



XOLOWORLD NEWS

3rd QUARTER 2011

XCUSA dogs are eating up the ring both Nationally and Internationally and some justifiable brags are given

. This quarter there are also reports about Parvo, Rescue and some health information about Kidney and Liver disease.

There is also an announcement of a big Xolo symposium in Merida next summer.

Enjoy

Again anyone with brags, recipes, training tips and adorable pictures (see Jacqi's article) please send them to me for inclusion in other newsletters.

Kacie Johnson

Newsletter Editor.

Prez Report

By Barbara Griffin

Fall 2010

Our XCUSA Xolos are taking the AKC World by storm! There are 12 XCUSA Xolos in AKC's top 25. In statistics from Miscellaneous 3 out of the 4 Top Xolos were XCUSA Xolos. In agility, the only Xolo to qualify for the AKC Agility Invitational is an XCUSA Xolo.

AKC Agility Invitational:

Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI (SBIS Multi Ch Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI CGC RN ThD NAC NJC O-NJC JS-N TG-N TN-N O-TN-N S-TN-N RN-N CL1-R CL1-H CL 1-F NA NAJ TBAD S-NJC WV-N TN-O WVS-N TNS-N OA OAJ NF OF NAP NJP AX AXJ NCC O-TN-O OJC)

has qualified for the Invitational. He is the only Xolo to qualify for 2011.

AKC Invitational Conformation

These (**in alphabetical order**) are the XCUSA Xolos in consideration for an Invitation to the AKC Invitational, to be held in December in Orlando, Florida. The top 5 Xolos will be invited.

CH Amoroso's Basilio
Besitos Bachi
Besitos Cocoyuche
CH Besitos Ini
CH Besitos Mesquite
CH Besitos Mintsitani
CH Besitos Valentin
CH Chabella Mazzarella
Christos Cozcapilla HI
Oaxaca Hoover
CH Oconee Bella Hoover
CH Quetzal NAJ NF

In addition,

These XCUSA Xolos have qualified through their wins in Miscellaneous in 2010

CH Besitos Mintsitani
Besitos Namina
Besitos Tekua

The Current, the ranking for Breed wins (indicates their win status up through August):

Xoloitzcuintli *AKC TopDogsSM* Using Breed Totals

Starting January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011

For Events Processed Through Saturday, August 20, 2011

Rank	Name	Wins		Total Defeated
		Sex	BOB/V	
4	CH Oconee Bella Hoover	B	10	46
5	CH Amoroso's Basilio	D	8	40
7	CH Besitos Mintsitani	B	14	36

8	CH Chabella Mazzarella	B	6	35
9	CH Besitos Valentin	D	5	23
11	CH Besitos Mesquite	D	4	20
11	CH Quetzal NAJ NF	D	4	20
13	Oaxaca Hoover	B	8	18
18	CH Christos Cozcapilla HI	B	3	11
19	CH Besitos Ini	B	3	9
23	Besitos Bachi	D	2	6
23	Besitos Cocoyuche	D	2	6

Our XCUSA Xolos are definitely making their mark in the AKC show world.

From Lisa Windflower:

Peanut Butter Doggie Biscotti

1-1/2 C flour
 1-1/2 C whole wheat flour
 1/2 C wheat germ or oat bran
 1tea baking powder
 pinch of salt
 1 egg
 2 Tbs canola oil
 2 Tbs honey
 2 Tbs dry milk powder
 3/4 C water
 3/4 C natural peanut butter
 Optional - 1/2 C chopped peanuts or carob chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

In a large bowl combine the flours, wheat germ, baking powder and salt.
 In a medium bowl stir together, the egg, oil, honey, milk powder and water.
 Add the egg mixture to the flour mixture along with the peanut butter and peanuts or carob chips and stir until well blended.

Shape dough on an ungreased baking sheet and shape into a 14-inch log and flatten until it's about 6 inches wide. You can brush the top with beaten egg to give it a shiny finish (if your dog notices things like that).
 Bake for 30 minutes or until firm.
 Remove from oven and reduce the oven temp to 250 degrees.
 Cool the logs before cutting into 1/2 inch slices on a slight diagonal using a serrated knife.
 Place each slice about 1/2 inch apart on the cookie sheet so they stand upright.
 Turn the oven off, but leave the biscotti in the oven for several hours to harden as they cool.

