



XOLOWORLD NEWS 1ST QUARTER 2011

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I hope everyone has weathered the winter and are ready to start doing activities with our nekid friends and their coated relatives.

The big news that everyone is following is the full recognition of our breed with the AKC.

Our focus in this newsletter will be on AKC competition, both the how toos and some early results.

Our on line meeting has been set for the weekend of March 26th and 27th I hope to meet everyone there.

Kacie Johnson Newsletter Editor

Prez Report

By Barbara Griffin

XCUSA President and Registrar

XCUSA Officers

As the new year begins, the slate for the XCUSA Officer and Board positions is as follows:

President: Barbara Griffin

Vice President: Patty Hoover

Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair: Kim Lovewell (replacing Connie O'Hara)

Board Member: Grace Hawkins (appointed to fill Kim Lovewell's Board position)

Board Member: Jo Acton

Board Member: Lisa Moore

Treasurer: Mark Bartnick

Recording Secretary: June Disotell

Board: Kacie Johnson

Board: Rosemary Kennedy

We'd love suggestions for better serving our membership. What direction would you like to see for the club? We will be holding our annual meeting the latter part of March. Please send topics you would like to see on the agenda. You can e-mail me at gwindell@aol.com for any suggestions or for topics to be discussed at the annual meeting.

XCUSA can certainly use your talents. Please step forward and volunteer!

The Xolo in AKC

The Xoloitzcuintle has moved from Miscellaneous into competition and full recognition in the AKC conformation ring as of January 1, 2011. The Xolo is the AKC's 170th breed. In 2007 Xolos were allowed to compete in obedience, rally, and agility which the AKC calls "Companion Events." Now Xolos are striding around the conformation ring and earning points toward their AKC conformation champion title. We join the other AKC recognized breeds with full AKC status. It is exciting to be able to go to many shows and show our dogs.

As Xolos receive more exposure, this puts our breed in the spotlight so we must work even harder to educate people about our breed. It is essential to protect our Xolos. At recent shows here on the West coast judges, professional handlers, and the public flocked around those of us who are exhibiting our Xolos, asking many questions. It is important to provide correct information and education.

It is essential to let people know that with their feral nature and extreme intelligence, Xolos are not the breed for everyone. We have too many Xolos in rescue now. We have had 3 here in Salem, Oregon since September. I kept Dobby, as he has issues, and placed the 2nd, now named "Leo the Magnificent." Now there is a little 12 year old Xolo in the Humane Society here. He doesn't have much chance at that age with a price tag of \$175.00 to adopt him.

XCUSA has a brochure that tells about our breed. You can download and print copies. It gives you a good resource for education. Here are links:

Go to the XCUSA list site: <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/xcusa/>

Next click on files <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/xcusa/files/>

Then open [XCUSA brochure 2009.pdf](#)

The file section of the XCUSA list has lots of valuable resources. Browse through it. It has much to offer.

For those interested in learning about what it takes to earn an AKC Champion of Record title be sure to read my article in this newsletter *How AKC Championships are Won*. Also, be sure to read how AKC handles full registration in my article called *AKC registration Status: Important Information about Qualifications*.

How AKC Championships are Won

By Barbara Griffin

XCUSA President

It takes 15 points, by at least three different judges, a dog to become an AKC Champion of Record. Points are awarded to both Dog (best male) and Winners Bitch (best female).

The dog has to win 2 "majors" (wins of three, four or five points) two different judges. The amount of points earned at a show based on the number of dogs or bitches competing. maximum number of points awarded to a dog at any show is 5 points.

For Xolos the point scale is the same in either dogs or bitches

- 1 POINT - 2 dogs or 2 bitches**
- 2 POINTS - 3 dogs or 3 bitches**
- 3 POINTS - 4 dogs or 4 bitches**
- 4 POINTS - 5 dogs or 5 bitches**
- 5 POINTS - 6 dogs or 6 bitches**

As the AKC website explains: (akc.org)

Males and females compete separately within their respective breeds, in seven regular classes. The following classes are offered, and are divided by sex:

Puppy - For dogs between six and twelve months of age, that are not yet champions (optional class).

Twelve-To-Eighteen Months - For dogs twelve to eighteen months of age, that are not yet champions (optional class).

Novice - For dogs six months of age and over, which have not, prior to the date of closing of entries, won three first prizes in the Novice Class, a first prize in Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred, or Open Classes, nor one or more points toward their championship (optional class).

Amateur-Owner-Handler – For dogs that are at least six months of age that are not champions. Dogs must be handled in the class by the registered owner of the dog and is limited to exhibitors who have not, at any point in time, been a professional dog handler, AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler (effective January 1, 2009) (optional class).

Bred By Exhibitor - For dogs that are exhibited by their owner and breeder, that are not yet champions (optional class).

American-Bred - For dogs born in the United States from a mating which took place in the United States, that are not yet champions (mandatory class).

Open - For any dog of the breed, at least 6 months of age (mandatory class).

After these classes are judged, all the dogs that won first place in a class compete again to see who is the best of the winning dogs. Males and females are judged separately. Only the best male (Winners Dog) and the best female (Winners Bitch) receive championship points. The Winners Dog and Winners Bitch then compete with the champions for the Best of Breed award. At the end of the Best of Breed Competition, three awards are usually given:

Best of Breed - the dog judged as the best in its breed category.

Best of Winners - the dog judged as the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch.

