



XOLOWORLD NEWS 2nd QUARTER 2011

Summer is a kumming in and the dogs are sweetly playing.

(slightly revised sentence from an old folk song)

Xolo people are busy all over the country competing with, playing with and just enjoying their dogs. In the desert Southwest I do most of my exercising, training and outdoor playing before 8 Am as the temperatures can start to really climb by then. The rest of the day my guys spend tanning and lazing around. Have a fun safe summer with your beloved Xolos.

Kacie Johnson Newsletter Editor

Prez Report
By Barbara Griffin
XCUSA President

Things have been pretty quiet on the XCUSA front, but in the competition rings it has been busy. Several of our members have been busy competing with their Xolos in the conformation ring, with many venturing into the AKC conformation world now that Xolos have full AKC recognition.

New Champions:

- Besitos Cocoyuche, owned by Laureen MacDonald, earned his both his UKC Championship and his XCUSA championship.
- XCUSA Ch Oconee Bella (Hoover) (Miniature), owned by Christine Feldman-Bartnick & Mark Bartnick, earned her AKC championship.
- XCUSA Ch Besitos Valentin (Intermediate), owned by Barbara Griffin & Don Webb, earned his AKC championship.
- Besitos Mintsitani (Standard), owned by Lesa Manoskey, earned her AKC championship and her XCUSA championship.

This gives XCUSA an AKC champion in each size variety.

As of April 30, 2011 AKC has recorded thirty Xolos in its Top Dog Breed totals. The report lists Best of Breed wins and number of dogs defeated. Each of these Xolos has received at least one Best of Breed win. Twelve of these winners are XCUSA Xolos. As of April, nine Xolos have achieved their AKC championship. Three are XCUSA Xolos. At present, 9 other XCUSA Xolos are being shown in AKC shows and most of these have points toward their championships. Remember to send your win sheets or a copy of your win (can copy off superintendent or AKC sites) to me, gwinndell@aol.com, so your dog gets XCUSA credit.

Here are XCUSA Xolos I am aware of who have ventured into the AKC ring:

Besitos Bachi - Jo Acton & P. Hoover

Comal (Hoover)–Jo Acton & P. Hoover

Oaxaca (Hoover)–Jo Acton & P. Hoover

Besitos Xochis Elo–Louise Eckenstam & P. Hoover

Besitos Xochis Malinal–Louise Eckenstam & P. Hoover

Ch Oconee Bella Hoover–Christine Feldman-Bartnick

Christos Cozcapilla- Christine Feldman-Bartnick

Besitos Ini–C. Feldman-Bartnick & P. Hoover

Besitos Sinimani–C. Feldman-Bartnick & P. Hoover

Baalche (Hoover)–Barbara Griffin & Don Webb

Quetzal (Hoover)– Don Webb & Barbara Griffin

Ch Besitos Valentin–Barbara Griffin & Don Webb

Besitos Quichica–Barbara Griffin & Don Webb

Besitos Karmen Del Khiva Hoover –Barbara Hamilton

Besitos Xilonen–Marilynn Keith

Besitos Pavita–Marilynn Keith

Besitos Tekua–Marie Lundbom

Besitos Cocoyuche–Laureen MacDonald

Ch Besitos Mintsitani–Lesa Manoskey

Besitos Namina–Joe Palatino

Besitos Janikua–Kristen Schatzel

In agility, we currently have 5 Xolos competing in the AKC ring. All have been burning up the turf and adding titles.

It was my pleasure to attend a PNW Freestyle competition here in Oregon. Former XCUSA member, Sherry Rand, traveled from Montana and debuted with her rescue Xolo “Elliott.” They earned the first qualifying leg for a Xolo in Freestyle and went on to qualify a second day to earn 2 legs, earning him a title. It was their first trial and Sherry’s debut in the world of Freestyle. I think this is the first time a Xolo has competed in “Doggy Dancing.”

There will be no XCUSA Specialty this year. We will see what next year brings.

Kacie addendum

Morgan is the newest Xolo to pass his Canine Good Citizenship test. Congratulations to both proud dog and owner.

Summer tip passed on from Marie Lundhom from the internet... Can’t hurt to try. She said it works.

How to Kill Mosquitoes - NOT A JOKE

You may be aware of this, but I thought it was worth looking at again “How to Kill Mosquitoes I can't wait to try this in the summer!

I was at a deck party awhile back, and the bugs were having a ball biting everyone. A man at the party sprayed the lawn and deck floor with Listerine, and the little demons disappeared. The next year I filled a 4-ounce spray bottle and used it around my seat whenever I saw mosquitoes. And voila! That worked as well. It worked at a picnic where we sprayed the area around the food table, the children's swing area, and the standing water nearby. During the summer, I don't leave home without it....

Summer Hazards

Summer can be wonderful for you and your dog but also poses some hazards of its own. We all know about the problems with leaving your dog in the car. Basically it is a death sentence. Within 15 minutes on even a relatively cool summer day say 80 degrees a car that is left with the windows up can heat to over 120 degrees. Even leaving the windows cracked will not help greatly.