Makes about 18 biscotti.
 Store in a tightly sealed container.

I told Lisa these sounded good enough for people and she said that in that case she would substitute chocolate chips for the carob.

Health Rafiki's story

Rica

Four years ago I took my Rafiki in to my vet to have his teeth cleaned. About an hour later I got a call from them and was asked to come talk to the vet. Of course as you can imagine I was very worried and a little afraid some thing bad had happened under Anesthesia , so I rushed to the vets. The news I got was that they couldn't clean his teeth because his liver enzymes were completely out of sync. One enzyme that at the highest should be 118 was 1187, and that was the worsted but they were all very high. So my vet had me take him to a specialist. That clinic ran 6 or 7 tests, then did a needle biopsy. The tests were all negative and they could not tell me what was wrong with him, but said it might be genetic. So we came home to monitor his health and treat him whenever he got sick. We were doing blood draws every 6 to 8 weeks and while the enzyme seemed to come down some and stabilize he still had health issues. Rafi started trying to bite the lab people whenever they tried to draw blood, so the vet I had then said he thought we should just let nature take its course and he would live how ever long his liver worked. So I stopped the blood draws and just treated him when he was sick, which was often for about 18months. Then it was more often. So I took him to a vet trained in Herbal and acupuncture as well as standard vet care. She did blood work put him on some herbs to support his liver and a special diet for easier digestion and med to treat his stomach diarrhea issues. We then drew blood every 6months to monitor the enzymes, protein, and other liver functions.

A year and a half ago the clinic was doing a training session and used Rafi to do an ultrasound and blood work. The ultrasound showed Rafi's liver was now half the size it should be and was setting up high under his ribcage. The specialist who was doing the training was going to do a needle biopsy, but because of where his liver was and the fact that his bowls and stomach were full of food even though he had not had any food since 8pm the day before, she didn't do the biopsy. Then in October of 2010 my baby crashed! He went from 17.2pds to 12pds in 3wks. and looked like a walking skeleton ! I cried every time I looked at his poor emaciated body.

Right away we did new blood work enzymes were off the chart again and he was wasting away to nothing as his protein was 3.8 normal is 5.4 to 7.6 and his albumin was 1.8 and normal is 2.3 to 4.0, Globulin was 2 and normal is 2.4 to 4.4 cholesterol was 108 normal is 150 to 275. The ALP was 167 normal is 10 to 84, ALT was 865 normal is 5 to 65 AST was 174 normal 16 to 60. So started the intense work yo see if we could save my Rafi!

A Surgical biopsy was first and the surgery vet thinking Rafi had liver cancer because of the way the liver looked. Thank the powers that be there was no cancer, or mercury concentrate. But still no answer to what was wrong with his liver. So began high doses of prednisone, the herbs and the meds he had been taking, plus a compounded suspension that comes from Phoenix, AZ. called Ursodiol meant to help the liver heal itself. MY vet said we likely will never know what caused the problem with his liver we will only know what is happening to his liver, which is basically his liver is dying. She didn't think he would live another year, so of course I cried some more.

After 3 weeks his ALT was down to 449 but his ALP was 548!

So my vet called a Colorado Vet Specialist for advice and she said to now cut the prednisone dose in half, because it had reduced the one we wanted reduced and was aggravating the other enzyme.

Well miracles do happen Rafi now weighs 16pds. as of May 18th and every thing on a liver panel is normal but the one enzyme ALT is 289 with high normal 118, this is the very best blood work since he got sick! He has muscle tone again and jumped from the ground to the car seat by himself the other day, he runs the fence like before and has resumed his position as Alpha over the ladies in the pack! LOL I am so glad I changed vets as I could not just let Rafi die without trying everything I could to save him.

If anyone has some ideas for a Liver Disease diet or other special diets for problems that our dogs might get please send them to me for inclusion in later Newsletters.

Healthy Eating for dogs

Kidney disease diet

June Disotel

1/4 lb ground beef (not lean round or chuck)

1 cup cooked rice

1 hard cooked egg, finely chopped

3 slices white bread, crumbled

1 teaspoon calcium carbonate

cook beef in skillet, stirring, until lightly browned. Stir in remaining ingredients and mix well. Keep covered in refrigerator. Yield 1 1/4 lbs. If too dry, add a little water. (NOT milk.)

