



XOLO WORLD NEWS

4th Quarter 2010

Index

Presidents Message
Report on show
Recipe
Rescue
Braggs and stories
Disaster
Training tips
History of Xolos

As we approach the end of the year I would like to wish everyone a Wonderful Holiday season and Best wishes for a happy and Xolo Filled New Year.

Prez Report

By Barbara Griffin
XCUSA President and Registrar

XCUSA continues to work for our beloved Xoloitzcuintle. Join us and share your talents. There are many roles available in our club! If you have an idea or something you would like to see or do, step forward.

Dues: Dues are due! Please remember to get your dues paid! Send them in to our Treasurer, Mark Bartnick. (Notices were sent out several weeks ago.) We need you! XCUSA is as good as its members and that is darn good!

Registry: Our registry continues to grow.

TOTAL DOGS IN XCUSA
DATABASE

Number of Dogs in Database: **1152**

Number of XCUSA Registered
Dogs:

808

Number of Historical Dogs - -
(Dogs behind XCUSA registered
dogs):

344



Our Specialties: Our focus over the last few months has been preparing for our annual specialty shows. XCUSA proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary with our National and Regional specialties in beautiful Vancouver, Washington. Kudos to our events chair, Christine Feldman-Bartnick, show chair, Teresa Vila, and show secretary, Mark Bartnick who put months into creating a world class show. We received praise from visiting AKC judges, saying that ours was one of the most impressive specialties they have ever attended.

With an entry of 28 in conformation, 6 in Rally, and 2 in obedience, our shows were fabulous. We had the honor of meeting Joerg and Brigitte

sunny day in July 2, 2002. We even had two AKC judges attending for Breed Education and being mentored back then. This year our room was filled with judges and Xolo lovers who attended our Breed Education seminar, wanting to learn about judging our breed. The judges stayed to watch our shows and receive mentoring as they work to prepare to be able to judge Xolos when we enter the conformation ring with full AKC recognition January 1, 2011.

The shows gave XCUSA several "firsts." In Rally, 4 Xolos earned XCUSA's first Rally title, "XRN" and

every dog entered earned a qualifying score. It is quite unusual for all to qualify. Rally is challenging, as the handler must be able to read the signs, cue the dog, and work as a team to perform the stations properly. Kudos to our Rally participants. You did us proud.

Our new Rally title holders are:

Quetzal, Spooky, Alondra, & Baalche

XCUSA's First Rally Title

Ch. Quetzal (Hoover) Mex FCI NF NAJ ThD,

who earned XCUSA's first Novice Rally title



Don and Quetzal

"Spooky," Pepilla de Navidad, owned and trained by Shirley Lundy became XCUSA's second XRN and the first Coated Xolo to earn an



**XCUSA
Rally
title.**

**Shirley
and
Spooky**

More XCUSA Rally Title Winners

Besitos Alondra owned and



Alondra as a baby

**SBIS Ch. Baalche (Hoover) Mex FCI
RN NA NAJ OA OAJ AXJ NAP NJP
NF ThD** owned by Barbara Griffin and
Donald Webb earned his XRN and was
**Highest Scoring Dog in
Rally for all three trials.**

Barbara &
Baalche



Xocoh (Hoover) aka "Hoover" and
Sahara

(Hoover) entered in the Regional only,
Owned by Lisa Moore, both Xolos



Lisa &
Sahara



Hoover &
Sahara

2010 National & PNW Regional Specialty

The XCUSA 2010 Specialty weekend was a huge success. It was a wonderful weekend with something for everyone. The weather was incredible and the setting along the Columbia River was ideal. The Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, WA provided a great location to host all our events in one convenient location giving everyone the chance to relax, stretch their legs and visit with old friends and to make new ones.

The Hospitality Suite started buzzing with activity Thursday night before I even arrived. A large load of supplies had already been unloaded by the Show Sec. Mark Bartnick and the two large boxes I had shipped from Colorado were safely waiting for me. Immediately that evening the fluffing of paper flowers began with the help of my mother Teresa and my sister Rosario. The next day we were joined by Lisa Windflower, Mark and Christine and together we had all the flowers fluffed and ready to be transported to the Centennial Center for arranging by the time others began to arrive.



Gorgeous views of the Columbia River from the Hospitality Suite provided the perfect place to gather throughout the weekend. With the flowers out of the way it was time to get the Hospitality Bags filled and ready for the Welcome Party. I wish I could have stayed and helped but Stacey Koenig and Gary Armitage looked like they had it under control with a production line system ready to go. When I returned after helping set things up in the Centennial Center I came

back to bright Hospitality Bags neatly organized and overflowing with donations.



