

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of
THE XOLOITZCUINTLE
Hairless and Coated Variety

(Xoloitzcuintle Variedad sin Pelo - Variedad con Pelo)

Produced by
The Australian National Kennel Council

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HISTORY OF THE BREED

Element of type is predicted on a breed's origin and purpose, for the Xoloitzcuintle (**pronounced show-low-eats-queent-lee**) this is by far the most fascinating aspect of its development. More than 3,000 years old, The Xolo is one of the world's most ancient breeds. Most purebred dogs have been designed for a specific purpose; the Xolo was not. It is unique in the fact that it is a product of natural selection, created and molded by environmental adaptation, rather than selective breeding. The Xolo's traits of type are traits of self-preservation.

It is generally believed that the earliest Xolos resulted from a hairless mutation of native Indian breeds. The primitive Xolo needed to be tough and adaptable and this mutation must have offered the first hairless dogs a crucial advantage to survival. To thrive under harsh conditions, the Xolo had to be versatile; it needed stamina, hunting ability, guarding instinct, and most of all, a tractable nature. Without that, the Xolo would have presented no practical advantage to man, and would have likely been dispatched to a more useful fate in the cooking pot.

One of the world's oldest and rarest breeds, the Xolo can justly be called the first dog of the Americas. Since ancient times, the Xolo has held a special religious significance for many New World cultures. Clay and ceramic effigies of Xolos date back over 3,000 years and have been discovered in the tombs of the Colima, Mayan, Toltec, Zapoteca, and Aztec Indians. The famous Colima pottery dogs of western Mexico, date from 250 BC- 450 AD, provide evidence of the intricate bond which has existed between man and Xolo for centuries. Highly prized for their curative and mystical powers, the Xolo's breed purity has been maintained throughout the ages. Ancient clay representations bear witness to the fact that the breed has remained virtually unchanged for centuries. Modern day Xolos bear striking resemblance to these primeval artifacts. The Xolo is truly a living link to the glory of these ancient cultures.

The name Xoloitzcuintle is derived from the name of the Aztec Indian god Xolotl and Itzcuintli, the Aztec word for dog. The Xolo's reputation as a healer persists to this day. According to legend, sleeping with a hairless dog would bring relief from a variety of ailments within four days. Xolos were recommended for curing toothache, colic, rheumatism, arthritis, back pain, just about everything from paralysis to broken bones. No doubt, the soothing warmth which radiated from a sleeping Xolo, provided some relief to the sufferer.

Jesuit priests who lived among the Indian tribes during the 17th and 18th centuries, reported that any good Indian host offered his guests two or three Xolos as bed warmers, which is the basis of the saying “three dog night.”

Esteemed as guards and protectors, Xolos were believed to safeguard the home from evil spirits as well as intruders. In ancient times Xolos were often sacrificed and buried with their masters, in order to guide the soul on its journey to the underworld. Xolos were also used as a food source throughout Mexico, Central, and South America. Many believed that eating the meat of a Xolo would offer a form of spiritual protection. Dogs were considered a great delicacy and consumed for sacrificial rites, marriage ceremonies, and funerals. Different coloured Xolos were regarded as having special meaning for these rituals and ceremonies.

Recognition and Registration of Xolos

Well known and well documented through the ages, Xolos were among the very first breeds admitted to the American Kennel Club studbook in 1887, under the name of Mexican Hairless. The first AKC registered Xolo “Mee Too” a Miniature hairless male, was descended from Mexican Stock. The first, and only AKC championship awarded to the breed, went to a Toy hairless male, Chinito Junior, on Oct. 19, 1940.

Because of their rarity Xolos were registered and exhibited infrequently. For this reason, they were dropped from the AKC studbook in 1959. Fortunately the Canadian Kennel Club did not follow this course, and in 1989 for the first time, a Canadian championship was awarded to a Toy Xolo. In 1999, the CKC officially revised the breed’s name to Xoloitzcuintli.

The breed was first recognized by the Mexican Kennel Club (FCM) on May 1, 1956. Prior to that, the breed had been perpetuated by secluded Indian tribes in remote parts of Mexico and Central America. Countess Lascelles de Premio Real was primarily responsible for the re establishment of this almost extinct native breed. In 1955, she personally mounted a search and rescue effort to locate dogs and introduce them into organized breeding programs. The Xolo is now designated as the official dog of Mexico and from 1st January 2009 the breed was recognised by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale. The breed also entered the American Kennel Club Miscellaneous Class from January 1, 2009.