ADD: balanced vitamin-mineral supplement sufficient to provide daily requirement of vitamin and trace minerals. May be incorporated into food, or fed separately.

FEEDING GUIDE: (APPROX DAILY)

Body wt:

5 lb 1/4 lb

10 lb 1/2 lb

20 lb 1 lb

40 lb 1 1/2 lb

60 lb 2 lb

Supplies 20% protein calories, 30% fat calories, 50 % carbohydrate calories (740 cal./lb.)

Diabetic Dog Treats from Allrecipes.com

By: BARB MAXWELL

"If you have a diabetic dog like we do, then you know it is hard to find a treat that will do no harm. This is one of those treats. It is easy to fix, and even dogs without diabetes will enjoy them.

Prep Time: 5 Min Cook Time: 15 Min Ready In: 20 Min

Ingredients

1/2 cup whole wheat flour

2 eggs

1 1/2 pounds beef liver, cut into pieces

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a 10x15 inch jellyroll pan with parchment paper.
2. Place the liver into a food processor. Pulse until finely chopped. If you have room, add the flour and eggs, and process until smooth. Otherwise, transfer to a bowl, and stir in the flour and eggs using a wooden spoon. Spread evenly in the prepared pan.
3. Bake for 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the center is firm. Cool, and cut into squares using a pizza cutter. The treats will have a consistency similar to a sponge. Store in a sealed container in the refrigerator.

Nutritional Information

Amount Per Serving Calories: 37 | Total Fat: 1g | Cholesterol: 79mg

News from Australia



Lucinda and Taha Daha

The Xolos (Ch Besitos Naca and Besitos Ch Taha Daha) recently made a big trek to the other side of Australia to attend the New South Wales Spring Fair, a large international Judged Dog Show.

The Xolos performed well all days with Naca taking BOB and Taha Daha RU to Naca, the main reason for our trip was to introduce the Xoloitzcuintle breed to a few interested people on the east coast.

I was totally lost for words when on the first day a large group of people crowded ring side to watch the Xolo, the applause and cheers totally had me in awe of the people who had come to see the breed. I didn't actually believe that this applause was for the

Xolo, I just assumed they were a really friendly bunch here and clapped all breeds. It was quickly pointed out to me that this was not a regular incidence. Handlers Skye Mawson and Angela Sneddon were marvellous in their handling and knowledge of the breed)

We had a constant flow of Judges and trainee Judges going over the dogs for the full three days, and received many favourable comments. I was fortunate enough to meet some Judges who had judges the breed overseas and were very impressed with the foundation stock for the Australian start to this magnificent breed.

The breed versatility and excellence stood out on day three when two Junior handlers (Taylah and Kelsey) met the Xoloitzcuintle and half an hour later took them in the ring to pick up a second and third placing, both dogs bonded with the children in a matter of minutes and both girls handled the dogs to perfection (which we all know is not an easy task with the Xolo mind)

We have been very well received in Australia and I am pleased to say Judges have been interested to learn about the breed and ask questions, the main questions asked by the show world, are generally when are more coming to Australia!!

The breed has been in Australia for two years and we often attend promotional days and fetes to get the breed out there, proving very popular with most who are interested to meet such an old and historically interesting breed., bought back from the brink of almost non existence. The first year of showing for the breed has resulted in Group wins (including a Royal Show Group) Runner up in Groups, Class in Groups, and more often than not short lists in group, we are all very excited with the breeds progression and look forward to the next chapter in the coming year, which we believe will be very exciting. On the downside I just wish all the other xolo enthusiasts were a little closer!!



Lucinda and Taha Daha

International News

From our feiwns Donna Cawley in England. Their dogs are beginning to show in the British Clubs equivalent of AKC's misc. In late August they had their first Xolo funday with 19 dogs represented. Way to go Donna.