Some of the wonderful items donated included hand knit cotton washcloths with liquid lavender soap, lavender essential oil, body fantasies fragrance spray, hand made Day of the Dead dog bandanas, small bottles of hand sanitizer, highlighter pens, and poop pick-up bags, dog food samples, door handle tags, clever custom Xolo M&M's, individual kleenex packages and lots of yummy snacks and treats for dogs and people. There were 30 bags prepared and they were all distributed by the end of the weekend, I don't think a single person wanted to miss out on all the goodies.

We had many people attend the Welcome Party with standing room only. Members and guests came from near and far, even as far as Germany. It was a nice way to kick off the weekend, seeing familiar faces and making new connections. Sharing stories and learning more about our shared interest in the Xoloitzcuintle.

A lot went into setting up the Centennial Center, with the ring gates, backdrop, gorgeous ribbons, trophy table, sales table, paper flowers arrangements, XCUSA banners, with the help of many, we set the stage for our big event to be captured beautifully by Jossalyn Martins from Show Dog Video Pros and Nina Sage Photography.

2010 National & PNW Regional Specialty

Many shared in honoring those who have passed before us at the Dia de los Muertos Altar. Photographs were lovingly displayed in remembrance of our good friends.



Rosemary Delgado and her husband Dan Udovic ran the XCUSA Sales Table all weekend ready to help anyone interested in purchasing XCUSA memorabilia.

Saturday began with people stopping by the Hospitality Suite for breakfast before heading down to the Centennial Center to watch the talented Xolos compete in Rally and Obedience judged by Pam Weaver. At 8 AM Glenda Phillips and her Obedience & Rally crew had everything set up and running smoothly. There were 6 dogs in Rally and 2 in obedience, with all 6 Xolos competing earning Qs in every round. Everyone did a wonderful job demonstrating that Xolos can be competitive obedience dogs. Titles were earned and advancements were made. To show our appreciation for our exhibitors there was an exhibitors name drawing after the Rally and Obedience Trails. On Saturday the name drawn was Shirley Lundy, she received a 2010 Specialty Logo T-shirt and a Hand Felted Lead. On Sunday our winner was Kacie Johnson and she was awarded with a 2010 Specialty Logo Tote Bag and a Mexican Shawl.

Hardly having a chance to catch their breath after Rally and Obedience, Don and Barbara had to set up and be ready for the Breed Education Seminar in the Gull's Nest room assisted by Jo Acton and Patty Hoover. With a turnout of 18 interested parties, 9 of whom were judges, the enthusiasm to learn more about the Xoloitzcuintle was evident. Judges came to learn about our breed and to have an opportunity to have a hands-on experience in their efforts to prepare for future judging assignments. Ringside mentoring added to their education.

Our National Specialty began at 1:00 PM with our National Judge Christine Feldman-Bartnick examining the Xolos presented to her in each of 3 size varieties before making her final selections in the Inter-Variety/Best in Specialty competition. For those observing ringside it was a chance to see dogs of different sizes be presented at their best and to watch the gracefully movement of the xolo. For our win pictures go to www.xcusa.net.

Saturday was topped off by our Annual Auction and Awards Banquet in the Gull's Nest room. The room was adorned with hand felted lilies as napkin ring party favors and center pieces that were awarded to the



winner of dinner ticket drawings at each table. Before the auction began and dinner was served Awards were presented for those attending who had achieved a 2009 Top XCUSA placement. Plaques were awarded to the following:

2010 National & PNW Regional Specialty

Conformation – 2009 Top Xolo of the Year (All Breed Pts): Besitos Namina – Owner: Joe Patalano, NY

Conformation – 2009 Top Xolo of the Year (Breed Pts): Ch Quetzal (Hoover) - Owners: Don Webb & Barbara Griffin, OR

2009 Top Rally Xolo of the Year: Machu - Owner: Teresa Vilá, CO

2009 Top Agility Xolo of the Year: Gwinn-Dell's Don Quixote - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Don Webb, OR

The auction table was overflowing with all the generous donations. There were many hand made one of a kind Xolo items and original art work including a beautiful B&W photograph printed on canvas sent from Mexico by Alfredo Del Rey, which proved to be a very popular item. For any one interested in a photograph the artist can be contacted at delrey99@prodigy.net.mx.



Because of the excellent contributions the auction was a great accomplishment, bringing in close to \$2000 for the club! After the Banquet & Auction it was back to the Centennial room to get the trophies and ribbons set up for the PNW Regional.

Sunday began again with breakfast in the Hospitality Suite then off to the Centennial Center for more trials of Rally and

Obedience judged by Chris Wallen. With a tighter schedule on Sunday, immediately following was the Parade of Companions which was presented in a co-MC manner by Lisa Windflower and Gary Armitage. An important and integral part of our Specialty event, we again were able to share and take part in the stories of our beloved Xolo companions.