Best of Opposite Sex - the best dog that is the opposite sex to the Best of Breed winner."

Grand Champion Title

After a dog earns the Champion of Record title it can compete for the new Grand Champion title

Completion of the title requires all of the following:

- Twenty five Grand Championship points

- Three "majors" (three or more points earned at a single show) won under three different judges
- At least one or more of these points won under a fourth judge
- Must have defeated at least one other AKC Champion of Record at three shows

AKC registration Status: Important Information about Qualifications

By Barbara Griffin
XCUSA Registrar

As XCUSA's registrar, I've had several inquiries about Xolos and AKC registration. Hopefully this article will answer some questions.

In order for a Xolo to compete in conformation it must have a complete 3 generation pedigree. AKC will not grant full registration if the minimum of 3 generations of *registered* dogs are not present. All dogs on the pedigree must have a registration number from an acceptable registry. If there is even one missing dog in the first three generations the dog will not be able to compete in AKC conformation. XCUSA, FCM, and other certified foreign pedigrees are accepted. Some dogs have pedigrees with sections missing or names listed that do not have registration numbers. These dogs cannot be shown and are not eligible for full registration. Even a dog with championship status in other countries is ineligible as the AKC is very strict in regard to their policy.

This affects dogs in Companion Events as well. My multi agility titled boy, Quixote, is a rescue of unknown parentage. Thus I had to register him with an ILP number, a number issued to neutered purebred dogs that allows them to compete in agility, obedience, and rally. The AKC doesn't honor Mexico's CPR policy. The AKC only takes dogs with registered dogs behind them. I was quite disappointed when they wouldn't take Quixote. He has a CPR and registration from Mexico with a number and I was originally told that he would get full registration, at least that's what I understood. Thus I didn't try for his ILP. I waited and when I didn't get his papers I finally contacted AKC and was then told he didn't qualify. I lost valuable time from being able to compete with him because of that. Instead of being able to run him on January 1, 2007 with Baalche, I waited for that registration. It never came. By the time I realized it, inquired, and applied for the ILP, it was August 2008 before he entered the AKC agility ring. Thus I lost so much time because I so wanted him registered and thought he would be. Despite achieving agility titles in AKC's top level classes, and earning the right to compete at the Agility Invitational, he is ineligible to compete on the agility World Team because he does not have a 3 generation pedigree. The AKC is quite strict in granting full registration.

They did allow dogs without full pedigrees to compete in Miscellaneous, but now that the breed has moved to full recognition these dogs are no longer eligible. A woman wrote to me and her bitch has 3 full generations but the AKC won't grant her full registration because the dogs behind her don't have registration numbers. The bitch is in the FSS registry but didn't qualify for full registration.

Another Xolo in XCUSA's registry is a multi champion in countries across the world. He has an impressive win record and qualified to be shown at AKC's prestigious Eukanuba Cup this past December. Ironically, he doesn't qualify for full status and can no longer be shown in AKC shows because he lacks 4 dogs to have a full 3 generation pedigree. All of the dogs on his pedigree are FCM registered so his puppies will be able to be fully registered.

From the February 2010 Board Meeting - . . . There will be an open registry for the breed until July 1, 2013.

In writing to the AKC about the status of XCUSA registered Xolos, I asked if XCUSA registered dogs will still be accepted and was told by Christine Weisse AKC Special Services:

[We can still accept your registry during the open period. The folks would just need to fill out an open registration form.](#)

These Xolos must have a 3 generation pedigree, with registration numbers on each dog, to qualify for being shown in AKC conformation, however.

XCUSA Top Xolos 2010 Conformation

#1 XCUSA Top Xolo 2010 - by Breed Pts* (Xolo defeating the most Xolos for 2010)

*

Besitos Cocoyuche *(miniature HL male)
Owners: Lauren MacDonald & Patricia Hoover

* #1 XCUSA Top Xolo - by All Breed Points *(4way tie for this award)

*

- Besitos Cocoyuche *(miniature HL male)
Owners: Lauren MacDonald & Patricia Hoover

*- Besitos Xochis Elo *(miniature HL female)
Owners: Louise Ekenstam & Patricia Hoover

* - CH Mesquite (Hoover) *(standard HL male)*
*Owner: Patricia Hoover

*- Ch Teotihuacan (Hoover) *(standard HL male)
Owner: Jo Acton

2010 XCUSA Top Xolos - Breed Points by Variety

Miniature

1. Besitos Cocoyuche - owners Lauren MacDonald & Patricia Hoover
2. Besitos Namina - owner: Jo Patalano
3. Besitos Pavita - owner: Marilyn Keith
4. Besitos Xochis Elo - owners: Louise Ekenstam & Patricia Hoover
5. CH Christos Cozcapilla - owners: Christine Feldman-Bartnick & Mark Bartnick
6. Besitos Xochis Malina - owners: Louise Ekenstam & Patricia Hoover

*Intermediate

- *_1. Besitos Valentin - owners: Barbara Griffin & Don Webb
2. CH Quetzal (Hoover) - owners: Don Webb & Barbara Griffin
3. Besitos Tekua - owner: Marie L Lundbom

*Standard

- *_1. CH Mesquite (Hoover) - owner: Patricia Hoover
2. Ch Teotihuacan (Hoover) - owner: Jo Acton
3. Casita Feliz Coatl - Kacie Johnson
4. Besitos Mintsitani - owners: Les & Jon Manoskey
5. CH Tairona (Hoover) - owners: Patricia Hoover & Jo Acton