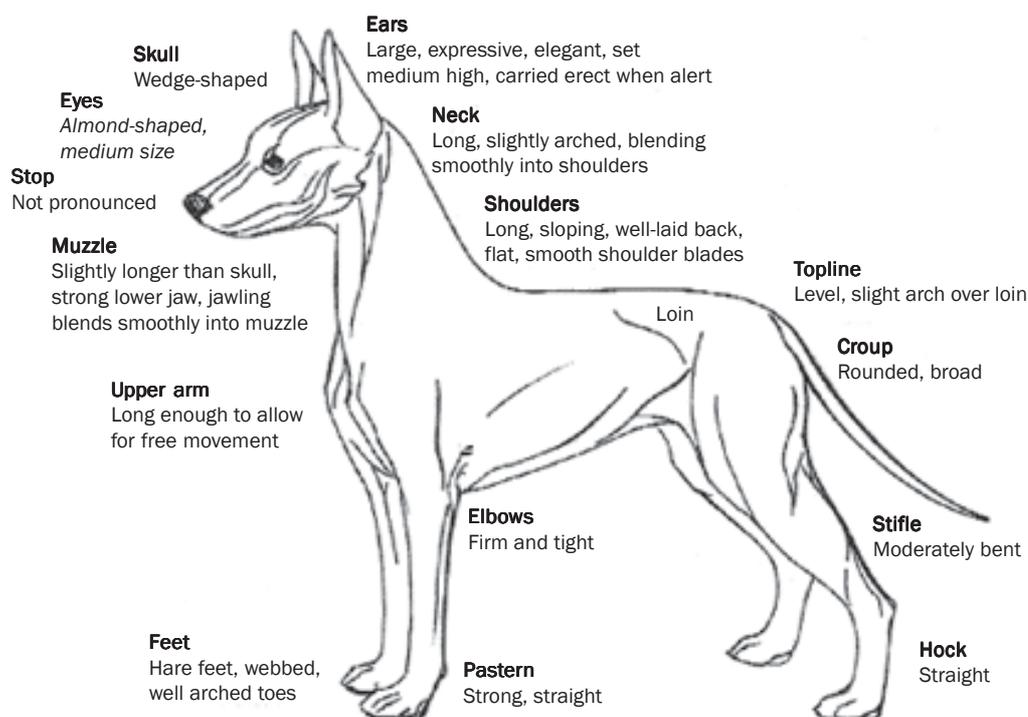
PREAMBLE: The gene that produces the absence of hair is dominant. Nevertheless, some puppies are born with a coat. The hairless to hairless breeding will produce the least number of coated puppies therefore this has been preferred. It has been proven that this breeding maintains and improves the quality of the breed.

Crossing hairless to hairless dogs fosters the appearance of a fatal gene affecting 25% of homozygous puppies and should be given careful attention. 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.

The meat of the Xolo was considered a delicacy in pre-hispanic Mexico, eaten by the indigenous Mexicans in special ceremonies as a ritual to their beliefs, and therefore became scarce, reaching a point of near extinction. The Federación Canofila Mexicana (Mexican Kennel Club) rescued this native breed and has used the Xoloitzcuintle on its logo since 1940.

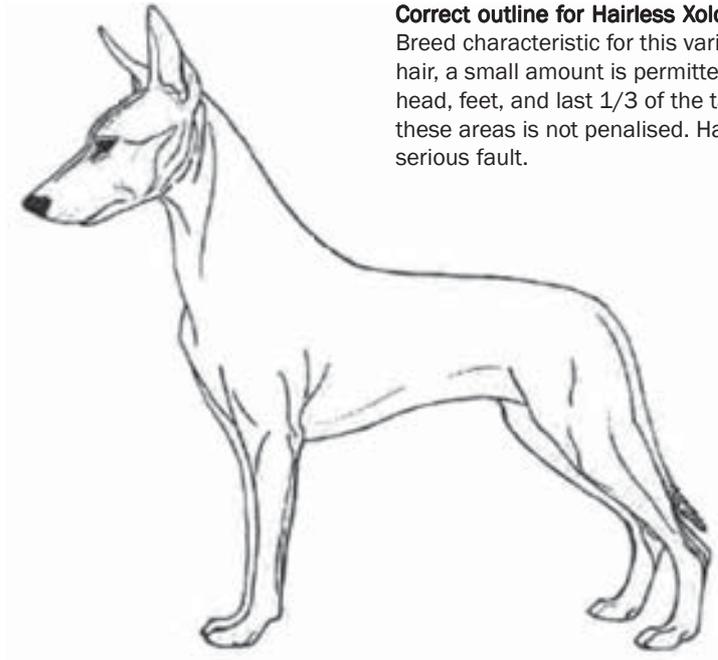
BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Their origin dates far back in history. The indigenous people fed on its highly desired meat in special ceremonies. The Xoloitzcuintle was regarded as a representative of the god “Xolotl”, from which its name obviously originates. Its task was to guide the souls of the dead to their eternal destination. The hairless variety of the breed is also known by the name “perro pelón mexicano” (Mexican Hairless Dog). The coated variety was known by the natives as “izcuintle”.