The final event of the weekend was the XCUSA PNW Regional Specialty judged by Marjorie Tuff. Another wonderful opportunity to see Xolos exhibited. Gary Dunlap, our Conformation Ring Steward for the weekend did an excellent job keeping the show moving smoothly along getting the exhibitors ready and into the ring precisely when it was time.

Throughout the entire weekend Lisa W. and Marie Lundborn tirelessly sold 50/50 Raffle tickets adding to the amount previously collected by Kim Lovewell. The pot grew to \$600 when it was time to do the drawing. The name drawn was Brigitte Rook from Germany who generously donated her portion of the winnings back to the club but was delighted with the Kangaroo lead made and donated by Kim L. as an added incentive to the 50/50 Raffle.

With all the collective energy in planning setting-up, executing, tearing-down and cleaning-up the whole weekend ran smoothly from start to finish. Our Show Secretary, Mark Bartnick and Event Coordinator Christine Feldman-Bartnick made sure all the behind the scenes details were ironed out and attended too long before and after the actual event. Thank you to every one who donated time, money, items, trophies, photos and support for the XCUSA 2010 National & PNW Regional Specialty, it couldn't have been such a great success without you.

Teresa M. Vilá
2010 Show Chair

Xoloitzcuintle Club USA

2010 National & PNW Regional

Red Lion at The Quay, Vancouver, Washington

October 16 & 17, 2010

October 16, 2010

Rally Trials #1 & #2 - Judge: Pam Weaver

#1 High in Trial - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

#2 High in Trial - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Obedience Trial #1 - Judge: Pam Weaver

#1 High in Trial – **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

National Specialty - Judge: Christine Feldman-Bartnick

Miniature

Best of Variety/Winners Bitch/Best of Winners/Best Bred By Exhibitor Variety - **Besitos Xochis Elo** - Owner: Louise Ekenstam

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/ Winners Dogs - **Besitos Cocoyuche** - Owners: Laureen MacDonald, Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Dog - **Besitos Cenizo** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Bitch - **Besitos Palomit** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Intermediate

Best of Variety/Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best Puppy Variety - **Besitos Valentin** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/Winners Bitch - **Besitos Chevela Vargas** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Dog - **Besitos Temascal** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Bitch - **Besitos Quichica** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Standard

Best of Variety/Winners Dog. Best of Winners - **Mesquite (Hoover)** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/Winners Bitch - **Tairona (Hoover)** - Owners: Patty Hoover & Jo Acton

Best Puppy Variety - **Besitos Aymara** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Best Bred By Exhibitor Variety - **Casita Feliz Coatl** - Owner: Kathryn Johnson

Reserve Winners Dog - **Fendor's Mexican Dream Xolo** - Owner: Brigette Rook

Reserve Winners Bitch - **Besitos Aymara** - Owner: Patty Hoover

National Inter-Variety Competition

Best In Specialty - **Mesquite (Hoover)** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Best Opposite Sex in Specialty- **Besitos Xochis Elo** - Owner: Louise Ekenstam

Best Puppy in Specialty- **Besitos Valentin** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Best Bred By Exhibitor in Specialty - **Besitos Xochis Elo** - Owner: Louise Ekenstam

Best Novice Puppy in Specialty (3 to 6 mos) – **Besitos Shasku** – Owner: Patty Hoover

Best Altered in Specialty (spayed/neutered) – **Besitos Maquhuni** – Owner: Patty Hoover

October 17, 2010

Rally Trial #3 - Judge: Chris Wallen

#3 High in Trial - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Obedience Trial #2 & #3 - Judge: Chris Wallen

#2 High in Trial - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)**- Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

#3 High in Trial - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

High Combined - **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

PNW Regional Specialty - Judge: Marjorie Tuff**Miniature**

Best of Variety/Winners Dog/ Best of Winners - **Besitos Cocoyuche** - Owners: Laureen MacDonald, Patty Hoover

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/ Winners Bitch - **Besitos Palomit** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Dog - **Besitos Cenizo** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Bitch/Best Bred By Exhibitor Variety - **Besitos Xochis Elo** - Owner: Louise Ekenstam

Intermediate

Best of Variety - **Ch Quetzal (Hoover)** - Owners: Donald Webb & Barbara Griffin

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/Winners Bitch - **Besitos Chevela Vargas** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best Puppy Variety - **Besitos Valentin** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Reserve Winners Dog - **Besitos Temascal** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Bitch - **Besitos Quichica** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Standard