2010 XCUSA Top Xolo - by All Breed Points (dogs grouped together have tied for that placement)

Besitos Cocoyuche (min/HL/male)
Besitos Xochis Elo (min/HL/female)
CH Mesquite (Hoover) (std/HL/male)
Ch Teotihuacan (Hoover) (std/HL/male)

#2

Besitos Mintsitani (std/HL/female)

Casita Feliz Coatl (std/HL/male)

#3

Besitos Namina (min/HL/female)

Besitos Valentin (int/HL/male)

CH Tairona (Hoover) (std/HL/female)

#4

Besitos Pavita (min/HL/female)

Congratulations to all the exhibitors of these Xolos and thank you for your continued support of XCUSA.

Mark

If you would like to participate with your Xolo towards 2011 XCUSA Top Xolo awards please send your win information to me. You may e-mail a copy to me at gwinndell@aol.com or mail me a copy at

Barbara Griffin

3890 Brush College Rd NW

Salem, Oregon 97304

It is **YOUR** responsibility to send me your wins (conformation, agility, obedience, rally) *within 45 days of your dog's win.*
YOU MUST SEND YOUR WINS TO ME OR THEY CAN NOT BE COUNTED.

For AKC Wins:

Now that Xolos are participating in AKC shows send me a copy of the results for the show in which your Xolo won. To do so:

Go on the AKC website [akc.org](http://www.akc.org) <http://www.akc.org/events/search/> is the URL.

Click on Time Range and select the correct time period. (It has both current and past.)

Click on Conformation

Click on the state in which your show was held

Hit Search

It will load a report. Find your show and Click on it.

Click on The Non Sporting Group ; then Xolo.

This will take you to the page which shows the wins of the Xolos entered. Copy and print that and send it to me to document your win. Results are usually posted about 2 weeks after the shows.

For other venues you may use a Win Sheet. Canine Kennel Club, North American Kennel Club (AKA: Rarities/NAKC), Canadian Kennel Club, IABCA, UKC, FCM, FCI, ARBA, National Canine Assoc (NCA) You must fill it out, have it signed to document your win, and send it to me.

To download a Win Sheet and learn about how the point system works :

Go to WWW.Xoloworld.com. Click on Registry. Scroll down to

[Xoloitzcuintle Championship Point System](http://www.xoloworld.com/registry/xolo-champ-point.pdf)

<http://www.xoloworld.com/registry/xolo-champ-point.pdf>

[Xoloitzcuintle Show Wins Sheet](http://www.xoloworld.com/registry/ShowWinsSheet2.pdf) <http://www.xoloworld.com/registry/ShowWinsSheet2.pdf>

Again, it is YOUR responsibility to send your wins to

Barbara Griffin

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AKC Xolo Report

I have been trying to keep track of the dogs being shown AKC for the last 2+ years. At the end of the last year for 2010 there had been 34 dogs shown a total of 218 times at 192 shows. The majority of those shows had only 1 Xolo shown. So far in January this year 35 dogs were shown in 62 shows a total of 208 times.. There have been several Group 1 wins and also several other group wins. The majority of those shows had 3 or more dogs being shown and many of those shows had 6 or more dogs.

Serrano, who was at the National Show several years ago has taken his AKC Championship and several other dogs are closely on his heels.

In Australia Jaqi Diniss had her dog Besitos Naca win Best in Show for his age class.

Joe Palatiao was involved in the AKC's introduction of the new breeds being recognized.

I attended an AKC Press Conference on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at the AKC headquarters in New York. They announced the top 5 breeds and also introduced the 3 newly recognized AKC breeds. It was quite an event! I felt like I was walking the red carpet. Cameras were clicking like crazy! Several NYC newspapers were there, People magazine and various media publications.

I really think the Xolo stole the show! My little girl, Besitos Namina, was a hit! I know they already had an article in the NY Post and the 3 new breeds appeared on channel 4 news last night.

AKC tells me there is more to come so keep your eyes open for Namina.

After the event I was asked to do an interview with the NY Times and next Saturday the Today Show!

Very exciting!

Joe Patalano

Mythmakers Xolo

The New York Times had a lovely article on the first page of the Style Section at the beginning of The huge style week in New York where all the new fashions are displayed.

Braggs at Gwinn-Dell

Our Agility Stars

Quetzal: Ch. Quetzal (Hoover) Mex FCI NF NAJ ThD earned his first 2 AKC agility titles. He completed both his Novice FAST and Novice Jumpers titles with first places.

Chica: Besitos Quichica NF earned her first AKC title. She won first place in Novice FAST to finish her title. She also earned 2 legs in Novice Jumpers, again taking first in her class.

Baalche: Ch. Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI RN NA NAJ OA OAJ AXJ NAP NJP NF ThD earned his Novice FAST title, his Novice Standard Preferred Title, his Novice Jumpers Preferred title, and . . . drum roll . . . his Excellent Jumpers title. Baalche is the second Xolo in history to earn this title, following in Quixote's paw-prints.

Quixote: Gwinn-Dell's Don Quixote AX MXJ ThD is again being honored as "AKC's Top Xoloitzcuintle." He won the right to compete as AKC's Agility Invitational again this year. He is the only Xolo to achieve this honor. Retired due to a back injury, it's still a great honor, to be invited again.