Creepy crawlers like scorpions, spiders, and snakes are very active and can bite and sting. If you live in areas that have them keep your eye out and be proactive about watching around the areas your dogs frequent.

Even the common toad can be hazardous to dogs. The following is from Kim Lovewell

The practice of "toad-licking" has evolved into an urban legend – that the venom secreted through the skin of some toads cause hallucinations. In fact, the venom has been cultivated for generations to be used for medicinal purposes in human beings.

However, the venom is highly toxic to pets. Dogs, which are the most likely pet to come into contact with a toad, have a high probability of dying if untreated. The Colorado River toad and the giant toad (also called the marine toad) are the two most common venomous toads found in the United States.

The Colorado River toad can be found along large streams in the southwestern United States, from Arizona to southern California (and Mexico). This toad wouldn't win any awards for beauty; its brown/green skin is usually covered with warts. They grow to be about three to seven inches long. The giant toad is not as common, but can be found in south Texas and Florida. This brown toad grows to be four to six inches long. It is very toxic to pets.

Because dogs are more curious and extroverted, they tend to be treated for toad poisoning more often. But a dog doesn't necessarily have to lick or eat a toad to be poisoned. There have been cases where frogs have been attracted to a dog's water dish and sat along the rim. Enough toxin can be left to make a dog sick.

If you live in an area where these toads reside, you should limit your pet's exposure to warm, moist outdoor environments, especially in the desert southwest.

What to Look For

If enough toxin is ingested, your pet may have an irregular heartbeat and act strangely, as if in the grip of a hallucination. Call your veterinarian if you observe:

Mouth irritation with foamy salivation	Depression
Weakness	Collapse
Difficulty breathing	Seizures
Fever	Vomiting
Diarrhea	

Veterinary Care

An electrocardiogram may be conducted to determine whether your pet has an abnormal heart rhythm. There currently is no way to find the presence of the toxin. Diagnosis is usually based on whether the pet was seen eating a toad, or if toad parts are in the gastrointestinal tract.

If your pet ate or licked a toad, you should flush his mouth with water to remove traces of the toxin. Your veterinarian may give your pet cardiac drugs such as propranolol to combat abnormal heart rhythms. Anxious, frightened or painful pets may need sedatives. Pet's with a high fever may benefit from a cool bath. A hospital stay with intravenous fluids is very likely, with your pet's heart monitored by an electrocardiograph.

Even the common garden toad, which is a very useful creature in that it can eat as many as 10,000 insects over the course of a season, can make your dog foam at the mouth and be uncomfortable. Its skin secretions are not nearly as toxic as the "venomous" toads but still contain a toxin which is a protection to the toad against predators.

I do not lightly kill anything, but when I lived in Arizona, I disposed of every Colorado River toad that came into the yard. Their venom can kill a dog in a relatively short time and I didn't take any chances. Here in North Carolina, I have had one incidence of a dog mouthing a common garden toad and frothing at the mouth in a disturbing manner. It wasn't life-threatening but I'll bet that dog will never mess with another toad.

Tekki's Tail er Tale



I, Besitos Tekua, took mama Ree down to Florida for the weekend of February 26 & 27 and guess what, I met some Xolos from Florida. It was so nice that they came up to Tallassee to meet me and mama Ree. They and their mama & daddy were very nice too, wish we had had more time to visit. Their mama brought a really nice album with lots of pretty Xolo pictures. It was fun and I knew I had to make mama Ree proud of me so I just stood so pretty for her and we won, WOW! Guess what, mama Ree said that I won the Breed and got my first 2 points. She seemed so happy and said I did reaaalllly well!! Ohh and guess what, my CC buddy (also a hairless), ReeCreat'n GreatXpectations, did well too, he also won that weekend. This showing is really fun, people are really nice and I meet all kinds of neat dogs and people. Mama said one was an Akita pup and we played too. We saw him again this weekend and boy has he grown up, he got so excited to see me and I did to see him also. I've had fun in the Groups too with a Skippikey(sp) and Whippet puppies and around the shows wih you Mama Ree for loving many others. Thank allowing Mama Ree to me and Mama Patty for love me too.

Marie Lundbom
ReeCreat'n Chinese
Xoloitcuintle



Cresteds & 1

Super Chica!

We had AKC agility trials this weekend. The courses were the courses of H-E-Double Toothpicks. They were soooo tight few dogs passed. One Jumper's course started with a jump, then a 90 degree turn to the next jump (not seen by the dog due to angle), toward a jump you had to pull the dog off, to a jump parallel to the first jump and not seen by the dog (who landed and got sharply pulled from the jump he could see ahead of him), a loop back around jump 3 (if you took the close end, you risked passing the plane of the allotted small safe section of turf and flunking), to jump 4, out to jump 5, past a tunnel, a 2 jump serpentine to a pinwheel of jumps and so on. It was a labyrinth of call offs, as dogs naturally head for the obstacle ahead of them. Baalche aced the opening but my wrong angle turn took down the triple. I angled too much so he cut it too close, following my sharp turn, which didn't give him a decent angle and toppled the top bar in a loud clatter. The rest of the run was perfect.