Mexican Hairless (Xoloitzcuintle) Club UK 19 dogs entered

Funday

29th August 2011

Class Results

Puppy

- 1st Cawley & Roberts - "IMA Little Miss Sunshine For Shanshal (naf)" = Standard Bitch
2nd Edwards - "IMA Littt Miss Princess" = Standard Bitch
3rd Hornby & Kane - "IMA Mr Bojangles" = Standard Dog

Junior

- 1st Cawley - "Rey Coliman" = Standard Dog
2nd Howe & Cawley - "IMA Kissed By An Angel" = Intermediate Bitch

Post Graduate

- 1st Rymer - "Tecuani Ignea Tequila" = Standard Bitch
2nd Lockhart & Clifford - "Hedehusets According to Holye at Sheldobchi" = Intermediate Bitch
3rd Howe & Cawley - "IMA Kissed By An Angel" = Intermediate Bitch

Limit

- 1st Cawley - "Rey Coliman" = Standard Dog
2nd Cawley - "Ollin" = Intermediate Bitch
3rd Hornby & Kane - "IMA Mr Bojangles" = Standard Dog

Veteran

- 1st Cawley - "Iztaccihuatl For Ima" = Intermediate Bitch

Coated

- 1st Edwards - "IMA Littt Miss Princess" = Standard Bitch
2nd Lockhart & Clifford - "Mexelle Coca Sky" = Intermediate Bitch
3rd Cawley - "Ima Kindred Spirit" = Intermediate Bitch

Mexico to hold an International World Congress of Native Mexican Breeds

The early information says both Xoloitzcuintle and Chihuahua

Most of the information I am getting is focusing on the Xolos.

June 9th through 16th in Merida Yucatan

The conference will be looking at the History, Genetics, Biology, Mexican Breed Standard

There will be lots of trips and visits to historic and tourist sites around Merida and the last day will climax with a National Specialty Show of Mexican Breeds. Will give the group more information as it becomes available.

Rescue

Xolo Rescue Tale

June



The plea went out over the internet on the 4th of July. Two 4-year-old intermediate Xolos were in dire need of a foster home. They were in a small town near Seattle, Washington. Their owner, reportedly a mentally ill man with numerous dogs, had been evicted and was homeless. The email was from the Animal Control Officer who stated they don't accept owner-surrendered pets, but due to the threat of abandonment, she took custody of them and transferred them to a commercial kennel for sheltering. According to the Control Officer, they were skittish and fearful, not adoptable, and she appealed for help from an American Hairless Terrier group, but since they obviously were not AHT's, Xolo Rescue League was contacted. They had no open foster homes, so they contacted XRUSA.

The shelter was allowed to keep the dogs only three days before euthanasia, but everyone kept trying to find a foster home. I agreed to foster them if we could get them to me in Boise, Idaho. Xolo lover Stacey Koenig pulled the dogs and XRUSA paid the kennel fee. Stacey picked them up on Tuesday, July 12, twelve days after they should have been put to sleep. We met half-way in Pendleton, Oregon on Saturday, July 16.

Two scared dogs were transferred in the parking lot, and I drove the four hours home with them. They were not aggressive but terrified, not leash trained and went into a panic at the touch of their leash or collar. I had taken my own Xolos with me because I have found that happy dogs help calm frightened dogs, and Xolos are especially sensitive to other Xolos.

When we arrived home I left the scared newcomers in the garage, with access to the back yard. There was a soft bed in a large crate, fresh water and food and I let them sniff and explore. For the first two days they ran at the sight of me, but then began to come a little closer when they saw me bringing dishes of kibble. By day four they were sniffing at my outstretched hand and taking tiny treats.



By the weekend they had decided to venture inside the house, and had made themselves at home on a comfy chair. The male named Weenie Tot responded to “Weenie” so I changed his name to Sweeny. The female named Kink responded to “Minx” so they are both re-named. Every time I moved, however, both dogs would run. Gradually with treats and sitting confined in my laundry room talking to them, they began to let me touch and pet them.

Sweeney had an area on his neck where his original collar had rubbed an open sore, and his ears tips were cracked and peeling. So now that I could touch him, I was able to treat the sores. He began to heal and seemed to know I was helping him. Both needed to go on Weight Watchers, so their meals of high quality kibble have been a bit skimpy.

Surprisingly, both dogs seemed to be house trained. As soon as they learned to use the pet door, they went outside for all their business. At bedtime at first they would leave the bedroom through the pet door, then they realized they could sleep on the bed with me. I covered them with a fleece blanket and they happily burrowed in at night. This is where they first became really friendly and let me cuddle

and snuggle them. They no longer ran when I came their way, and frequently nudged my hand for attention and gave my hand quick kisses.