Conformation Brags!

We debuted in AKC conformation in January. We showed again in February. The Gwinn-Dell Gang did wonderfully!

Besitos Valentin "Besito"

- 1/20/11 Best of Breed - 3 point major
- 1/22/11 Best of Opposite Sex - 3 point major
- 2/11/11 Best of Breed - 3 point major
- 2/14/11 Best of Breed - 4 point major



Multi BIS XCUSA Ch. Quetzal (Hoover) Mex FCI NF NAJ ThD

- 1/21/11 Best of Breed - 3 point major
- 1/23/11 Best of Breed - 3 point major
- 2/12/11 Best of Breed - 3 point major

SBIS XCUSA Ch. Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI RN NA NAJ OA OAJ AXJ NAP NJP NF ThD

- 2/13/11 Best of Opposite Sex - 3 point major

Kim sent this out on her Totally useless fact of the day. She also sent a large list that I will put in another Newsletter

Top 10 Surgically Removed Items (from pets)

1. Socks
2. Underwear
3. Pantyhose
4. Rocks
5. Balls
6. Chew Toys
7. Corn Cobs
8. Bones
9. Hair Ties/Ribbons
10. Sticks

Obituaries

Recently we have lost several individuals that have had an influence on Xolos and the Xolo breed. The first was an old time dog handler and a teacher of many of us about the showing of dogs.

Mildred Gleeson

Mildred was born on June 28, 1935 and passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2010.

Mildred was last known to be living in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Kim emailed the group with the news.

I have no details except that she had gone shopping at Wal-Mart and the manager noticed that the door of her van had been open for a long time, and when he checked, he found her dead. I am told that she had no xolos and the dogs that she did have have gone to "the appropriate people."

I learned a great deal about dogs from Magic Mildred.

The second was a breeder from Mexico who has been acknowledged to be one of the premiere breeders of any breed in Mexico Rafael Valdez.

Following is a letter from his son

Dear Xolo friends,

With great sorrow I share with you that my father Rafael Giménez Valdes passed away on December 31st, at his home in Cuernavaca. His passing was peaceful and fast due to a heart attack. He surely went across the Mictlan River nice and easy, with the help of nearly 1000 Xolos he bred, fed, cared for and loved.

His sons and daughter, grandchildren and his beautiful dogs send a heartfelt thank you to all the people around the world that have sent their condolences and shown us their true affection for my dad.

Dad was to receive this month for the second time the prize of our Tenango as dog of the year in Mexico, and later in Cuba and Guatemala as well. He was awarded "Breeder of the Year" many times in Mexico, always producing only Xolos.

Fidel Giménez Valdés
Itzcuintlan Xoloitzcuintles
Cuernavaca, Mexico

Xolo at Westminster

On Our Way to Westminster...A Story about a Junior Handler and One Very Special Naked Dog By: Lesa Manoskey

I consider myself very fortunate to have found Patty Hoover (Besitos) and her lovely Xolos. In March 2010, my husband Jon and I traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington State to meet Patty and her “family”. The moment I met Mintsi (Besitos Mintsitani) I knew I would not be leaving that farm without her! I was smitten from the second I saw her; it took a bit longer for Jon but after Mintsi literally hugged him to the ground...he was in agreement. So begins our adventure with this amazing breed.

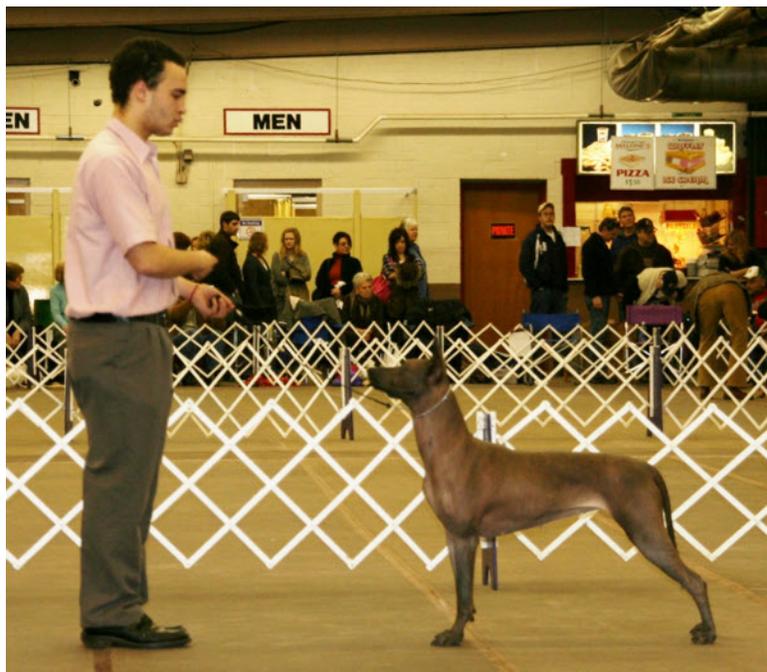
Throughout 2010, I showed Mintsi in American Kennel Club (AKC) Miscellaneous classes and she went on to win multiple Best Misc. in Show Competitions; but her real character and presence was felt in our home. Mintsi is the most compassionate and sensitive dog I have ever lived with. She is the complete package – showgirl, companion, therapy dog, and breed ambassador so when the opportunity arose, I couldn't imagine a better Junior Showmanship prospect for Travis!