There is a canine chiropractor who comes to the trials and many of us have her work on our dogs at the end of the trials. All 3 of mine had jammed vertebrae. Dr. Lisa said almost every dog she worked on was jammed, and like me, these are her usual clients. Baalche and Quetzal both had to have extensive manipulation to get realigned. That tells me how bad the courses were. Talk about challenging handler's courses. Man, very few dogs qualified. The Q rate was dismally low.

Baalche's last run in Standard was spectacular. Unfortunately I was late in getting to where I needed to be to cue him and he shot slightly past the jump. Another Q bit the dust. He did Q in Open FAST and aced the distance challenge, finishing his OF title. Baalche earned his Open FAST title with first place. It was his Q for the weekend. I had to stay behind a line and direct him over a jump, the A Frame, and over another jump from a distance. All 3 of our Xolos got this part. Chica was terrified of the course from h-e-l-l judge. She was a judge who followed us closely around the course and this really stressed Chica. She does NOT like strangers in her space, many Novice dogs don't and Chica really doesn't, and this woman was imposing and not friendly. Chica couldn't handle her in constant close proximity. It stressed Quetzal too.

In spite of the courses, Baalche was super this weekend. He nailed his weave entries all but one time. That one got many dogs as the handler had to get the dog to a jump, bring him around it, send him to a tunnel, get to the end of the tunnel, before the dog took the jump facing him, and make a 90 degree turn into the weaves he couldn't see. I was too far behind to get him there. The rest of the course was a spectacular performance. One slight oops in Excellent level means no Q, however, so Baalche and I joined the ranks of the no Q's on this course. She had the same horrible weave entry for the Novice dogs.

Quetzal had some wonderful runs and while no Q's were achieved, he was listening and building confidence. Chica was the true star, however. She spent most of the weekend freaked out by the unfriendly judge. (The woman did all of the Friday classes.) With the challenge of the courses and a tail-gaiting judge, she couldn't handle the weaves. They take concentration and weaving while looking behind her at the woman moving in on her freaked her. In some cases I chose to run past an obstacle like the teeter because I knew the judge next to her would cause her to bail.

Yesterday our last 2 classes were the last two classes of the day and they happened simultaneously. That meant I had to walk both classes at the same time, learn both, and get to the ring immediately to run both, as Chica was near the top in both rings and without many other dogs, there was not much chance to move her out of order. Walking both was the problem, as you can run out of order. I couldn't do justice to either or take the time I needed to walk. Don was in the same sinking boat. With small classes, there is little wiggle room so I chose to concentrate on Standard and attempt to stumble through FAST. A Q in either finished a title for Chica. NO pressure here! I totally stressed and then had to RUN to get Chica as they screamed for her to get in the FAST ring. It was ugly. My stress stressed Chica and she darted with judge avoidance foremost in HER mind. We bombed. On to Standard!

It was the mean judge. Still gasping for air (I have a miserable cold) I lined her up. The judge signals as the mic calls out "GO!" I remove Chica's lead, give her a quick reassuring stroke and call out "JUMP;" "Climb it." Chica-Freaka flies into action and is over the A Frame before I can get there. She waits in the yellow contact zone as I wheezed my way forward. "YES!!!!" "Gooooood Chica!" She heads for the jump as I direct, makes the right hand turn to the dog walk and gallops across it. As she gallops, she keeps a wary eye on velcro judge. She sticks the contact, clears a jump and dives into the chute, powering through the heavy material. Chica is only 14 inches and 13 pounds so that chute requires supreme effort to get through. She is not fond of this obstacle. I see her tiny "body bubble" in the material as she powers through. Nekked dogs have extra trouble because the material sticks to them and rubs.

As she emerges, suddenly I hear "LOOSE DOG!" and see the Sheltie that ran just before us charging Chica. Chica takes off in terror with the d*mn Sheltie in hot pursuit. Going into herding mode, the Sheltie begins to herd my tiny Xolo and took off casing her as Chica ran for her life. Luckily it was not being aggressive. Chica streaked to get away and luckily did not dive into the tunnel or she would have been trapped. The owner later said she would have been pummeled had she gone in. Instead, Chica ran to the other side of the tunnel and got pinned against it. This, however, kept us from getting to her as the tunnel wound under the long dogwalk. Pinned, "Cheek" chose to play bow and her action stopped the herding hellion for an instant. This made the Sheltie pause, let Chica make another run for it, and I was able to grab my baby. She was shivering in terror and I was equally stressed. The judge tried to catch the Sheltie as the owner didn't know what to do. It took another 3 minutes or so. I just stood there in the center of the ring not knowing where I should be or what I should do. Finally I walked to the ring entrance and yelled to Don and my friend Chris to get Chica some treats. Chris rushed to our setup to get our treats. Fellow competitors rushed to me with treats and I left the ring to try to calm her and me. Elk liver got Chica focused on me again, thanks to a kind lady.