● GENERAL APPEARANCE

Hairless variety: *It is a very attractive dog; the most important characteristic is the complete or almost complete lack of any hair, with a smooth and soft skin. It has a well-proportioned body, chest is ample, ribs well sprung, limbs and tail are long.*

Coated variety: *A very attractive, completely coated dog with the same harmonious proportions as the hairless variety. The coat can be of any colour, length and texture. Its body is well-proportioned, chest is ample, ribs well sprung, limbs and tail are long.*



Correct outline for Hairless Xolo

Breed characteristic for this variety is the absence of hair, a small amount is permitted on the top of the head, feet, and last 1/3 of the tail. Absence of hair in these areas is not penalised. Hair on other areas is a serious fault.

Fig. 1a: Correct outline for Hairless Xolo. (diagram)

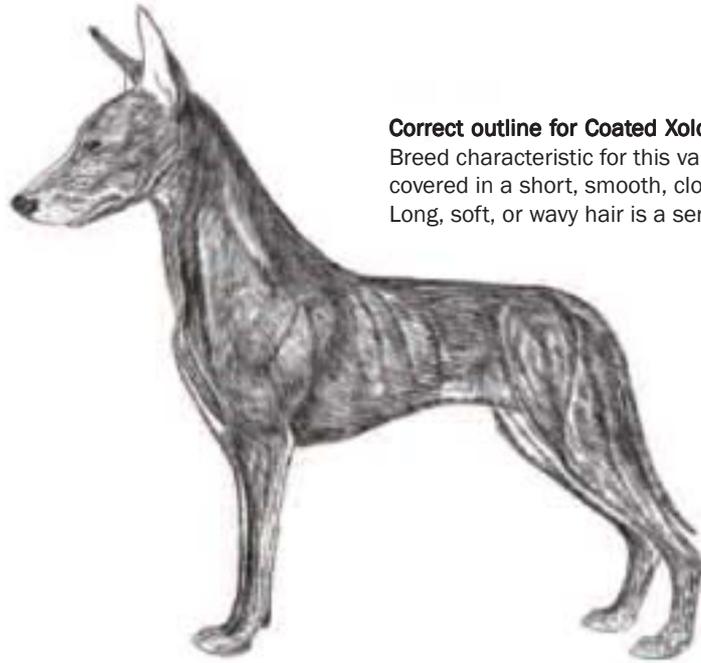
The Xolo is a rare and primitive breed formed in response to natural selection. The breed occurs naturally in two varieties, hairless and coated. The hairless variety is a very attractive dog; the most important characteristic is the complete or almost complete lack of any hair, with a smooth and soft skin. The hairless should never be hairy or possess long, wavy or wire hair.

It is moderate in all aspects of its appearance, conveying, strength, agility and elegance. The skull and the muzzle are approximately of equal length. It has a well-proportioned body, chest is ample, ribs well sprung, limbs and tail are long.

The coated variety is also a very attractive, completely coated dog with the same harmonious proportions as the hairless variety. The coat can be of any colour, length and texture. Its body is well-proportioned, chest is ample, ribs well sprung, limbs and tail are long.



Fig. 1a: Excellent specimen of the breed Intermediate size. (photo)



Correct outline for Coated Xolo

Breed characteristic for this variety is completely covered in a short, smooth, close fitting coat. Long, soft, or wavy hair is a serious fault.

Fig. 2a: Correct outline for Coated Xolo. (diagram)



Fig. 2b: Correct outline for Coated Xolo Miniature. (photo)

● **IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS**

The body, measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock and from the highest point of the withers to the ground, is slightly longer than tall: approximately 10:9. Females may be slightly longer than males due to their reproductive function. The skull and the muzzle are approximately of equal length.

The ideal proportions are clearly described in the standard. The height to length ratio is most important along with the equal length of head proportions.