We have known Travis and his mother, Theresa for over 5 years and have always admired his natural ability and gentle way with the dogs that he showed. Travis began showing dogs 6 years ago at the age of 11. Theresa bred and exhibited Akitas when he was just a little boy, but was taking a break from showing to care for elderly Grandparents.

When their house dog passed away, Travis said “I want to get a dog and show it like you used to, Mom,” so Theresa took him to several shows and had him talk to the Juniors Handlers to see what was involved. He still wanted to give it a try. Having no problem with having a little dog for the house, and figuring the show thing” would pass fairly quickly, Theresa had Travis research breeds and chose what he wanted, within limits. He chose a Smooth Dachshund.

Well, 6 years later, the “show thing” never did pass and Travis and his mom have been blessed with some lovely Dachshunds that they have bred and shown. Travis has been one of the top ranked Juniors Handlers for the past several years, and this will be his third trip to Westminster, having missed the qualifying by just one win 4 years ago. Juniors must win their class 10 times during the year to qualify for Westminster, a difficult task with the tough competition in the Juniors ring; there are so many very talented young handlers!

Travis has worked for several Professional handlers, and has handled breeds from Chihuahuas to Great Danes, finishing several dogs and garnishing Group placements on others, including his first competitive Bred-By Dachshund. He competed at the Eukanuba Invitational show in California this past December, and made it down to the 12 finalists in Junior Showmanship. Travis is very excited about showing Mintsi at Westminster; he is fascinated with this wonderful breed, and we are grateful to have such a talented young man at the end of her lead. Mintsi is such a fun dog to show with her wonderful temperament and attitude – what a great team they will make! How exciting that Travis and Mintsi will be there to represent the breed within 6 weeks of full AKC recognition! Join us in wishing them the best of luck in New York City at one of the most prestigious dog shows in the country! We are so proud of both of you!!! Go get'em Travis & Mini Mo!!!



Introducing a new Dog

Kim Lovewell

Introducing a new dog into a household where there is already another pet, whether a dog, cat, bird or small mammal, can be quite tricky. How to accomplish this without squabbles or bloodshed is a question often posed to animal behaviorists. The character of any new dog you plan to integrate is an important factor. Where possible, you should take into account the sex, age, breed, and past experience of any dog you plan bring home *before* making a commitment.

The impact of obtaining a new dog can be strenuous on the other pets in the household. However, once the initial stress of introductions has passed, the new arrangement can turn out to be a happy one!

Dog to Dog Introductions

If the incumbent dog has lots of energy for playing, obtaining a puppy or young adult dog is appropriate. However, if your present dog is unlikely to tolerate the antics and energy of an adolescent dog, consider getting an older dog that will not be trying to compel your old faithful to play all the time. It's best to choose a dog of the opposite sex to add to your household. This will decrease the chance of aggression. Begin by reading books that give unbiased opinions of breeds to choose the one that has the best chance of getting along with your resident dog. Avoid breeds known for aggression to other dogs as a breed characteristic (e.g. pit bull terriers). Don't get upset when the resident dog tells the newcomer to "bug off." This is how the new dog learns the house rules. A hierarchy will develop over the first few weeks, and in general, the older and incumbent dog will and should occupy the "alpha position."

Here are some tips on how to introduce two dogs:

It may be possible to introduce the dogs in a relaxed manner by just letting them sniff and play - as long as both are known to be friendly with other dogs. If you are not sure how the dogs will react, start off cautiously by taking them for a walk together on neutral territory (e.g. a park, *not* your yard). When they show friendly behavior toward each other or begin to ignore each other, move the exercise to your back yard. Finally, allow the dogs to be together in your home.

Be aware that wagging tails do not necessarily mean that dogs are happy to see each other. A straight up tail that wags stiffly is a dominant signal. Such a display might herald aggression. If one of the dogs' tails is tucked down between its legs, that dog is afraid and nervous. This calls for a gradual, well-supervised approach to avoid making the dog even more fearful. If a dog's tail is horizontal and wagging in a relaxed fashion, it's all systems go!

When the dogs eventually meet off-leash, one of them is going to need to establish dominance. This is a normal and necessary step in a dog-dog relationship, but sometimes the process can look and sound pretty scary. The dogs will maneuver around each other and may even scuffle to the point at which one dog ends up on his back, with the other dog standing over him. There may be some nipping and grabbing of the neck or throat. Try not to worry too much when this happens. It is normal for dogs to engage in such roughness. Once the dominant dog establishes himself, he probably won't feel the need to repeat these maneuvers as long as the subordinate does not keep "trying it on."

Once the dogs are together, make sure that you support one dog as dominant (this will probably be the resident dog). Show him he is number one. He should be fed first, petted first, given attention first, and should be given the favorite sleeping area. Don't expect the dogs to share. Sharing isn't normal for most dogs. Feed the dogs separately (across the room) and don't give really delicious chew toys (rawhides, pigs' ears) at first. Once the hierarchy is secure, you'll probably be able to give the dogs all the chew toys they want.

Patty has a great trick for introducing two hairless xolos. She smears them both well with butter. By the time they have licked the yummy butter off each other, they are usually pretty good buddies.

Dog to Cat Introductions

Age and sex of a dog are not major concerns when adding a dog to a household where there is a cat. However, a puppy will naturally be more inclined to want to play with the cat, so if your feline will not tolerate a pushy puppy, consider an older dog.

