crockpot will also produce a tarter flavor due to the increase of lactic acid the culture produces. Save back some for the next batch.

# Exciting New Competition For All Dogs

## Proposed Titles

Exciting new competition for all dogs

## Proposed Titles

### BD Bed Dog

- Waits to be invited on the bed
- Able to get on bed by self
- Snuggles next to you when you are alone in bed
- Remembers not to eliminate in bed
- Remembers not to scratch in bed

### BDX Bed Dog Excellent

All the above plus:

- Able to get up on bed between two sleeping adults
- Finds a comfortable place without disturbing people
- Jumps off bed without waking anyone up
- Does not leap off bed barking if a cat walks through the room

### UBD Utility Bed Dog

All the above plus:

- Able to get up in bed with a person and at least one other dog, find a good space without awakening person.
- Has learned not to pass gas while in bed
- Does not leap off bed barking even if other dogs in household start barking

### UBDX Utility Bed Dog Excellent

All the above plus:

- Wipes feet before getting on bed
- Gets on bed with another dog two cats and a person without disturbing person
- Rearranges cats to get closer to person
- Blames cat if passes gas in bed
- Does not leave bed until person is ready to get up in the morning.

With thanks to Old Pueblo Dog Training Club

# Don't Give Up! Baalche's Saga

Barbara Griffin



Baalche, my 7 year old Intermediate Xolo, is a show champion and a top agility Xolo. His career nearly ended. Worse yet, I almost lost him. Our nightmare started with a slight and sudden limp and in an hour progressed to very swollen toes. The saga began.

**It was all caused by a grass seed that slipped between his toes. Every time your Xolo goes out in a field during grass seed season check every place one could hide. I never thought a grass seed could hide on a hairless dog. Grass seeds can penetrate and travel. Inhaled, they can travel to the brain or swallowed they can penetrate a lung. This tiny plant sliver can prove fatal.**

Baalche's leg, mostly wrist and pastern, kept swelling and the swelling migrated to a different location each day. We hot packed, attempted to immobilize, soaked, used DMSO hot packs, soaked in Epsom salts, used antibiotics, steroids, pain killers . . . . He was put in a splint, reacted horribly to the tape and developed cellulites. Hairless dogs can become necrotic with normal tape. The vets and I learned this almost too late Rimadyl dehydrated him and his kidneys started to shut down. We did IV, blood work . . . . Nothing solved the problem with his leg and I came close to losing him as his kidneys shut down and dehydrated. Still, the vets couldn't give me an answer. The vet school wanted to fuse his leg. I refused and they got angry. They felt he had torn ligaments and that his carpal joint was hyper-extended. They insisted on

a splint; but without tape it wouldn't stay on. I called Orthopet which makes braces for dogs. They were wonderful, but couldn't guarantee that Baalche's leg could handle a brace without blistering. They had never dealt with a hairless dog before. We tested for everything from Addison's to Tick Disease. We made trips to the vet two to three times a week. My last visit to the vet school ended in total frustration and tears. He and I were both treated badly. The tech dragged him, slipping and falling on his injured leg as I demanded she pick him up and carry him. The vet that day wanted to fuse his leg, misdiagnosing him with a hyper-extended carpal joint. This vet was clearly irritated at me.. She snapped at me when I told her I wanted to try hydrotherapy before drastic surgery to fuse his leg as I'd had success with 2 other injured dogs by doing hydrotherapy with them, telling me "WELL, you're NOT getting THREE miracles." Thus after a horrid experience at the vet school, I chose to go with Conservative Management, not a drastic surgery that would cripple him and end his agility career and possible result in leg amputation, and I turned to being my dog's advocate and making decisions myself.

I kept him crated or in my office with me as there are lots of cushions and no place to jump on or off things. At night, I tethered him to my wrist as he sleeps with us and I couldn't take a chance that he'd jump off our bed. I kept him on leash and attempted to keep him quiet. This was not easy with an ADHD Xolo. He's my leap in the air, bounce and jump dog, who does so for the sheer pleasure of activity. An agility athlete, with tons of drive, keeping Baalche inactive was quite the challenge. My back ached from attempting to hold the lead low enough to keep him from leaping and bouncing. He's 16" and 20 pounds of bounce and clears a 32" baby gate like an antelope.

In October, I began hydrotherapy with him. This allowed him to start developing muscle again and to channel some of his energy. It was fantastic. We do hydro twice a week and it has been great for keeping him in shape. Slowly his atrophied muscles came back. However, the migrating swelling continued.

Nothing worked as far as resolving his leg problem. The final vet at the vet school (they kept switching vets; there were 8) kept pushing for fusing his leg. She insisted on laser treatment and when I questioned her about it, she got told me she "didn't speak in layman's terms." I decided to give up and try Eastern medicine and acupuncture. My regular vet agreed with me. So we headed off to try Chinese medicine. This vet agreed with the concepts of conservative management, and we continued hydrotherapy.

She started Baalche on herbs and we tried acupuncture. Baalche is needle phobic and being a Xolo, has tough hide. The vet is sensitive and squeamish. With each poke, he squeaked and winced and so did she. We learned that in one shake, a Xolo can shoot quills all over the office. The vet almost cried as she had worked so hard to get in 14 needles. Baalche, his new vet, and I toughed it out. The holistic vet and I both felt we were dealing with an imbedded foreign object, probably a grass seed, aka cheat grass or foxtail, which caused an infection.

In May, the swelling localized to the dewclaw area. We went in for our weekly check and it had a soft spot. We got some slight drainage! The herbs were working! She x-rayed and the x-ray showed osteomyelitis. He had 2 joints of a removed dewclaw (fairly common; they can grow back) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint was dead and infected. We believe the grass seed caused the infection, as there was an original entry wound when his foot swelled and he went lame, almost a year later. I showed the x-ray to a friend, a retired orthopedic surgeon (human.) He confirmed that the dewclaw joints were osteoporotic, that he had osteomyelitis and the dead, infected bone needed to be removed.

My regular vet did the surgery and did a beautiful job. When he got in there, the claw was encased in a cyst and there was bacteria. The bacteria was e-coli. In looking at the original x-rays way taken back in September, one can see the bad claw, yet the vet school didn't focus on it. This nightmare cost me \$10,000.

The surgery appears to have finally solved the nightmare. Baalche is back in agility. He was so thrilled to be back. He handled everything as if he'd never left. He came off the course 100% sound. The surgery was a success! He seems fine. We feel the herbs and acupuncture helped the infection move to its source and localized it.

Conservative management, combined with Chinese Medicine, following my instincts and being an advocate for my dog, worked.