Best of Variety - **Ch Teotihuacan (Hoover)** - Owner: Jo Acton

Best of Opposite Sex Variety/Winners Bitch - **Tairona (Hoover)** - Owners: Patty Hoover & Jo Acton

Best Puppy Variety - **Besitos Aymara** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Best Bred By Exhibitor - **Casita Feliz Coatl** - Owner: Kathryn Johnson

Winners Dog/Best of Winners - **Mesquite (Hoover)** - Owner: Patty Hoover

Reserve Winners Dog - **Fendor's Mexican Dream Xolo**- Owner: Brigitte Rook

Reserve Winners Bitch - **Besitos Aymara** - Owner: Patty Hoover

PNW Regional Inter-Variety Competition

Best In Specialty - **Besitos Cocoyuche** - Owners: Laureen MacDonald, Patty Hoover

Best Opposite Sex in Specialty- **Tairona (Hoover)** - Owners: Patty Hoover & Jo Acton

Best Puppy in Specialty - **Besitos Valentin** - Owners: Barbara Griffin & Donald Webb

Best Bred By Exhibitor in Specialty - **Besitos Xochis Elo** - Owner: Louise Ekenstam

Best Novice Puppy in Specialty (3 to 6 mos) – **Besitos Shasku** – Owner: Patty Hoover

Best Altered in Specialty (spayed/neutered) – **Besitos Javaro** – Owner: Patty Hoover

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

New XCUSA Champions finishing titles at these Specialties were:

Conformation

- **Mesquite (Hoover)** (std) – owner: Patricia Hoover
- **Tairona (Hoover)** (std) – owner: Patricia Hoover & Jo Acton

Rally (Novice)

- **Spooky** (intermediate coated)– owner: Shirley Lundy
- **Ch Quetzal (Hoover)** (intermediate hairless)– owner: Don Webb & Barbara Griffin
- **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** (intermediate hairless) – Barbara Griffin & Don Webb

Obedience (CD)

- **Ch Baalche (Hoover)** – Barbara Griffin & Don Webb

Other Xolos with Qualifying legs toward XCUSA Obedience & Rally titles

- **Besitos Aldrona** (miniature coated) – Glenda Phillips
- **Besitos Sahara** (intermediate coated) – Lisa Moore
- **Hoover** (intermediate hairless) – Lisa Moore

Other show information

As you know I have been keeping a database of the Xolo's who have been shown in the AKC miscellaneous class.

As if the end of October there have been 30 different Xolos shown in 162 different shows a total of 183 times. 10 of the dogs belong to XCUSA members.

There have also been several XUCSA dogs that have been invited to the Eukenuba show in December I will try to give an update on them for the 1st quarter newsletter in 2011.

Kacie Johnson

Pumpkin Cookies

By Sherri Regalburto

The great pumpkin; other than carving and making pumpkin loaf, what are they good for? Lots. My cupboard is usually full of canned organic pumpkin. This is the time of year to stock up; it can be harder to find at other times. Each time I'm at the grocers lately I grab at least three cans. I not only use it for the dogs; I also love baking and cooking with it for us as well.

But for the dogs; if you've ever had a dog with diarrhea and couldn't seem to get it turned around, then you need to know about pumpkin. I don't know how many people I've shared this with but once you try it; you'll be hooked. Pumpkin is a very good binder when you need binding for your pooch. But; if you need loosening it works well for that too. With it's water absorption qualities it can quickly firm up loose stool and help to loosen up a dog that is having problems with constipation.

[Pumpkin nutritional facts](#)

[more pumpkin info](#)

[Who knew? good for kidney stones and parasites](#)

From everything that I have researched; dogs can eat seeds as well as the meat of a pumpkin. I know that when we carve our pumpkins the dogs are in there looking for tidbits to grab. If you are feeding raw, grate the pumpkin very well and use a small amount. For the pumpkin in a can (not pie filling) use a couple of teaspoons for a med-large dog. Pumpkin can cure diarrhea within hours; how great is that?

And just for the love of it, I made these cookies for the dogs and they are pretty good. They taste sort of like Cheese crackers. Yes; I always taste my baking before offering them to the dogs. Hey; I want to know if they are actually good or not.
Even Luke ate them.

1/2 Cup butter
1/2 cup canned pumpkin
2 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 tsp garlic powder
1 cup grated sharp cheddar

I mix in my KitchenAid mixer for 3 solid minutes. Hand knead for 1 min to make sure all the cheese is blended in nicely. Roll out to 1/4" thickness using flour on your surface and top of dough. The dough is really nice to roll.