There's an advantage, however, to adding a puppy to a cat-dominated household: the puppy will learn to tolerate or even like cats as he grows up.

If you are obtaining an adult dog, find out whether the dog has a past history of living amicably with cats, or has been tested with cats. If you are looking to obtain a dog from a breed rescue or professional breeder, take special care when considering a breed that has a reputation for being aggressive to cats.

Keep your new dog on a leash when introducing him to your resident cat. Try to choose a calm and relaxed moment to introduce the two.

Make them feel good by feeding them delicious food and keep them at a distance from each other so that your cat will feel safe. Practice obedience exercises (sit-stays) with your dog. Let your cat initiate contact with your new dog if he chooses to do so.

Never let your dog chase your cat.

Always have special escape routes and high hiding places for your cat to access anytime he wants to get away. It is very important that your cat has private, safe places to escape to.

Dog to Small Mammal or Bird Introductions

Be very cautious when introducing a dog to a small mammal or bird. Some dogs have strong predatory tendencies and may be dangerous for either. Until a dog has shown disinterest in the "small ones" (this may take weeks or months to establish), do not allow him to be alone with the little critters.

If your dog has strong predatory instincts (e.g. greyhounds and terriers) your smaller residents could be in a lot of danger if you do not keep them securely out of your dog's reach. Some xolos have very strong prey drive and simply cannot be allowed around small pets.

Find a safe place for your small mammal or bird to reside. The enclosure should be secure and out of the dog's reach at all times.

Keep the room where your small mammal or bird lives "off limits" unless you are strictly supervising your dog.

Heart Dogs
Barney
June Disotel

Some of you have heard the story of my heartstring dog, but for the newer members of our list I'll repeat it.

When I moved from California to central Oregon I became friends with a woman who bred Xolos. She had a pup who would yelp and jump up and down at the door until she let him in to sit on my lap every time I visited. She kept telling me I should buy Barney, because he was my dog. My response was that I had four dogs already, I couldn't have another.

When Barney was about a year old she sold him to someone in California by letter and photos. They never came to her house, which was in the country and hard to find without directions. She delivered the dog to them with a money back guarantee...if it didn't work out they could return the dog or she would come and get him.

About six months later she called one Saturday evening..."Guess who's home! Barney!" Barney was skinny, scratched, beat up looking. There was no explanation other than he came home 350 miles by himself, up Interstate 5. How a 20-pound dog made it, we'll never know. We met for Sunday brunch next day and she put him in my car with "I sold him once, he's your dog now."

Obviously I couldn't turn him down. He came to live with me, and was soon back to his sleek hairless self. He was such a friendly, outgoing boy that when I moved to Idaho I decided to try him in pet therapy. He was perfect -- friendly, sensitive to patients' needs, always a little gentleman. His unusual appearance -- naked with 3-inch hair on his head, face and tail made him the talk of the town. You couldn't look at Barney without smiling.

Barney loved his job and I loved him. He was my heart dog of all dogs I have ever known. It was because of him that I got into pet therapy, and have been active with visiting (I've now been registered with four dogs) and with training new pet therapy volunteers in our area. He passed away just a week short of his 16th birthday. But he will forever be my most loved dog.

June/ Boise, Idaho

XRUSA News

With help from our wonderful independent foster in Florida, lovely Charlee/Sharlee found her forever home with people Charlee chose for herself!

Sadly our long time senior foster Suzy needed to be put down due to serious health issues.

That leaves us with one foster Xolo in New York with some serious issues although she is getting better and better with some hard work by wonderful fosters. Our little father and son pair are also still looking for a forever home as well

The parade of Rescues and Companions at the XCUSA show was, as usual, a moving experience. Beloved companion dogs were able to strut their stuff.

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Since it is Spring and the time many people get new puppies I thought that this would be a good time for this article.

CRATE TRAINING – A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUR DOG

Why might my dog need to be confined?

Dogs are highly social animals that make wonderful pets. They can be effective as watchdogs, are excellent companions for play and exercise, and are sources of affection and comfort.

However, with the lifestyle and schedule of the majority of families, dogs must learn to spend a portion of the day at home, while their human family is away at school, work, shopping or engaging in recreational activities. During those times when you are away and unavailable to supervise, the pet may still feel the need to chew, play, explore, eat, or eliminate. These behaviors can be very distressing and damaging to the home. Confining your dog to a play area with its toys is akin to putting a young child in its playpen; while teaching your dog to relax and sleep in its crate or bed would be similar to putting your baby in its crib when its time for bedtime or a nap.

How can this misbehavior be prevented?

Preventing inappropriate behaviors when you are absent involves both scheduling and prevention. Scheduling means insuring that the pet has had the opportunity to play, eat, and eliminate before you leave it in its confinement area or crate. By maintaining a regular daily routine and timing your departures (or other daily commitments) at a time when your dog would normally be napping or playing with its own toys, there should be minimal resistance to confinement. Prevention involves keeping the pet in a confined area where it is secure, safe, and can do no damage to itself or your possessions.

What are my options for confinement?

Depending on the structure of your home, it may be possible to confine your dog to a limited portion of your home, by closing a few doors, or putting up some child gates or barricades. The dog can then be allowed access to the remaining areas of the house. Another option is to use avoidance devices that keep the pet away from selected areas. If dog-proofing is not possible when you have to leave your dog unsupervised, you might need to confine your dog to a single room, pen, or crate. This smaller confinement area not only provides safety for the dog and protection of the home from damage, but also provides a means of teaching the dog what it is supposed to chew, and where it is supposed to eliminate i.e. setting up for success rather than attempting to punish what might be undesirable, but normal play, exploration, scavenging or elimination.