The judge came over and said we could run again, either now, or later. I told her that Chica was terrified and I'd like to wait. She also told me judging would start after we completed the obstacles we had already done, as Chica had a nice run going. I would not be penalized should she make an error on the obstacles she had already conquered. Two dogs later, we stepped back on the start line. Chica flew out ahead of me. She aced the chute and turned to the broad jump, flew through the tunnel, and on to the "mesa" (pause table), over a jump, did a sharp turn to the weaves, and started to melt. Seeing her stress, the judge backed off a bit and we squeaked through the weaves. Chica drove out over 2 jumps ahead to the tire and the final jump. The crowd clapped and cheered. The judge came over to congratulate me for an excellent run and a Q. That finished our Novice Standard title and put her in first place. My baby girl made me so proud.

Never again will I start a course until the previous dog has left the ring. I don't care if it slows things down or that the judge has said "GO!" and gets irritated while I wait. This could have been deadly. Luckily the Sheltie was not aggressive. It was a dog I know from agility league, but not one I know well. I had never seen aggression from her, so didn't feel it was trying to hurt Chica, but it probably weighs twice as much as my little girl and still terrorized her.

Chica was a true star to be able to run a very difficult course after a terrible experience like that! So, hats off to **Besitos Quichica NAJ NF NA!** I am so proud of my baby girl.

June Disotell

The phone rang, it was the local animal shelter. Two tiny 5-week-old Chinese Crested puppies had been turned in the evening before. They knew I loved hairless dogs, so could I foster them? Of course, I was on my way within minutes to pick up the two little naked waifs. They were still a little wobbly when they walked, so I turned over the large guest bathroom to them, since it was easy to keep clean and warm and cozy.

The two were doing just fine, when three days later another call came in. This time it was three Chinese Crested puppies, estimated 12 weeks old. So of course I answered the cry for help...after all, five puppies aren't much more work than two...NOT! So I had two hairless, one hairy hairless and two powder puffs to look after, socialize, feed, clean up after and play with.

Naturally I called all my dog loving friends with a plea for help in playing and socializing. I have a south-facing back yard and deck, so on warm days the puppies could play outdoors for a while. But when it was rainy and cold, there was no place but the garage. I used an X-pen to keep them contained and they would chew on toys and bones and get their exercise.

My day consisted of early morning bathroom cleaning, feeding, cleaning again, playing, feeding again, cleaning again, playing...you get the picture. But I was assisted by my own Xolos and Shar Pei mix who loves puppies. The babies all learned to trust people and other dogs. When they were put on the website to be adopted, every puppy got a good home. I have since talked with two of the adopters who had nothing but praise for their new friendly and playful addition to the family.



-- It's often said that the way to a dog's heart is through its stomach.

That may be true, but the combination of a voracious appetite, natural curiosity and indiscriminate taste can lead to trouble for our canine companions. Plants that are poisonous to dogs can be found in our homes, our yards and in the wild, and sometimes all it takes is a little bite to lead to an emergency trip to the veterinarian.

These 10 plants are among the most toxic to dogs, and you can find [a full list with photos at ASPCA.org, the website of the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.](#)

1. Grapes -- The toxicity of grapes to dogs was once thought to be an urban legend, but it's true; even a small serving can cause vomiting and diarrhea, while larger amounts [can lead to kidney failure. Researchers aren't yet sure what exactly causes this reaction, whether pesticides or a fungal toxin.](#)

And while keeping the grapes and raisins in your pantry away from your dog is a concern, you should be on the lookout for grapevines outside as well. As any dog owner knows, berries and fruits of all sorts are a tempting treat.

2. Mushrooms -- While there are plenty of great-tasting, perfectly safe mushrooms out there, dogs just don't seem capable of discerning the difference between the edible and the toxic. To be on the safe side, it's best not to allow dogs to eat any wild mushrooms at all, unless you can confidently identify the species yourself.

Amanita, Galerina and Lepiota species are especially dangerous because they contain toxins that cause a series of worsening symptoms, from vomiting to swelling in the brain. Amanita phalloides, the Death Cap mushroom, is responsible for most of the reported fatal mushroom poisoning cases in dogs.

3. Marijuana -- For most people, the likelihood of your pet gaining access to marijuana -- whether on a live plant or not -- is relatively low. But regardless of your view of marijuana's safety for human use, it has absolutely no benefits for your pet.

After ingesting marijuana, a dog can experience symptoms like slow heart rate, lack of coordination, disorientation, drooling and tremors that can persist for up to three days.

4. Lilies -- While lilies are well-known as a serious danger to cats, certain varieties are highly toxic to dogs as well.

The peace lily, calla lily, amaryllis, lily of the valley, autumn crocus and the common houseplant, giant Dracaena or palm lily, are all deemed dangerous to dogs by the ASPCA. Ingestion of lilies can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, anorexia and tremors.

5. Black walnuts -- Dropping from black walnut trees by the thousands, the nuts themselves don't contain anything that can harm your dog. But once they start to decompose, they grow molds that [can cause tremors and seizures. If you have one of these trees in your yard and your dog seems attracted to the nuts, it might be a good idea to rake them up on a regular basis.](#)

6. Sago palm -- Often used in landscaping and as houseplants, sago palms develop seed pods that are often very tempting to dogs.