Fig. 3(a) Correct Xolo proportions

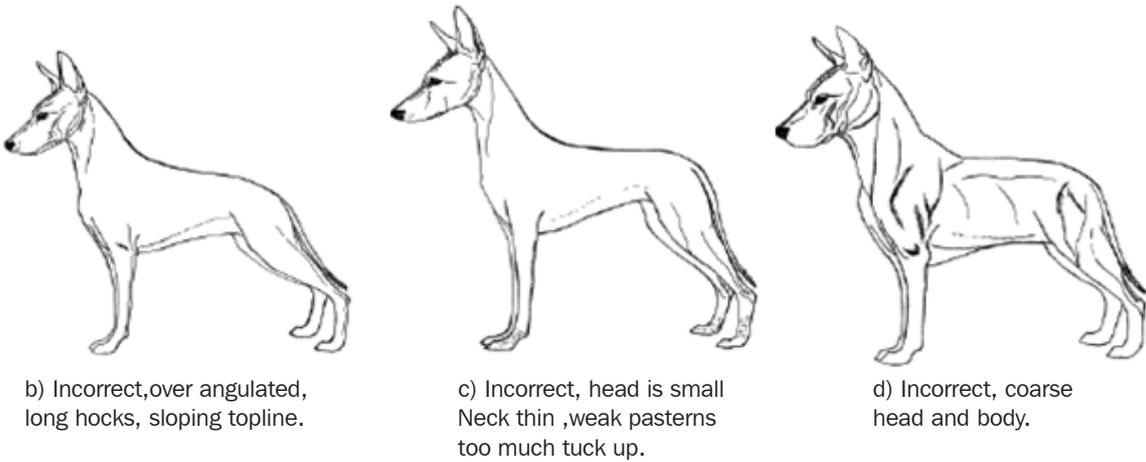


Fig 3 (Diagrams b,c,d) Incorrect proportions of a Xolo

● TEMPERAMENT/BEHAVIOUR

The Xoloitzcuintle is a silent and calm dog, cheerful, alert and intelligent, suspicious toward strangers, a good watchdog and an excellent companion. It is never aggressive.

The Xoloitzcuintle is known to be apprehensive/suspicious towards strangers and will watch until he feels comfortable for themselves and their master. As youngsters Xolos can be stubborn and unruly and may exhibit caution in the show ring. In maturity the Xoloitzcuintle becomes dignified and extremely loyal, both familiar with the show ring in movement and temperament. Traits of the Xoloitzcuintle are intelligence, friendliness, and alertness. As a primitive working breed, the Xolo possess the hardiness of a feral dog, the keen senses of a hunting breed, the fearlessness and natural reserve of a working breed, and the unwavering loyalty of the most well bred companion. Xolos are extremely playful and enjoy the company of their own family, whilst at the same time being known for its outstanding watch dog ability. Adult Xolos are neither timid, nor extroverted.

Fig 4

Many Xolos are used for therapy work utilising their calm temperaments.



● HEAD

CRANIAL REGION

Skull: *Lupoid type, broad and strong, wedge-shaped. Seen from above it is wide and elegant; tapering toward the muzzle with an occipital protuberance that is not well-defined. The skull and muzzle planes are almost parallel.*

Stop: *Slight, but well defined.*

FACIAL REGION

Nose : *The nose should be dark in dark-coloured dogs. It can be brown or pink in bronze-coloured dogs, pink or brown in blond specimens and spotted in spotted dogs.*

Muzzle : *Seen from the side, the muzzle is straight and the upper and lower jaws are very strong.*

Lips: *Tight and close fitting.*

Cheeks: *Slightly developed.*

The Lupoid “Wolf like” skull is a blunt wedge shape, resembling that of a sided pyramid, broad and strong with flat parallel head planes.

From above, the head is strong and wedge shaped though tapering along towards the nose. The line from the muzzle to jaw should be clean and smooth. The skull and muzzle planes are almost parallel. The occiput should not be prominent. The depth, width and length and of skull should be approximately equal. A concave (dishy) or convex (roman) muzzle is incorrect. Slight stop occipital protuberance is barely shown, may show brow wrinkles when alert. The cheeks of the Xoloitzcuintle are not strong and slightly developed, the nose is in harmony with the dogs colouring.



Fig. 5: Good example of correct occiput view

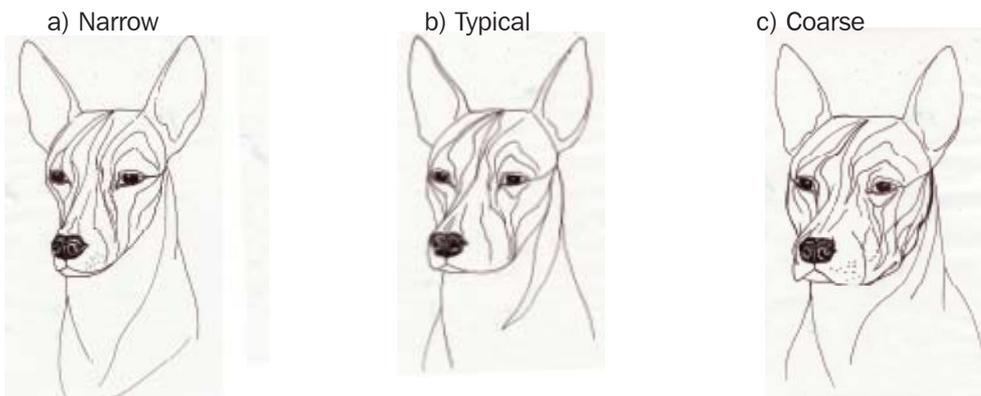


Fig. 6: Xolo head front view (Diagram)