**Bake large cookies 2 1/2" size for 20 min. Leave in for 25 min again at 275 to dry.
 -small size 1 1/2" for 15 min. Leave in for 15 min again at 275 to dry.**

Rescue News

Un fortunately more and more Xolos and Fauxlos are showing up in rescue. We have several dogs for Placement and a couple of success stories.

Tanner and Scooter are presently available for adoption

Tanner

5 yr old coated toy xolo, Tanner and his son, Scooter, were raised in a breeding facility before coming into rescue. They lived outdoors their whole lives in presumably concrete runs or cages since neither knew what grass was, nor did they know what nice soft beds, toys, and snuggling on laps was all about. Tanner is a very shy and distrusting boy, he is much more fearful of men than women, but will be slow to warm up to anyone. Tanner does trust me (foster mom) now and loves to snuggle with me, but if on my lap will not make eye contact at all, but he sure loves to snuggle next to me under the covers at night or when laying on the sofa.

Tanner has learned what playing is all about, he loves to run laps around the backyard with the other dogs in his foster home, he totally ignores the naked cats in his foster home. Tanner is neutered, UTD on vaccinations, heartworm free and had a dental where he lost a few teeth, but nothing of any concern. Tanner is considered a flight risk so only homes with secure fenced yard will be considered. Tanner is very skittish of anything new to him, loud noises, thunder, fireworks, and will not be a good candidate for a home with young children. In a perfect world, Tanner and his son, Scooter, would be adopted together. Tanner looks to Scooter for reassurance in new/strange situations. If Scooter is okay with the situation, the Tanner will settle in and go with the flow. All that being said, once you earn Tanner's trust, he is the sweetest boy and has the most soulful amber eyes. If you think you can give Tanner what he needs in a home, please email his foster mom at crestiersq@gmail.com Tanner is being fostered in Kansas.

Scooter

2 year old hairless toy Xolo, he is neutered, UTD on vaccinations, heartworm negative, and a silly boy. He and his dad (Tanner) and didn't have the best life before. They lived in a really bad breeding facility where they had to stay outside all the time, didn't know what grass was, or what human kindness was all about. Because he didn't have the best start in life, he doesn't have very good skin, lots of blackheads and some acne issues, but foster mom has been working really hard to get it cleared up. It's come a long way but still has a ways to go and he may never have beautiful blemish free skin, but that's okay because he is still just the cutest thing on the face of this earth. He doesn't mind my baths at all. Scooter really loves his dad, Tanner, and foster mom says in a perfect world they will be adopted together. Tanner really needs him because he's very shy and distrusting of people, and looks to Scooter for reassurance. On the other hand, while I love his dad a lot, he'd be okay if they aren't adopted together since once he gets to know you, he is more trusting of people...and LOVES to be snuggled. Foster mom says that he should probably go to a home with only older children (12 yrs or older) since I can be a bit shy and fast movements/loud noises really scare him. If you'd like more information about Scooter, please email his foster mom at crestiersq@gmail.com Scooter is being fostered in Kansas.

Suzy:

Suzy is a lovely older standard girl who had to be given up by her owner about a year ago. We do not know what her situation was but Elizabeth and David in Phoenix received her from a very upset older man. Elizabeth kept her for a year, most of which she was out of town for a "temporary job in Texas. When her job became permanent it was decided that she should find a new foster. She is now with June and is settling in to the cold north tundra. This has meant some major learning for her. She now knows about dog doors and dog jackets.

Suzy is about 9 and has minor seizures that are kept under control with medications. She is a sweet loving Girl who loves older people especially grey haired men.

Lisa Windflower

Larry

Larry is a successful placement in Tucson. He is a black coated intermediate who was surrendered to XRL in March of last year and I picked him up in Phoenix. Later he was turned over to me to place. When Shannon got swamped by a large number of dogs at one time. Supposedly he was very aggressive, a biter etc. It turned out that he had been surrendered by the daughter in law of his owner. She had had to move in with her family and give up her own home and Larry had not made the transition to a house with a number of children very well. We never saw any aggression issues with him in any situation. Last summer a friend in Tucson described the type of dog she was looking for to be a companion/service dog for her Brother-In- Law who is deaf and has some other medical issues. I contacted her about Larry , she came and picked him up. He is working out beautifully and is quickly learning the ins and outs of being a hearing assist dog. He is a very happy boy with his new person and a real job to do.



Kacie Johnson

Ozomatli

Ozo is not a rescue but is one of Coatl and Papalote's brothers. We were very worried about being able to place him as he is one of those extremely shy dogs. A lovely lady in Tucson was interested in getting a standard Xolo and took him for a trial placement. They had a couple of rough weeks. Until she rescued a little dog from being hit on one of our very busy streets. When she got him home Ozo decided that this was someone that Liz had brought especially be a friend for him. And has since settled in very well. Congratulations Elizabeth.