Since they were so afraid of leashes, I attached a short light weight drag line to their collars, and this helped them get accustomed to a leash. I pick up the end of the line with my left hand, make them take a step or two forward to reach the treat in my right, saying “heel” and then giving praise. They are responding, but I can’t really say they are leash trained yet. At the first sign of something different, they will try to back out of the collar. Thus the need for soft fleece martingales.

My own dogs ignore television, but not the two rescues. Every time a dog appears on the screen, they perk up, ears erect, growling. Minx is especially aggressive toward those strange dogs. Watching Animal Planet or a show with K9 police dogs can be pretty noisy. Even dog food commercials bring them out of a sound sleep in the chair.

Of the two, Minx is more loving and asks for pets more often, even climbs onto my lap for cuddles. Sweeny is not a cuddling dog; he likes to play. When he plays with me he has the cutest way of baring his front teeth in a smile. It will take time, I know, but I do believe these two charming Xolo waifs will come around and be adoptable. I’m looking forward to finding a forever home for both of them.

The black dog is Minx the tan is Sweeney.

Xolo Brags

Braggs at Gwinn-Dell

Baalche – Qualified for the AKC Agility Invitational. He is AKC’s #1 agility Xolo.



(SBIS Multi Ch Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI CGC RN ThD NAC NJC O-NJC JS-N TG-N TN-N O-TN-N S-TN-N RN-N CL1-R CL1-H CL 1-F NA NAJ TBAD S-NJC WV-N TN-O WVS-N TNS-N OA OAJ NF OF NAP NJP AX AXJ NCC O-TN-O OJC) earned his AKC Excellent Standard title, the AX. This puts him in Excellent B, earning MACH points (Master Agility Champion.) He is the 2nd Xolo to achieve this level, following in my Quixote’s pawprints.

He also earned 2 more NADAC titles, Open Tunnelers and Open Chances.



Quetzal – New AKC Champion

We are proud to announce that Don’s boy, Quetzal, (Multi BIS Multi Ch Quetzal (Hoover) Mex FCI CL-1

CL1-F CGC ThD NAJ NF) has added the AKC Champion title to his list of accomplishments. Quetzal earned his championship with 5 majors and 4 Best of Breeds, finishing with a Best of Breed win over a champion. Also, Quetzal debuted as

a champion and earned 2 “Select Dog” awards.

Quixote – earns agility title # 60

Gwinn-Dell's Don Quixote CGC ThD



NAC O-NAC S-NAC NCC O-NCC S-NCC O-CC
OAC O-OAC RS-N NJC O-NJC S-NJC OJC O-
OJC S-OJC NJS-N NGC O-NGC S-NGC GS-N TN-
N O-TN-N S-TN-N TN-O O-TN-O S-TN-O WV-N
O-WV-N S-WV-N TG-N O-TG-N S-TG-N TG-O
O-TG-O AG-N OGC CL3-R CL3-F CL3-H CL3-S
PS1 PJ1 TBAD TG-1 TIAD S-TG-N RN NAJ NA
OAJ EJC S-TN-O WV-O AJX OA OAJ AX MXJ TN-E

To allow Quixote to just have fun, I pulled him out of retirement and ran him in a NADAC agility trial. He had a blast. Twelve years old, retired after a back injury 18 months prior and with no preparation or practice, he stepped into the ring as if he had never left. He flew around the ring and was so happy! He not only had fun, he earned his Elite Tunnelers title and placed 6th, which gave him his 60th agility title.



Besito Wins a Group 4!

Ch Besitos Valentin big news is that Besito won a Group 4 his first weekend out as a Champion. Our judge was Mrs. Anne Katona.

Besito won Best of Breed both days (with an entry of 7 lovely Xolos; 3 were champions.) This gave him 10 points toward his Grand Champion title. My boy, Besito, is just 18 months old so pretty much a baby and I couldn't have asked for him to show better.

I am so appreciative that Patty Hoover, his breeder, entrusted me with such a magnificent Xolo. Besito is truly a dream AND he is going to be awesome in agility!.

More Brags



Besitos Tekua went WB, BW, BB in Tallahassee, FL back in the Spring(May) for 2 points.

From Stephanie Mazzarella

She is very Happy to Report:

#1 - Chabella (Mazzarella) FCI.AKC is now an AKC Champion. She also obtained group placements. Best part was a judge said she felt Chabella is the most perfect Xolo she has ever seen and felt all judges should look to her as the best example of a Xolo.