Unfortunately, the whole plant and the seeds in particular contain a potent toxin called cycasin that [can be fatal, even if the dog only eats a single seed. Ingestion of any part or amount of this plant warrants immediate emergency treatment.](#)

7. Azalea -- A member of the widely toxic genus rhododendron, the [azalea is found in many varieties all over the United States and is commonly used as an ornamental flowering shrub in landscaping. Ingestion of just a few leaves can cause serious issues like digestive upset, drooling, loss of appetite, weakness and leg paralysis. In some cases, eating azalea can lead to coma or death.](#)

8. Castor bean -- This ornamental tropical plant, also used as a crop for castor oil, [contains the toxic protein ricin.](#)

At the least, eating this plant can burn a dog's mouth and throat and lead to excessive thirst, vomiting and diarrhea. But ingestion of even an ounce of seeds can be lethal.

9. Daffodils -- Among the first blooms to herald the arrival of spring, [daffodils are a cheerful addition to the garden, but they contain poisonous alkaloids that can cause vomiting, excessive salivation, diarrhea, convulsions, tremors and heart problems. The bulbs are the most dangerous part of the plant. Other common names for the daffodil include narcissus, jonquil and paper white.](#)

10. Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane) -- With its broad variegated leaves, the dieffenbachia is often recommended as an ideal houseplant for natural air purification.

But if you choose to have one in your home, be sure it's well out of your dog's reach. When eaten, it not only burns the mouth and throat but causes the esophagus to swell, potentially blocking the dog's airway.

I can speak to that. When I was about 10 I was dared by one of my friends to bite a dieffenbachia stem. Fortunately I didn't get my airway blocked but was not able to speak for about a half hour and I can still remember 56 years later how my mouth and throat both burned and was numb at the same time. Kacie

A more complete list is found later in the newsletter

Historical Perspective

This is from an article based on Norman Wright's writings in the 1950's. He was one of the people responsible for bringing Xolos down from the mountains in the early 50's and helping to set up the first Standard for the breed with the Mexican Kennel Club.

I have a copy of that Standard. If you are interested in me printing it in the next couple of Newsletters please let me know.

When someone mentions "dogs" and "Mexico" in the same sentence, most people think immediately of the cute Chihuahua, small in proportions and large in personality but commonly dismissed by lovers of larger dogs as a small and unimportant "toy" breed.

But dogs have been important in Mexico since long before the U.S. or Canada were first settled by Europeans, and Mexico has many more breeds of dog than the Chihuahua. Perhaps the most unusual of the breeds associated with Mexico is the hairless Xoloitzcuintli (pronounced Shollo-it-z-quintli), or "*shollo*" for short. They are thought to have given rise to the superb, highly artistic, clay figures of dogs found in many burial offerings in Western Mexico. So many have been found in the state of Colima that these exquisitely modeled ceramic dogs are often referred to simply as Colima Dogs.

The clay figures, prized by collectors, who call them *izcuintlis*, have a highly polished rich warm red color. They are believed to represent the deity Xolotl, in his role as guider of souls in the underworld and also provide some symbolic food for the departed on his or her journey. Dogs played an important part in the diet of Indian tribes in much of Mexico, and the *izcuintlis* invariably have appropriately corpulent bodies. The hairless Xoloitzcuintli was common in pre-Columbian times, and is now recognized as the oldest indigenous American domesticated dog. Its nearest relative is the Crested Dog of Manchuria; long ago, the two breeds are thought to have shared a common ancestor.

Xoloitzcuintlis were in imminent danger of extinction in the 1940's, but an energetic campaign by the Mexican Kennel Club succeeded in reestablishing the breed as a domestic pet, this time not for eating but for sound medical reasons. Parents of asthmatic children discovered that the dogs, since they are hairless and consequently flealess, made ideal pets for their offspring. Research in those parts of Mexico where the breed still existed showed that villagers often slept with their dogs at night, as prevention against, or cure for, such ailments as malaria, rheumatism and the common cold. The dogs have body temperatures several degrees hotter than most breeds and snuggling up to one in bed is like having a hot water bottle beside you.

Apart from having no hair, what do Xoloitzcuintli look like? They are normally slim with graceful, uniform grey or brown bodies, somewhat like a large Manchester Terrier. They have erect ears, similar to dogs portrayed in pre-Columbian frescoes at Tula and Cholula, stand about half a meter (20 inches) tall at the shoulder, and weigh up to 16 kilos (35 pounds).

And, before you ask, the "Mexican hairless" (as known in the U.S.) is much smaller than a true "*shollo*", being a cross between a Xoloitzcuintli and a Chihuahua or similar breed.

Reference:

This account is based on the chatty and informative writings of Norman Wright, a former British Military Attache in Mexico, who was one of the prime movers of the Kennel Club campaign, particularly the chapter "Xoloitzcuintli Quest" in "A Mexican Medley for the Curious" (Ediciones Tolteca, Mexico, 1961).

This is the first regular inclusions of individuals stories of their first Xolos or Xolo's who have changed their lives. If you have one you would like to have included please send it to me.