Kacie

Brag and Sharing

Last month we received a good piece of news from our friend Jacqi in Australia. She had imported the first Xolo's into Australia earlier in the year and had been showing them for only a few months.

Just a small brag to share from down under!!

The first ever Xoloitzcuintle Australian Champion was titled today in Western Australia, Besitos Naca (Imp USA) is now Au Ch Besitos Naca (Imp USA) we are incredible thrilled to be a small part of what is to become Xolo history here in Australia and for the breed.

Besitos Taha Daha is not far behind with 30 points to go.

Thanks to all for their tremendous support from around the globe.

Jacqi
West Australia.

Tee's Story

This is from an Email that Lisa shared with us this last spring.

Tee excels in snakes, so well in fact, had I trained him to kill I would be doing a "big brag". Alas, this is not the case. He is indefatigable in his efforts to kill every snake on the property. Actually anything small enough for him to kill. I've stopped counting how many snakes he has killed.

Somewhere back in my pea brain I think I remember hearing that the little brats should not be corrected for doing something that is 'genetically wired'. I tell him NO when I see him hunting and get the "la la la I can't hear you" treatment. He is soooo delighted with himself, should I insist on a NO or is it not something to correct? Yesterday I got really annoyed and told him he was a bad boy. He ran to his crate and pouted for a while but ended up back in the same area.

We have the hunting posture down now so if we see him we can tell he is ready to pounce or is pouncing. Tail wagging..... Nose down to ground.....Jump back.....repeat.

If he starts to dig on the grass he is trying to dig a snake out. That explains why the dead or injured snakes have had scratch marks on their body. There is probably a neck snap in most cases since there has been no sign of visible injury (NVI) other than the scratch marks. Now and then the snake has a portion of tail removed or no head. (and I let this dog kiss me)

Does he kill house mice or gophers? No, he finds dusky footed wood rats, one of my favorite critters, lizards, another favorite critter, and ground squirrels. In spite of this he is one of the most adored creature I have ever shared my life with.
lisa^*^

Dog Rebuttal:

Well, honestly, I don't know what her deal is. Most people that visit us, especially women, see a snake or mouse and jump up making ewww ewww ewww noises. I figure I have to save my mom.

BUT, when she finds something I killed or takes something from me she walks around cuddling it, saying pobrecito, pobrecito. Then she puts me in the house and hides it from me or puts it in the trash barrel right in front of me. sigh She even made something she calls "a lizard palace" with rocks and bricks so I can't get to them. AND, she put a wired cage thing around the place her "favorite snake" hangs out so I can't get to it. Really, who has a favorite snake??? There are snakes everywhere, what does it matter if there are some dead ones? It is so much fun to chase and kill them. I must keep my skills honed. Rats, who wants rats around? Really, it is such a puzzlement. "Tee, NO...Tee, drop it".

The other day she must have been happy because I found another kind of snake beside the garter snakes all over. She pulled it out before I could get it and must have been pleased with me because she kept saying, "a rubber boa, a rubber boa". But again, she picked it up, put me in the house and took it somewhere I could not find.

I can't figure her out, but at least she keep kissing me so she must love me except when I find cat shit and eat it. Humans! Some humans like dogs that kill snakes and rats. I end up with one that doesn't, but she is still the light of my life.
Tee

• ***Are You and your Dogs Prepared for a Disaster?***

Kim Lovewell

A hurricane marches up the eastern coast toward your town. Do you know how to keep your pets safe? Although we can't prevent many disasters, we can certainly learn how to deal with them.

Disasters come in two forms: natural and man-made. Natural disasters are the most predictable because they are often seasonal. Hurricanes and storms are tracked for days before making landfall. Earthquakes are still random events, though, and tornadoes can occur with little warning.

Man-made disasters are often unpredictable. Most are accidents, such as the spilling of hazardous material or accidental fire. Others, as we have witnessed, can be the result of criminal activity (such as arson) or terrorism.

Here are a few tips on how to handle five potential disasters: hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods and wildfires. These tips were compiled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has partnered with the Humane Society of the United States to help protect pets during emergencies. You can learn more about how to handle disasters by visiting FEMA's Web site at www.fema.gov.

Preparedness *is important in any emergency*, especially if you have pets.

Hurricanes

Although they can be very destructive, hurricanes are very predictable. The National Hurricane Center in Miami tracks weather patterns and notes possible hurricanes long before they pose a threat. The important thing is to monitor a storm's progress to see if it becomes a risk to coastal areas. (A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 miles an hour; but a storm is still a storm and not to be taken lightly.) The hurricane center issues three levels of warning: hurricane advisory (which tells where the storm is located and direction of movement); hurricane watch and hurricane warning.