#2 - Amoroso's Basilio (Mazzarella) is now an AKC Champion.

#3 - Amoroso's Ayati (Mazzarella) is now an AKC Champion.

Training Tips

From Lisa

As puppies grow and develop they tend to go through several periods where they are hyper sensitive to new stimuli.

FEAR PERIODS

8-12 weeks - Fear Impact Sub-period: Experience a puppy perceives as traumatic during this time may be generalized and may affect it all its life. A dog is most likely to develop an avoidance response if subjected to physical or psychological trauma during these four weeks. Elective surgery should be put off until the 12th week and necessary visits to the vet should be made to be fun. Bring treats and toys and ask your vet and staff to play with the pup for a few minutes before and after the visit.

6-14 month old puppy - Second Fear Impact: This period is otherwise known as teenage flakiness! In large breeds, this period could extend longer as it is tied to sexual maturity. This is a fear of new situations and should be dealt with the utmost patience. The dog should be encouraged to work it out on his own. If anything, it is better to ignore the whole situation than to reinforce the fear by praising the dog or petting it while it is afraid. When you "reassure" a dog with pets and "it's okay" sweetie, you are telling them it is okay to be frightened and you will be creating a potential problem.

Observation

One of my "show friends" who is a vet in Flagstaff Arizona has an English Bull Mastiff. When he hit about 9 months he went into this period especially related to going to new places and around new people. She decided that she had to do something to make going to shows fun as a dog his size in a panic could be very dangerous to anyone around him. At the next show she didn't give him his breakfast but brought his dry kibble with them. Everyone he met was encouraged to give him several of his kibbles. By the end of the day his fear of shows was gone and he had decided that humans were wonderful as everyone fed him and talked nicely to him. He is about 3 years old now and is a 200 pound (if anyone would let him be) lap dog. (Kacie)

An interesting observation from Wayne on the Xolo List.

I was waking my dog one day in Puerto Vallarta when a very bald porky tourist and his wife stopped to look at my Toci. The wife made a fuss over her, saying how cute she was but the bald fat guy said she was ugly. I asked him why, and he answered it was because she was hairless. I told him that was an interesting comment coming from a bald guy. His wife laughed her butt off.

Parvovirus

This came through on one of my listserves. I had heard that Parvo is related to a cat disease but this gives a scientific background to the evolution of the disease.

By: Patricia Jordan DVM, Catherine O'Driscoll and Dana Scott

Back in June of 1997, the Sunday Times featured an article by Clare Thompson about emerging viruses, with the heading: "DEAD RECKONING" Beneath the title, the summary stated: "New killer viruses are emerging every year, unleashed by the very medical and technological advances that promised to control our environment. Nature may be telling us to stop, but who is listening?"

The article went on to state "Newly emerging viruses are now the biggest threat to mankind. In the past 20 years, scientists have discovered around 30 new diseases, a staggering rate of one or two each year, most of them spread from animals to man. All are immune to antibiotics, and they can mutate so fast that the handful of antiviral drugs available quickly become obsolete."

"Medical technology has spawned its own demons...there is no doubt that new medical developments, such as vaccines grown in animal cells or animal-to-human transplants, might easily contribute to an epidemic." The article then offered an interesting example of a man-made epidemic that directly affects our dogs: it stated that parvovirus was created when vaccine manufacturers cultivated the distemper vaccine on infected cats' kidneys.

In 1978, dogs around the world suddenly began to die, developing bloody diarrhea and rapidly (often overnight), progressing to fatal dehydration. Canine parvovirus arrived and exploded round the world within a few mere months, infecting millions and killing thousands of dogs. "Most viruses go into a new host and just die out," says Laura Shackelton, a postdoctoral researcher at Pennsylvania State University, who has studied the evolution of parvovirus in both dogs and cats. "This one took off." How could this happen?

Canine parvovirus is very similar to the long known feline panleukopenia virus (FPV). Soon after its appearance, parvo was classified as a mutation of FPV – in fact, the first vaccines used against parvo were FPV vaccines. Prior to the parvovirus outbreak, the only widely-used vaccine for dogs was distemper. At some point, cats' kidneys were used to develop the distemper vaccine and this was shipped around the world and injected into dogs. If Clare Thompson is right, the distemper vaccine was grown on cat kidney cells and the cats were infected with FPV.