Kacie

Cholos Story

Grace Hawkins

I told Cholo's story on our company's old website this way: he came to me after a midnight raid on a xolo puppy mill. It made a ripping good tale, with kind-hearted rescuers jimmying a lock and busting xolo puppies loose from a dark garage at night. I wish all the details had been true, because no dog deserves to grow up on a cold concrete floor, as Cholo in reality surely did. No training, no socialization, no secure food or water. And no potty training, of course.

When I saw his grainy photo on a rescue site I thought, "worth a 90 minute drive to check this little guy out, sure!" So I paid him a visit during which he had no use for me at all. He ran around aimlessly, nervously, eating whenever a bit of kibble was at hand. He had not been neutered and was clearly pretty young, but I could see his skin was awful and his temperament was just short of frantic. Not very promising.

I drove home, wondering why I had thought of this. At home was beautiful calm Pokey, our lovely elderly greyhound. Why bring this frantic upstart into the picture? Then my husband came back from a business trip. I asked him to come down to take a look and the next morning we left with a commitment to return for Cholo after his neutering.

That was our start to life with Cholo: him miserable from his surgery, unable to bear the e-collar (of course! A xolo cannot have something like that on his tender skin!), frightened to death. I made him a makeshift diaper to keep him from biting his stitches from directions on the web (back then the internet was a pretty new thing, by the way) and his incision finally healed, but he kept biting my hand for a month or more after he came to us. Fear. Suspicion. Mistrust. He had them all, in spades.

My vet was charmed by him, but alarmed by his eyes, which poured tears at the slightest provocation. So off we went to a veterinarian ophthalmologist who said his eyes were perfect. Still, for over a year, if he felt any stress at all, for example if a stranger came to our house, he cried great floods of tears, which left streaks down his shiny black nose.

This tender boy had a back that looked more like a hedgehog than a xolo. His skin had never been cared for at all, and so we started on this evening regimen: Warm bath. Sit in my lap. I squeeze blackheads. One by one, we got rid of the worst of them, and then a combination of a good diet and baths twice a week cleared his skin up totally. It took a long time, but Cholo was very patient about it, and he loved his bath which was always followed by creaming down with Body Shop Mango Body Butter.

I changed my dogs over to a raw diet not long after we got Cholo, and I think this was very beneficial for him. He acted like a puppy full of beans, loving to run in the garden ears flapping in the wind until very shortly before he died. But he was a food thief all his life. He stole any food he could get. He stole the lunch of painters who worked on our house. He stole pastries in the car. He went into business with my daughter's xolo who fearlessly jumped onto tables and pulled food off; then they shared their take with Roja. He never got enough food, a relic of his days in that dank garage.

He never was house trained reliably. Never. I finally sewed a dozen belly bands and went back to buying Kotex on sale in a desperate bid to keep the house and carpets in any shape when I had to leave the house for more than a few hours. This drove me to distraction! Really, I wanted to kill him sometimes, especially after I saw I would have to wash the drapes in the guest bathroom AGAIN for the third time that week. Why pee always on those...why why why!?!

And of course my daughter's male xolo was always happy to join right in. "After you; no, you go first; no, be my guest!" Drapes into the washing machine again.

In this way 8 years somehow went by. Cholo slept on our bed (how did he get that privilege? long, long story), opening his dark serious eyes on me every morning for all those years. Stretching his body towards me for a morning stroke across his smooth beautiful skin. Hello, I love you.

His happiest times were of course when I was sick. All dogs love a sick master or mistress! Finally, the human is still rather than rushing from room to room; they have food in bed (might share?); and they are home all day. Heaven!

My happiest times were every day with Cholo.

I still can't believe he isn't there spinning and jumping when I come home. I still reach out to pet his soft, soft skin in the night. I can hear his sigh. What I would have missed if I had not gone back down to pick up that unfriendly, unbeautiful nervous creature! But I did, and I will always be grateful for that strange happy day I met my first xolo.

Dog Feeding and bacteria

As many of you know I feed partially raw and partially high grade kibble. Some of the reasons are that my guys do much better on this feeding regimen, are more active and are not putting on weight while I am on my long visits in New Jersey.

Recently there was an announcement on my Tucson Raw listserve forwarded from a friend of one of the members about her dog who got sick and died after eating some organic chicken from Costco. Will include the message and their results of the tests. The upshot is that organic does not always mean sterile.

I contacted the couple who lost their dog in order to verify some facts. There still does not seem to be an exact cause (ie, isolated incident of tainted food, bacteria, etc). However, I am passing this on just as a caution until we learn more information. Here are excerpts from the emails I received from Krystal Beers who is the owner of Eoin, the male dog that died on Tuesday:

"...we lost our dear boy on Tuesday evening. Our female was sick, too, but she was able to fight it having not left it in her system overnight like our male did. We have yet to identify what it was but that is in the works as well. The label was Coastal Range Organics from Costco in eastern WA. A report has been filed with Costco corporate and it will be reported to the proper USDA authorities on Monday...

...anything to help spare someone else this terrible greif. Eoin (a Gaelic name pronounced OH-in) was our heartdog... service dog for me with my two autoimmune diseases, guardian, companion, and main herding/working dog on our small ranch. He was an incredibly special soul, missed every second of the day.