A watch is issued when hurricane conditions are possible within 24 to 36 hours. At that time you should: Begin evacuating large animals (such as horses) and large populations of dogs and cats (such as those in shelters) from vulnerable areas.

Keep your pets indoors and accessible. Cats can sense a hurricane and may be hiding. You may want to put them in their transport cages so you don't lose valuable time finding them.

Know your community's preplanned evacuation route.

Store a week's worth of fresh water and food for yourself and your pets, and prep your house (i.e., put up hurricane shutters, etc.).

A warning is issued when a hurricane is 24 hours or less away from striking. You should complete all preparations in a hurry before high winds and heavy rains arrive. Remember that storm surge is especially dangerous. Only stay in your home if it is safe, and always bring your pets with you, even if you are not sure where to take them.

Earthquakes

Unlike most natural disasters, earthquakes are still unpredictable events. An earthquake is a wave-like movement of the earth's surface, caused when the crust and upper part of the mantle grind against each other along fault lines. When masses of rock slip along a fault, energy is released in waves.

Do not place dog runs or other animal enclosures underneath objects that could fall on them during an earthquake or sharp tremor. Keep a pair of bolt cutters in your disaster kit, in case cages are damaged and can't be opened.

Know where to turn off gas supplies to the house or barn.

Include your pets in family earthquake drills, and instruct your family on how to handle them. Remember that in an emergency, a frightened pet may bite or scratch.

If you plan to leave your pet at a kennel, inform them of your earthquake preparedness plans.

If an earthquake hits, keep your pets with you and safely confined, if possible. Pets that escape often return during mealtimes. Make sure they do not eat or drink anything other than from your supplies.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can be very destructive and can touch down without warning. The weather service issues two levels of warning: tornado watch and tornado warning.

A watch is issued when tornado conditions are possible. At that time you should:

Keep your pets indoors and accessible. You may want to put them in their transport cages so you don't lose valuable time finding them.

Make sure you have a week's worth of fresh water and food for yourself and your pets and prep your house.

A warning is issued when a tornado has been spotted. Retreat to a basement, storm shelter or sturdy room in the center of the home. Bring your pet with you.

Floods

Floods can affect any part of the United States, and each year more than 300,000 people are forced to evacuate due to rising waters. Floods are classified by how quickly they rise.

Slow-rising floods are more predictable and usually involve rising rivers or streams. Flash floods can hit quickly from heavy rain or melting snow. They can also be caused by dam failure. There are three types of flood warnings.

Flash flood watch. This is issued when a flash flood is possible, but not necessarily imminent. You should prepare to evacuate your pets, if necessary.

Flash flood warning. A flash flood is imminent or may be in progress.

Flood warning. This warning is an advanced notice that a flood may occur (or has occurred) in a specific location or river basin. You should begin to relocate large animals (such as horses) that are in danger.

You should map out several evacuation routes; don't rely on mapping out just one. You should also anticipate the path a flood may take; this may have a bearing on how you evacuate larger animals such as horses. Head for the nearest high ground with your pets. It is better to err on the side of caution and evacuate early. If the evacuation proves to be unnecessary, consider the experience as practice for the real thing.

Never leave any animal behind unless your safety would be compromised. (If you absolutely must leave him behind, make sure he has an easy escape route.) Never tie up an animal if floods are threatening.

Note: The threat of disease is especially strong after a flood. Keep your pets well away from standing pools of water; they should only drink from water you bottled or boiled. This includes tap water. Unless it was protected, consider animal feed contaminated and dispose of it safely.

Wildfires

Wildfires typically occur during summer, when the air is hot and dry. Once lit, they can consume millions of acres, forcing the evacuation of thousands of people. The smoke from wildfires often closes nearby highways.

For this reason, you should plan several escape routes for you and your pets in case fire blocks your path. You should also practice fire drills with your family, and include your pets in the drills. Here are a few actions you can take to protect your home and pets:

Provide wide spacing between trees, and cut back vegetation overhanging buildings.

Create a "fire break" around your home or barn by clearing away vegetation, especially dead brush. Fire breaks should be about 30 feet wide for all structures. For homes built in pine forests, they should be 75 feet wide.

Buy rope or leather halters for horses (nylon halters melt when heated and could injure your horse).

If a fire is close, wet the manes and tails of horses, and place a piece of cloth around the nostrils to reduce smoke inhalation.

You may want to blindfold them to make evacuation easier.

Take all animals with you, if possible. If you can't bring a horse, lead him to the safest part of the pasture, then shut the barn door.