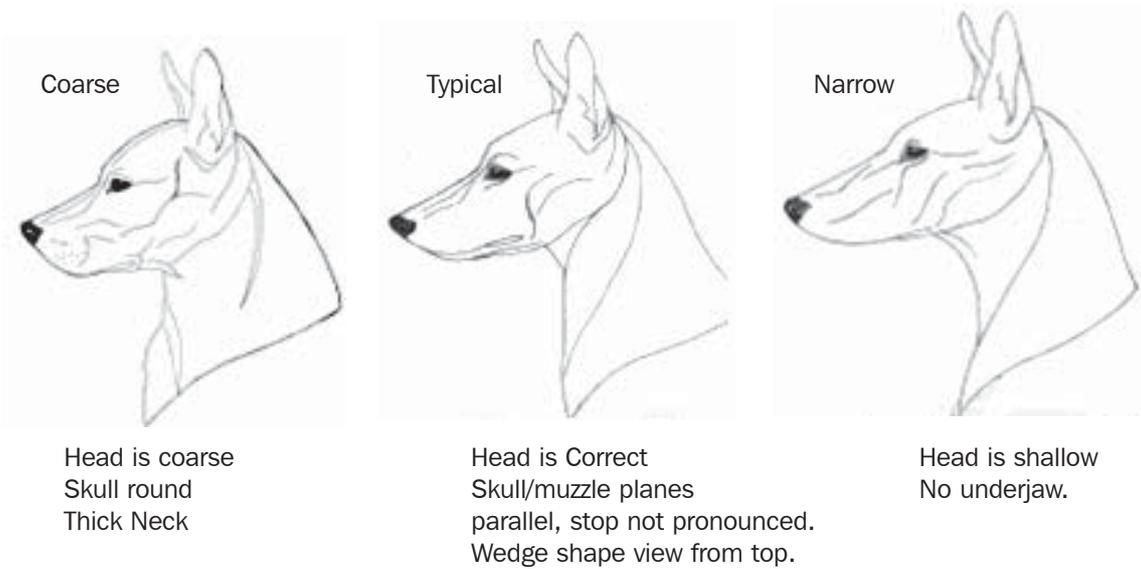


Fig. 7: Xolo head profile view (Diagram)



Fig. 7b: Two photos of correct Xolo head profiles

● EYES

Medium size, almond-shaped, with an alert and very intelligent expression. The colour varies according to the skin colour in black, brown, hazel, amber or yellow tones. Darker colours are preferred and both eyes should match. The eyelids should be well-pigmented black, brown or grey in dark-coloured dogs. Light-coloured or pink eyelids are permitted in light-coloured dogs although this is not the most desirable colour.

The Xolo eyes are of medium size and almond shaped with expression, correct eye shape and size going hand in hand with a favourable skull shape. The almond shaped eyes are neither sunken nor protruding, depending upon the dogs skin colour the eye shade can vary between black to yellow tones. Although not common light coloured eyelids are acceptable in light skinned dogs.



Fig. 8: Acceptable eye colours

● EARS

Hairless variety: *The ears are long, large, expressive, very elegant and of fine texture; they are reminiscent of “bat” ears. They should be held erect when alert. In the alert position their axis should be 50 – 80 degrees from horizontal.*

Coated Variety: *The ears are long, large and elegant. They may be held erect or they may be down. Any position is acceptable. Both ears should be in the same position, when alert.*

Ears are correct *between* 50 and 80 degrees, special attention should be given to the size of the ears that should appear large and erect, rather like Bat Ears. Hairless dogs with ears that are not erect by one year of age are considered a fault. Faults are considered ear fringe, semi erect or cropped ears, as the ears are fine, nicks and scars should not be penalised.



Fig. 9 (a, b, c): Correct ear position, size and demonstrating large bat like and elegant size and shape.

Fig. 10 Example of scarred and notched ears through work or accident, these should not prejudice the dogs changes in the ring.