Symptoms manifested immediately on Sunday. Our female vomited up the meat within 2 hours of consumption, our male didn't until 4:30 the following morning. He was very weak and lethargic, growing increasingly so throughout the day. Eoin's temp was only 102.4 at this time, he wasn't drinking nor eating grass, becoming dehydrated. Consulted with a Vet via telephone and got a ride into town for Pedilayte. Administered throughout the night and he gained some strength, was able to keep water down. Still very weak. Tuesday he seemed to be getting slowly better. Then in early evening took a turn for the worse, fever spiked to 106.9. Got a ride to a Vet who threw everything at him she could think of. Never saw this before in her 40 years of practicing, she was completely stumped. After 2 hours his systems began to fail and he took his last breath at 10:45 pm.

I have not bought this brand of chicken, but I wanted to investigate just the same. I contacted Costco, both the member services 800# and the local Tucson store manager. The person at member services told me that there is a vet on staff who looks into these issues and passes info onto the member services team since they are the first line of contact for customers. She said they had not been made aware of any issues or recalls.

I am not trying to sound alarm bells and I don't have any more information that what I have included, but my suggestion is to not feed this particular brand of chicken until you find out what is going on and to save it for testing if necessary. I am also passing this on in case you see these symptoms so that you don't wait to seek veterinarian care. It seems to me that vomiting may have saved the female dog so you may not want your dog to eat regurgitated food just in case.

Rest in peace, Eoin.

Diana

TucsonRaw mailing list TucsonRaw@tucsonraw.com

Here is an email excerpt from the owner of the dog that died from eating the Costco chicken:

"...Just wanted to let you know that we got the results from the hair analysis as to cause of death. The main contributing factor was a bacteria called *Bacillus pasteurii* that was in the packaging from the processing. But it isn't anything we can prove. It just really highlights that "organic" isn't safe either. Commercial meats can all become contaminated during the handling...."

This was the old name for *Klebsiella pneumoniae* that often causes pneumonia and until the development of antibiotics was often fatal. Kacie

This is from Sunset Magazine. Although it is not as comprehensive as the ASPCA list has most of the common plants that we have around the home, and a few foods that humans can eat but not our dogs.

Kacie

Flowering and fruiting house plants

Amaryllis (Hippeastrum species and hybrids)
Azalea (Rhododendron species)
Clivia (Clivia miniata)
Cyclamen
Geranium (Pelargonium species)
Jerusalem Cherry (Solanum pseudocapsicum)
Primrose (Primula vulgaris)

Anthurium scherzerianum
Chrysanthemum
Crown of thorns (Euphorbia milii)
Gardenia (Gardenia augusta, G. jasminoides)
Hyacinth (Hyacinthus species and hybrids)
Poinsettia (Euphorbia pulcherrima)

Leafy house plants

Arrowhead plant (Nephtytis, Syngonium podophyllum)
Begonia
Cardboard palm (Zamia furfuracea)
Coontie (Zamia pumila)
Cuban oregano (Plectranthus amboinicus)
Dracaena species
Elephant's ear (Alocasia macrorrhiza)
Gold dust Dracaena (Dracaena surculosa)
Heartleaf philodendron (Philodendron cordatum)
Ivy (Hedera species)
Norfolk Island Pine (Araucaria heterophylla)
Polyscias guilfoylei
Rubber plant (Ficus elastica)
Satin pothos (Scindapsus pictus)
Schefflera species (Schefflera actinophylla, formerly Brassia actinophylla)
Spathiphyllum
Taro (Colocasia esculenta)
Tree philodendron (Philodendron selloum)

Asparagus fern (Asparagus densiflorus)
Caladium (Caladium bicolor)
Chinese evergreen (Aglaonema modestum and hybrids)
Corn plant (Dracaena fragrans)
Cycads (Cycas and Zamia species)
Dumb cane (Dieffenbachia amoena)
Fiddleleaf fig (Ficus lyrata)
Golden pothos (Scindapsus aureus)
Indian laurel (Ficus microcarpa, F. retusa)
Madagascar Dragon Tree (Dracaena marginata)
Philodendron (most)
Pothos (Epipremnum pinnatum)
Sago palm (Cycas revoluta)
Shamrock (Oxalis)
Split-leaf philodendron (Monstera deliciosa)
Ti plant (Cordyline fruticosa, formerly C. terminalis)
Weeping fig (Ficus benjamina)

Succulents

Aloe vera
Kalanchoe species
Snake plant (Sansevieria trifasciata)

Jade plant (Crassula ovata)
Silver jade plant (Crassula arborescens)

Plants used in centerpieces, vases, wreaths

Baby's breath (Gypsophila paniculata)
Daffodil (Narcissus species)
Gladiola (some Gladiolus varieties)
Hyacinth (Hyacinthus species and hybrids)
Mistletoe (many genera)
Peony (Paeonia species)
Tulip (Tulipa species)

Calla (Zantedeschia aethiopica)
Dahlia
Holly (Ilex species)
Iris species
Naked lady (Amaryllis belladonna)
Rhododendron

Fruits, nuts, vegetables

Apples and crabapples
Avocado fruit and pit
Elephant garlic
Grapes
Lime
Onions
Peach

Apricots
Cherry
Garlic
Lemon
Macadamias
Orange
Raisins

There were some surprises for me on this. I want to check on the apples and I have had Naked lady in my garden for years. Kacie

Bits and Pieces

Dr Valdez is one of the worlds most respected investigators of the Xoloitzcuintle. He has written several books about them that are still in Spanish unfortunately.