Isn't crate training cruel?

Crate training is neither cruel nor unfair. On the contrary, leaving the dog unsupervised to wander, investigate, destroy, and perhaps injure itself is far more inhumane than confinement. Insure that the crate is large enough for your dog to stand, turn and play with its toys. Proper timing and scheduling can help your dog to adapt. Be certain that your dog has had sufficient play, exercise, attention, and an opportunity to eliminate before confinement, and that you return before the dog next needs to eliminate. Ideally the pet should be placed in its crate at times of the day when it is due for a nap, or when it normally amuses itself by playing with its own toys. Although confinement should be used when you cannot supervise your dog, when you are at home you must try to keep the pet with you (except during the pet's nap times), as this is the only way to train and reinforce desirable behavior and direct the pet away from undesirable behavior. Be sure not to require your pet to be confined longer than wait to eliminate.

What are the benefits of crate training?

Confinement training has many benefits. It keeps your pet safe and prevents damage to household possessions. The crate also provides a place of security; a comfortable retreat where the dog can relax, sleep, or chew on a favorite toy. Confining the pet to a crate or room, when the owner is not available to supervise can immediately prevent behavior problems. If the puppy is crated when it is napping or playing with its own toys, the risk for over-attachment and separation anxiety might be reduced. While in the crate the puppy learns to spend time away from the owners napping or engaging in play behavior. When you are at home, supervision and rewards can be used to prevent undesirable behavior, and to teach the dog where to eliminate, what to chew, and what rooms and areas are "out of bounds."

Will cage confinement help with house-training?

Crate training is one of the quickest and most effective ways to house-train a dog. Since most dogs instinctively avoid eliminating in their sleeping and eating areas, dogs that use their crate as a bed or "den" will seldom eliminate inside unless they have been left in the crate for too long or they are excessively anxious when confined. Crate training can also help teach the dog to develop control over its elimination. As soon as your dog is released from its crate, take it to the designated area and reward elimination at acceptable locations. Since the crate prevents chewing,

digging, and elimination on the owner's home and property, owners of crate trained puppies have fewer behavior concerns, the puppy receives far less discipline and punishment, and the overall relationship between pet and owner can be dramatically improved.

Will the crate provoke barking?

The crate can also be a useful way to reduce or eliminate distress barking. Rather than locking the puppy up and away from the owners at nighttime or during mealtime, the puppy can be housed in its crate in the bedroom or kitchen.

In this way the puppy cannot get into mischief, and is less likely to cry out or vocalize, with the owners in the room. Of course if the puppy is not napping and you are available to supervise your puppy should be out and about with you watching closely to insure that it comes to no harm and does not get into mischief. Distress vocalization is far more likely for owners that lock their puppy out of harms way in a laundry or basement with no access to them. When and if the owner then goes to the puppy to quiet it down or check it out, the crying behavior is rewarded.

Are there other benefits to caging?

Throughout its life, whether traveling or boarding, your dog may require crate confinement for varying periods of time. Dogs that are comfortable with crating are more likely to feel secure, and far less stressed, should caging be required.

By bringing along the dog's bedding or its own crate for boarding or veterinary visits, the pet may feel even more settled and relaxed.

PUPPY CRATE TRAINING

What type of crate or confinement area works best?

A metal, collapsible crate with a tray floor works well, as long as the crate is large enough for the dog to stand, turn, and stretch out. Some dogs feel more secure if a blanket is draped over the crate. A plastic traveling crate or a homemade crate can also be used. Playpens or barricades may also be successful as long as they are indestructible and escape proof.

Where should the cage be located?

Because dogs are social animals, an ideal location for the crate is a room where the family spends time such as a kitchen, den, or in a bedroom where the dog might sleep at night.

How can crating or confinement become a positive experience?

Most dogs quickly choose a small area, such as a corner of a room, in a dog bed, or on or under a couch, where they go to relax. If your puppy has just recently been adopted from the breeder, kennel or pet store, crate training should be relatively easy, since your puppy is likely already accustomed to sleeping in a pen or crate. The key to making the crate the dog's favorite retreat and sleeping area, is to associate the crate with as many positive and relaxing experiences and stimuli as possible (treats, chew toys, bedding) and to place the dog in its cage when playing with new toys, during scheduled rest and sleep periods or even as a feeding area. You must therefore plan and be aware of the dog's schedule, including its needs for exploration, play, food, and elimination, so that the dog is only placed in its cage, when each of these needs is fulfilled. You must then return to the dog to release it from its cage before the next exercise, feeding or elimination period is due. A radio or television playing in the background may help to calm the dog when it is alone in its cage, especially during the daytime. These may also help to mask environmental noises that can stimulate the dog to vocalize. The crate should not be used for punishment.

The balance of the article will be in the second quarter newsletter

This information sheet is based on material written by Debra Horwitz, DVM, Diplomate ACVB & Gary

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Smart Dogs Getting Even

These were gleaned from the Xolo listserv

Several months ago there was a discussion about Xolos getting even. A couple of the incidents involved Barbara's Quixote, Lisa's Tee and my first Xolo Reba

My first Xolo was a rescue from a back yard breeder who had had 7 litters of puppies in the 5 years before I got her. She was quite shy and unsocialized when she came to me but quickly picked on the ways of the world.