● JAWS/TEETH

Hairless Xoloitzcuintle: *Strong jaws. The incisors should close perfectly in a scissor bite with the superior incisors overlapping; the interior surface of the superior incisors touching the external surface of the lower incisors, squaring the jaw. A level bite, edge to edge, is also permitted. The absence of a few incisors, canines, molars, pre-molars or rotated teeth should not be penalized, as many dogs do not have deep roots. Genetically, the absence of hair is closely linked to the absence of teeth.*

Coated Xoloitzcuintle: *Full dentition with scissor or level bite is required. Tongue: The Xolo's tongue is generally pink but may have black markings, spots or stripes, which is a common characteristic of the breed. The tongue is always inside the mouth.*

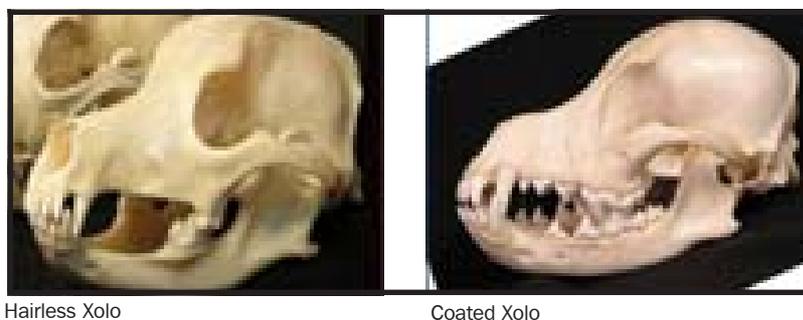


Fig. 11a: Examples of Xolo skulls showing dentition difference between hairless and coated



Fig. 11b: Illustration of rotated upper third premolar

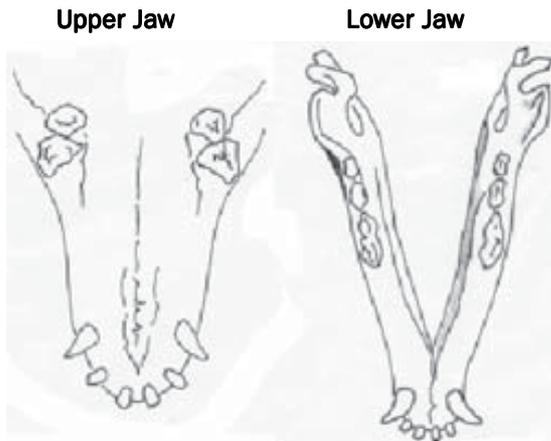


Fig 11c: Typical Hairless Dentition



Fig 12: Demonstrating bite with close fitting lips

The length of the skull and the length of muzzle are to be approximately equal and a bite that is neither undershot nor overshot. The lips are close fitting and taut, they perfectly cover the teeth. In the hairless Xolo the absence of pre molars is acceptable, complete sets are preferred but lack of, should not be penalised. Most hairless dogs lack premolars, some have incomplete incisors and primitive looking canine teeth. Incomplete dentition is a viable trait (see Fig.11c), it is not a sign of breed purity. The coated variety has full dentition.

● NECK

Upper line: Carried high. Upper line slightly arched.

Length: Proportionately long.

Shape: Slim, flexible, well-muscled and very elegant.

Neck Skin: The skin on the neck is firm, elastic and close-fitting, without dewlap. Puppies show folds which disappear with age.

The neck is slim and elegant slightly arched, proportionately long blending smoothly into the shoulders. The front of the neck should transition well into the fore chest. Overly long necks are thin and lack muscle development Throatiness and loose skin at the jaw line indicate sloppy muscling in this area.

Dogs less than one year may have wrinkled skin, adults have smooth and dry skin without wrinkles.



Fig 13: Demonstrating correct neck outline Standard and Intermediate Xolo

● FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs: *Seen from the front, they are straight and perpendicular to the ground.*

Shoulders: *Flat and muscled with good scapula-humeral angulation which allows a long, free and elegant stride.*

Elbows: *Strong. They fit close to the chest, never turned outwards.*

The shoulders are long and sloping, not steep, well laid back with flat smooth shoulder blades allowing free movement and extended reach. Elbows should be firm and tight allowing for reach. From the front the front legs are vertical, straight in good proportion and of good length in relation to the body.



Fig. 14: Diagram and photos showing correct front, with good fill, legs parallel when viewed standing.

● BODY

Strongly built.