Another possibility is that cats that were vaccinated for FPV shed that vaccine through their feces – a very real risk with modified live vaccines. The feline parvovirus could have easily mutated into canine parvovirus. In *Vaccines For Biodefense And Emerging And Neglected Diseases*, the authors state that the trouble with modified live vaccines is: "...there is a high probability of back mutation and reversion to virulence once introduced to the animals."

Regardless of how canine parvovirus originated, it is well accepted that it is a man-made disease and it is the result of vaccination, either for canine distemper or FPV. This much is obvious because the outbreaks were sudden and massive and they first surfaced in countries that regularly vaccinated dogs and cats.

As with all "new" viruses, parvo is constantly evolving and mutating but it has a faster mutation rate than most other viruses. Today, nearly thirty-five years later, parvo remains the most common viral disease in dogs.

There are two canine parvoviruses: canine parvovirus-1 and canine parvovirus-2. CPV-2 is the primary cause of the puppy enteritis that we commonly see. Over the years, parvo has mutated from CPV-2 to CPV-2b to CPV-2c. "This wasn't a reversion," Shakelton notes. It seems that dogs may be getting the ultimate revenge on cats: the CPV-2c strain of parvovirus is now crossing species and infecting cats with another brand new virus.

Now that parvo is apparently here to stay and is mutating at a rapid rate, how can we protect our dogs and, most importantly, our puppies from this potentially fatal disease? Many vets and dog owners would quickly reply 'vaccinate them!' and that might protect your dog. But the real question is, "at what cost?"

Unvaccinated dogs have long been targeted as vectors for disease. Vets and immunologists claim we need to vaccinate at least 75% of the dog population to keep deadly viruses like parvovirus under control – they call this herd immunity. Dog owners who do not vaccinate are blamed when viruses like parvovirus continue to spread and mutate. The vets tell us that as long as there are unvaccinated dogs, parvovirus will always be in the environment. And so we vaccinate.

Few people have stopped to ask if the vaccine itself is responsible for the spread and mutation of parvovirus. If this seems far-fetched, take a look at the history of the polio vaccine. Poliomyelitis is a virus that attacks the spinal cord, causing muscle weakness and paralysis. When the polio vaccine was introduced in 1955, it was fully credited for the decline in polio. Like influenza, measles and whooping cough however, polio was already in decline before the vaccine was introduced. What happened with all of these diseases is exactly what happened with parvovirus.

When parvovirus hit in 1978, it exploded because dogs had never been exposed to anything like the virus and they had no immunity to it. A single exposure to parvovirus however, provided dogs with long-lasting immunity and this immunity could be passed to puppies by nursing dams. Dogs soon became immune to the initial CPV-2 virus and although that original virus is still with us today, it isn't usually a cause of epidemics because as more dogs were exposed to the disease, they developed immunity.

The same thing happened in humans with polio, influenza, measles and whooping cough – eventually, enough people were exposed that the viruses were effectively controlled by the immune system. Many people credit the decline in mortality from these diseases to vaccination. In 1977 however, McKinlay revealed that these diseases were already in serious decline before the vaccines were ever introduced.

Getting back to polio, if we take a look at this disease today, there are some interesting and worrisome trends. Today, polio is only prevalent in a few third world countries with poor sanitation. In Nigeria, the polio vaccine is mutating and the World Health Organization is blaming the unvaccinated children. The WHO claims that the virus in the water supplies – passed by vaccinated children – is supposedly safe but is picked up and mutated by unvaccinated children, becoming a new virulent strain that is infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated children.

As more Nigerians give in to the pressure to vaccinate however, more of their children are infected with the mutated virus. In 2007, 69 children were paralyzed and in 2009, despite more children being vaccinated, that number reached 127. A virologist with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Olen Kew, says that there's no difference in virulence between wild polio viruses and the mutated form. "The only difference is that this virus was originally in a vaccine vial." What this means is that as long as children are vaccinated for polio in Nigeria, the polio virus will remain in the environment.

Official concern is that the new virus will spread beyond Nigeria's borders into surrounding vaccinated countries, and that it will spread from there to people outside the African continent. Are we facing a new polio epidemic, caused by the vaccines sold as a panacea to prevent it?