Deaths during and after a wildfire are usually caused by complications from smoke inhalation. If an animal was exposed, monitor him for smoke inhalation pneumonia.

Dog Training

• ***Preparing your dog for a new baby***

Kim

(This is a totally fictitious scenario created to impart information.)

I have a 6-year-old xolo named Spot (who's always been our baby), and I'm about to give birth to twins. How do I get our dog ready for the new arrivals, and how do I make sure they are safe around him? He's always been a little possessive of me and my husband, so I'm kind of worried.

It's great that you are already planning on making a smooth transition for Spot when the babies arrive. Here are some tips for ensuring that Spot and the new babies have a happy, healthy relationship.

1. Get Basic Training Out of The Way

Ideally, as soon as parents-to-be know that a baby will be coming into the family, the canine family member will be provided with training if it hasn't been done before. Commands such as "sit," "down," "stay," and "back up" are very helpful when it comes to managing a dog around new infants.

2. Make Preemptive Changes To Routine

A while before the twins come home, think about any other household changes you need to make that will affect Spot. For example, if he's used to sleeping in your bed, begin introducing him to his own brand-new bed. If you think you're going to send him to doggie day care more often, let him get adjusted to the change in routine ahead of time.

3. Introduce Spot to Unusual Baby Items

The little ones will have swings, rocking seats, and toys in what had been Spot's domain. As soon as possible, show Spot the new items so that he has, for example, seen the swing move before there is a baby in it, and he knows what it means when you say "Leave it!" when it comes to baby toys.

4. Get Spot Ready for Crying

If your dog is sound-sensitive and you think he may be nervous when the babies cry, you can expose him to crying baby sounds via a CD. Starting with quieter cries, you can gradually crank up the sound until Spot is a pro at listening to a wailing baby.

5. Begin Smell-Therapy

After the babies are born but before they come home, have your husband bring a blanket or shirt from the babies to Spot so he can become familiar with their scents before he meets them.

6. Plan a Proper Introduction

Spot will probably be curious and anxious to meet the new members of his family the minute they arrive. To make sure he doesn't jump on you when you come home from the hospital, it's a good idea for you to get in the room and be sitting when Spot comes in to meet the twins for the first time. If Spot is a very active dog, have a helper bring him into the room on a leash. Praise Spot for being calm and well-behaved.

7. Give Spot Plenty of Exercise and Play Time

It's only natural for new parents to find themselves focusing all of their time and attention on the littlest family members. But in order to keep the household happy for everyone, make sure Spot still gets daily exercise and play sessions. This is extremely important for having a calm, mellow dog. If you just can't do it all, consider getting a temporary personal assistant for Spot. There might be a neighborhood teenager who would be happy to take a dog for a walk and play with him.

Finally, it's important to remember that when little ones and pets are together, an adult should always be present. As a matter of fact, AKC Canine Good Citizen Responsible Dog Owners pledge that children and dogs should always be supervised when together. This applies to when the babies are infants and when they get older. Keeping an eye out on all of your family members will keep everyone safe and sound.

And Finally

First Time at a Dog Show Author Unkinown

First time at a dog show, I'll tell you quite plain
I'll never, no never, go near one again.
The breeder said "show him" when I bought my dog.
I showed him all right, the whole place was agog

They gave me a number, they gave me a pin
But I couldn't bear to stick the thing in,
So I rushed to the shop and bought some clear glue
Then I stuck the card onto his back in the loo.

We arrived at the ringside to find we were the first
In the Puppy Class (this part is the worst).
We marched in together as fast as we were able
Arrived at the judge who said "Up on the table".
This really suprised me, my skirt was quite tight,
And I just couldn't make it, try hard as I might.

The judge looked quite worried, he said "Listen here,
Put your dog on the table, not you, my dear".
By now I was trembling, I felt such a fool
But I said to myself... "Play it cool, play it cool".

"How old?" said the Judge, I heard it quite clear
Well really, I thought, and said "Thirty next year".
The Steward, poor fellow, threw a kind of fit.
He sputtered, he coughed, and his eyes ran a bit.
"I'd have that cough seen to" I said to him when
He's finally stopped then he started again.

"Once round the ring, dear, as fast as you can"
Said the judge, so I did, I just ran and ran,
But when I arrived (out of breath, I'll admit)
The Judge said "with your dog dear" I felt like a twit.
Off round once again, I kept my head bent.
Oh the shame, my pup crouched,
He just went and went.
A lady came running with bucket and spade
With manure so spicy, has she got it made.

We came back to the Judge who said with a frown
"Stand your dog". I said "Please sir, he,s now lying down".
"You can take first Place stand" he said. I said "Ta".
What a job I had getting that stand to the car!