My Nephew Shahn was visiting me and one afternoon as I was sitting at the computer grading papers and Reba was asleep on the floor behind me I heard him going Reba, Reba, Reba in a really husky voice. I turned around and he was coming out of his bedroom on his knees. He had a sweatshirt over his head with his arms looking like they came out of his head and was blowing smoke rings at her.

Like any sensible dog she screamed, scaled my back and tried to hide behind the monitor while he laughed and I yelled at him.

Several days later I was (again) working on grades and she was resting under the tree outside the house. Shahn was coming outside with his arms full of clothes he was taking to the laundry behind the house. Reba watched him calculatingly and as he passed her leaped up roaring and nipped him in the butt hard enough to pinch him and make tooth marks. Shahn screamed and threw his clothes in the air and she smugly sat down. They came to a truce after that and she realized that she didn't have to be afraid of humans.

She was a lovely friend but I only had her about 8 years as the toll all the puppies had taken of her. She will always be one of my Heart Dogs.

When Quixote was young, Don liked to tease him by hiding his toy. He'd offer it to Q and then put it where he couldn't reach it. Poor Quixote would try to work out how to get it and most of the time succeeded. One time though, Don showed it to him and then put it in a drawer Quixote couldn't reach no matter what he tried. Don laughed at him. THAT Q couldn't take so he stomped down to the end of the bed and turned his butt to Don. Don called him and Q ignored him. Don tried to pet him and was again ignored. Don continued watching tv and forgot about it and Q disappeared. He went into the closet, pulled a pair of Don's pants off the hanger and pooped on them. It worked! Don never teased him again. And the others are not teased either. So dogs can definitely reason.

And don't tell me they do not hold a grudge or remember things. Tee is very careful how he takes things from Reid because Reid put some peanut butter, long ago, on the roof of his mouth. I was mad too and still hold a grudge over that one. Tee got even, doesn't come when Reid calls him into the kitchen for a treat and now Reid is trained to take the treat to Tee!

lisa

What People won't do for Renewable Energy

Your dog's waste could be an effective source of energy

By HELEN JUPITER

Mother Nature Network (mnn.com)

Dogs help us in so many ways, from herding cattle to sniffing out everything from bombs to cancer.

They're our eyes, ears and limbs when we're disabled, and they predict epileptic seizures. They offer social support and health benefits, and they can even rescue us from drowning.

It seems that the only drawback to owning a dog is the unpleasant chore of having to pick up its poop, but a dog park in Cambridge, Mass., is showing how even that chore can have a silver lining. PhysOrg.com is reporting on The Park Spark project, a methane digester that runs on dog waste. Recently installed at the Pacific Street Dog Park in Cambridge, the "scientific-art intervention" was conceived by conceptual artist Matthew Mazzotta, and is the first dog park methane digester in the United States. It works by transforming dog waste into methane, which is then used to power a lamppost in the park. The park provides biodegradable dog waste bags, and encourages dog owners to drop their pup's waste into the methane digester's feeding tube. A turn of the hand crank, and voila: The mixture of excrement and anaerobic bacteria helps the methane rise to the top where it can be burned.

Traditionally, dog owners throw their canine companion's excrement into a garbage bin, from which it's transported to a waste facility, and where it continues to create methane, a highly combustible greenhouse gas. Funded through MIT, and in partnership with the city of Cambridge, the Park Spark project aims to show that waste can be a precious resource - methane is an effective source of energy - all the while reducing greenhouse emissions.

The team behind the Park Spark project hopes that there eventually will be enough methane generated to power other objects in the park and beyond. They're soliciting input from the community at large, so if you've got some bright ideas on how Park Spark methane should be used, get involved.

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Announcements and Addendum

I am going to be using this page for announcements to the club. New pets, litters. Small triumphs and the loss of old friends.

Sonja Abney and Jay Carlson just welcomed 'Besitos Yamani' to their family. Yamani is a lovely little spotted miniature Xolo from Patty Hoover. Yamani starts her first obedience class on February 22nd and starts a conformation class on April 4th. Beautiful little Yamani will join the show world this Spring.

Hi Everybody 2/4/11

I wanted to share with you my little girl Yatsil Hoover Abercrombie passed away today at 2:30 pm PST. Before going to the Rainbow Bridge: I gave her a shower, She went potty outside. I carried her around the front yard and took her for a little puppy ride in the neighborhood. When we got to the vet office ,they offered her 2 treats. She ate them both.I was with her when she passed.Yatsil went from 26 pounds down to 18 pounds. For the passed month I had been fixing her almost anything she would eat.

She was my Velcro girl. The girl dog that came and got me out of my cave to go to bed. She was a wonderful family member . We will miss her a lot.

Yatty, Bratsil, Yats, Miss Pris, were a few of our favorite names for her.

Our plans is to send some of her ashes to Patty and the rest will be mixed with ours when we are ready to go to the Rainbow Bridge and get our family members.

Love to all

Linda, Art, Curly, Yoyo and Zoomie Abercrombie

Malinche passed away several months ago.

She lived with Brenda for the last years of her life. She was the last surviving dog bred by Lascie de Primio Real and brought to the U.S.by Patty Hoover.

She was both a beloved pet and a wonderful companion.. She was a sterling example of what aXolo could be.