Back: *Top line perfectly straight and level.*

Loin: *Strong and muscular.*

Chest: *Seen in profile it is long and deep, descending to the elbows. The ribs are slightly sprung but never flat. Seen from the front the upper chest is of good breadth. The point of the sternum should not protrude.*

Belly: *Graceful line. Abdomen muscled and moderately tucked up.*

The body is well developed and all three sizes exhibit moderately balanced proportions, and appear elegant yet strong, covered with smooth, flat muscle, but never coarse, heavy or over-muscled. The bitch may be fractionally longer in loin length than the male yet retains the shape. Medium, oval shaped bone is desired and all three sizes are moderately balance. However, bone type should be in proportion to the overall size of the dog. The larger the dog, the more bone is acceptable." Size and substance are not just a matter of height and weight. Angulation and correct shape of ribcage are equally crucial to creating a sturdy, resilient structure regardless of the size of the dog.



Fig 15: Typical Xolo body showing excellent outline, correct rear angulation and tail reaches hock.

● HINDQUARTERS

The profile of the croup should be slightly convex with an inclination of approximately 40 degrees to the horizontal. The hindquarters should be strong and well-muscled, with a moderate bend of stifle.

Hind legs: Seen from behind they are perfectly straight and parallel. The angle of the pelvis to the upper thigh joint, stifle and hock, are adequately open to permit both free and strong movement of the legs.

Cow hocks are to be strongly penalised. Seen from behind, the hind legs are never close.

The hindquarters should have moderate angulation allowing for a strong driving rear, the croup should not be flat or steeply angled. There should be a slight arch over loin.



Fig. 16: Diagram and photo showing correct rear legs, parallel when viewed standing

● FEET

The feet are of medium length (hare's foot) with toes arched and close together, may have short coarse hairs in the Hairless Xoloitzcuintle, and be covered with hair in the Coated Xoloitzcuintle. Nails are black in dark-coloured dogs, and lighter in bronze or blond dogs. The nails should be trimmed. The foot pads are strong and very resistant to any terrain. The inter-digital membranes are well-developed. Dewclaws should be removed on all four limbs except in countries where it is illegal to remove them.

The Xolo foot is webbed with well arched toes, it is acceptable for the feet to have small bristly hairs, neither toe in or out. The Xolo's hare foot is designed to enhance speed and leverage. As always the third digital bone of a hare foot is parallel to the ground, and is notably longer (Hare foot structure). This is what gives extra length to the toes and creates the oval shape. Even though the feet are long, they must be well arched and compact, with thick pads. Hare feet should never be confused with flat, splayed feet.



Fig 17: Photos of correct Xolo feet and coloured nails in line with skin colour.



● TAIL

Long, thin and may have some tufts of hair, tapering from the base to the tip in the hairless Xoloitzcuintle, and completely covered with hair in the coated Xoloitzcuintle. In movement, it is carried up in a curve, never touching the back. When resting, it should hang with a slight hook at the end. Sometimes it is placed between the legs due to cold temperatures, or, this can be considered a sign of shyness. The tail should nearly reach the hock. The tail set should be an extension of the croup when the dog is at rest.



Fig 18: Correct tail set showing variance in hair



The Xolo tail enhances outline and balances proportion, it should be long straight and fine reaching to almost the hock joint. Short, curly or twisted tails are a fault. A few coarse hairs tapering to the tip are acceptable (should never resemble a plume) as is total absence of hair. The tail should be carried in a graceful curve or parallel but never curled or high over the back. It is acceptable for the tail to be tucked in towards the abdomen on standing this can be due to cold, shyness.

● MOVEMENT

In accordance with its angulations, the dog should move freely with a long, elegant, springy step; trot is quick and flowing, head and tail carried high.

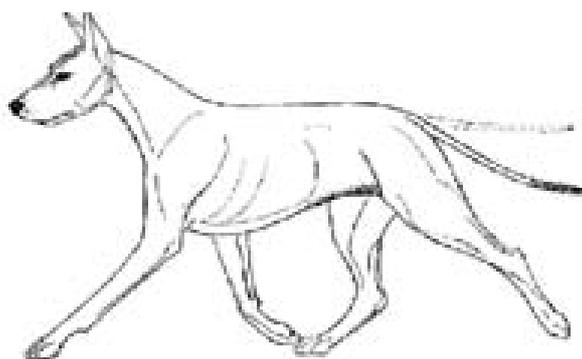


Fig. 19: Displaying movement in the Xolo with perfect balance and proportion (photo and diagram).

Supporting good movement the student should remember the influence body length has on the movement (a longer body provides more space for a longer stride). From the structure of the Xoloitzcuintle, (moderate angulation of shoulder and upper arm) the movement is as one would expect from this structure: long steps and flowing. Standing still does not reflect the physical coordination, balance of body or soundness. Front legs should not paddle, nor should there be a straddling appearance, hind legs should not cross or weave. Each leg must move with no interference from another leg. Viewed in front and from behind one should not see tendency to throw the legs sideways. Correct movement is flowing and effortless, the legs will come to a centre line of gravity as speed increases.