Patty Hoover posted some information on the listserv recently. Go to her website at xolo.com and look at her blog. Below is the information she gave. She gives full directions on how to make a secure donation to his work.

Dear Xolo Friends, I have wished for a long time that Dr. Valadez had a website for his work. Finally when I visited him the last time, we decided together that since this was not something that he had time for he would allow me to help him. I have agreed to dedicate a portion of my blog site to him, for things that he would like to... have posted for the public. My old brain learned some new internet skills and now I can post whatever he sends me for you to download. Please go to my blog at xolo.com and click on the page heading for Dr. Valadez' Research. You may download the first article that he has sent to me. It is for all of us to enjoy.

I will post an English translation when I have time to run it through Google Translate, or if one of you would translate it for me I would be grateful.

Also, Dr. Valadez would be grateful for any donations that you make to his work; research and writing. I have posted directions for donations to a secure account at UNAM. Your donations will provide more material that can be made available for you to download. Patty H.

Kim L. made a comment about the FCM standard for the coated Xolos.

"Considering the rarity of the breed, and the difficulty that some breeders in distant locations have in finding breeding stock, and for the purpose of providing genetic diversity, well constructed coated Xoloitzcuintles may be used for breeding but never for exhibition in beauty contests. Breeding between coated Xoloitzcuintles is not permitted. Xoloitzcuintle coated breeding stock must be the offspring of registered parents with at least one generation of hairless to hairless breeding."

Under AKC, you can register, show, and breed any registered offspring of two registered parents no matter WHAT the variety.

Kim

A good reminder from my friend Jeanette in Tucson.

Train your dogs in case of fire. Darn it people have fire drills, where are your kids to go if the house is on fire, well darn it. Train the dogs. My neighbor's yard man had 4 minutes in a burning trailer, he chased the terrified puppy under china cabinets, in bedroom under bed, but he and dog got out at last minute. So - crazy me...knowing I would get hurt (bitten my parrots...etc) taped my fire alarm full on and chased my dogs to crates, grab, got them out of house! Now if the alarm goes off, they really run to crates. I kept a pillow case near parrot cages, grab parrots (4) and tossed in case ...only did this once, they bite the LLLLLL out of me. I knew if true danger, they would be ok

Good idea, if you have a dog door train them to run for it. If not someplace where they can easily be picked up... If crates are not close to a door train them to run for a door and wait there. Crates would be best though

Kacie

Addendum,
Passing of Dog friends
Not necessarily all Xolo

From June

Four years ago Donder was diagnosed with severe kidney disease and given six months to live. Today she crossed to the rainbow bridge. A couple of weeks ago she quit eating except for tempting tidbits I hand fed her. Last weekend she totally quit eating. She was very frail, just skin and bones. Last night she was out several times -- we didn't get much sleep. Early this morning I found blood in her urine, she was very listless...so with heavy heart I took her for her last trip to the vet. She will be missed...she was one of the sweetest Xolo girls you would ever know. She had a good 13 years, loved and being loved.

From Kim 5/06/11

My Dad's 17 year old Chihuahua, Taco, died quietly yesterday morning. He wasn't sick or in pain, he was just worn out. I knew the night before that he wouldn't last long so I let nature take its course. I sat with him, petted him, and told him it was okay to go and within about a minute, he was gone. He was a stubborn, crabby CURMUDGEON of a dog but we loved him and he loved us. My Dad inherited Taco from a neighbor who left him to Dad in her will. He was completely spoiled rotten when we got him and we played a lot of Wawa Smackdown as we "discussed" the house rules, especially the one about dog teeth never touching human skin. I don't use the alpha roll much any more but it was necessary with Taco.

Barbara lost her Golden Retriever Brady also in April. He died of leukemia.

Sadly, I lost my beloved Golden Retriever, Brady, on Tuesday. Born in Canada and registered as "Justmoor Mr Wonderful," he truly was. He was my obedience demo dog for years and one of the best I've had. He knew the lesson and demonstrated how to perform each exercise perfectly, yet when I began to explain what not to do he performed the error as perfectly. He truly knew the routine. Show bred, he was gorgeous and so sweet. He was also pretty smart. He took quite a few kids through 4-H when they needed a dog to work. He'd lie comatose in the center of the room as dogs worked around him, oblivious to all around him. Yet when called to work, he was awesome.

Kacie

Last minute information.

Most recent update on AKC shows and dogs showing: As of the end of May:
There are 78 different dogs being shown
692 separate entries
in 247 shows.

That is roughly twice the number of dogs and shows and more than twice the entries that we had all year last year.

Kacie