This is not unlike what is happening with the Bird Flu virus. Virologist Chairul Anwar Nidom has done some pretty interesting research showing that mass inoculations keep the disease in the environment by:

1. Producing weakened forms of the antibodies to develop in vaccinated populations
2. Which means that more birds are vaccinated
3. Which means an increase in genetic mutations in the birds which, in turn, increases the virulence and severity of the virus.

Avian disease specialist Dr. Charles Rangka Tabbu has also spoken out against mass inoculation for the Bird Flu as a scientifically baseless policy. Veterinary pathologist Dr. R. Wasito has noted that vaccination for the Bird Flu has allowed it to mutate and that other animals including dogs, cats, raccoons and flies can now carry the mutated virus.

Could the same thing be happening with parvo? According to an article in The Veterinarian by Mark Kelman, “animals that have received at least one vaccination (for parvovirus), represent 28% of puppies infected, and 11% of adults infected.” That’s a large number.

There are a lot of reasons for vaccine failure, the most relevant being blocking of the vaccine by maternal antibodies. These days, there are many high titre/low passage vaccines that claim to override maternal antibodies. The good news is, most manufacturers show that these vaccines protect most puppies when given at 12 weeks of age. The bad news is, high titre/low passage is just a fancy way of saying there is a lot more antigen (up to 65 times more) in the vaccine that will be shed into the environment through vaccinated puppies.

Ironically, another human intervention that is increasing the threat and spread of parvovirus is the use of Tamiflu to treat infected dogs. Historically, antiviral medications, like vaccinations, will result in further mutations in the virus as it adapts to its environment. Tamiflu has been banned for human use in Japan because of the high incidence of psychotic reactions. Interestingly, Tamiflu is manufactured from an extract of Chinese Star Anise; a herb which is also associated with neurological effects.

Meanwhile, as Clare Thompson predicted, parvo has continued to mutate rapidly since 1978. It has moved into a new ecosystem, and is adapting to that ecosystem in a hurry. Viruses that successfully switch hosts are rare, but potentially catastrophic. Canine parvovirus has now become a major threat to the conservation of wolves. About half of the wolf puppies in Minnesota have succumbed to canine parvovirus. Carnivore parvovirus isolates have caused disease in Lynx, bobcats and raccoons.

As tempting as it is to blame unvaccinated dogs for the spread of parvo, the fact remains that if the original CPV-2 strain was all we had to worry about, there would be only a few minor outbreaks because most of our dogs have developed immunity. But as parvo mutates through the use of modified live and recombinant vaccines, it will remain one step ahead of our dogs – and now our cats. Vaccinated dogs are virally active, and for 21 days after vaccination, they are shedding the virus every time they go out in the yard, on a walk, to the dog park, the vet’s office or to training class. And now, with their immune system compromised by the vaccine, and with the ability of recombinant vaccines to mutate and create new viruses, vaccinated dogs become a viral incubator.

Does the parvo vaccine protect our dogs? The answer is, protect them from what? There is a heart disease called cardiomyopathy that is associated with parvoviruses. Cardiomyopathy did not affect dogs before the parvovirus outbreak or was very rare. Since the parvo pandemic of 1978, cardiomyopathy is prevalent in many breeds and breeding dogs are routinely screened for this often fatal disease. It is believed that the parvovirus vaccination is likely to be the cause of most cases and that vaccination created the heart muscle association in parvo that is not seen in natural infections.

Like polio and the Bird Flu, the parvo vaccine may not only keep the virus in the environment, but it may be responsible for the new and dangerous mutations that allow it to cross back into cats and other species, transmit through the air and cause other potentially fatal diseases such as cardiomyopathy. Furthermore, 28% of vaccinated puppies still get the disease. It would appear that in the long run, parvo vaccination may create more problems than it solves. But people are myopic at times and, in our fear of our dogs dying from preventable disease, we vaccinate them today but don’t worry about what can happen tomorrow.

If there is one lesson life has to teach us, it is that life goes hand-in-hand with risk. Too many people believe they can eliminate risk with vaccination and this just isn’t the case. In a short term clinical or field study, parvo vaccination may appear protective: unfortunately, nobody is taking a long, hard look at the long-term fallout and what it can mean for our dogs, for us and for the environment.