● SKIN

Hairless variety: Due to the total absence of hair, the skin of this breed is of great importance. It is smooth, sensitive to touch and feels warmer because of direct heat emission due to the lack of hair; however its body temperature is the same as in other dogs with hair. The difference with haired breeds, which disperse body heat through natural ventilation, is that the skin requires more care from exposure to the sun and elements due to its lack of natural protection. Accidental scars are not penalized. The dog tends to sweat through its feet (foot pads and inter-digital membranes), which is why other than in extreme heat it seldom pants. It should be free of obvious skin problems.

Coated Variety: The skin of the coated Xoloitzcuintle is smooth and should be completely covered with hair.

The Xolo skin is the product of thousands of years of evolutionary adaptation. Therefore it is functional by being tough, thick and protective. Dogs skin possessing more oil gland and no sweat glands coupled with large skin pores can lead to skin problems in the Xolo. Hairs scattered across the face and neck are often seen, there is no clear border. Xolo puppies are very wrinkly and grow into their skin by maturity, adult Xolos have supple, close fitting skin but usually retain distinctive brow wrinkles when alert.

● COAT

Hairless variety: *The characteristic of this breed is the total lack of hair on the body (hairless or nude dog) although there are some short, coarse thick hairs of any colour on the forehead and back of the neck that should never be longer than 2.5 centimetres and should never form a long, soft topknot. It is common to find rough hair on the feet and on the end of the tail; however its absence should not be penalised.*

Coated Variety: *This variety of the Xoloitzcuintle has hair all over its body. It can be expected to have very little hair on its belly and inside the rear legs.*

The hairlessness is of course a unique characteristic of the breed and is a most important aspect in judging the breed.

● COLOUR

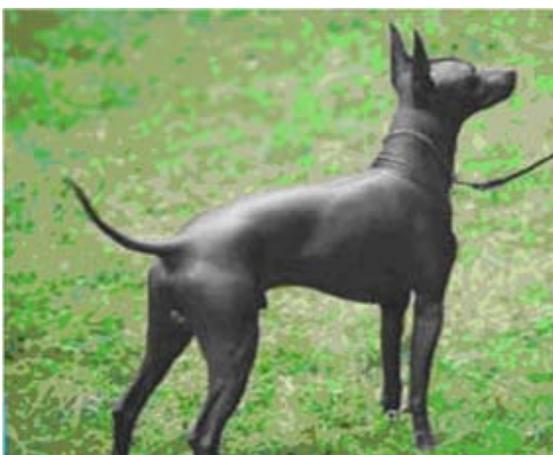
Skin: Hairless variety: *Solid, uniform, dark colours are preferred. The range includes black, blackish grey, slate grey, dark grey, reddish, liver, bronze, and blond. There may also be spots of any colour, including white or tri-coloured markings.*

Coat: Coated Variety: *It can have any colour or combination of colours in different tones. The hair may be of any length or texture, covering the entire body.*

The skin pigment of the Xolo changes in accordance with the



Fig. 20: One of the typical Xolo colours dark slate, summer and winter, (same dog) and acceptable colour bronze.



sunlight it receives during the year. Examples are shown below Figure 20. In summer time the Xolo exposed to sunlight increases pigment, in winter if left coated and indoors with no sunlight the skin turns almost fair light grey due to the lower melanin production.



Fig. 21: Coated Xolo showing two allowable colours, black and tri spotted.

● SIZE

There are three sizes for dogs as well as bitches.

Standard Variety: From 46 to 60 centimetres, tolerance of +2 cm in top quality dogs.

Intermediate Variety: From 36 to 45 centimetres.

Miniature Variety: From 25 to 35 centimetres.

● FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing criteria should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Very broad head

Slack, loose or wrinkled skin in adult dogs.

Loose, slack or wrinkled skin on the neck in adult dogs.

Excessive dewlap.

Light coloured, round or protruding eyes.

Sunken (lordosis) or arched (xifosis) back.

Sunken croup

Cow hocks [literally “joined hocks”]

Tail tightly curled over the back

Short tail

Flat feet

SEVERE FAULTS

Atypical dogs.

Long narrow body with short legs.

Protruding tongue

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

Aggressiveness or excessive shyness

Blue eyes or flecks of blue in the eyes

Any Hairless or Coated Xoloitzcuintle Prognathism (underbite) or enognathism (overbite)

Dogs with a poor bite, denoted by poor positioning of the jaws

Cropped or droopy ears, in the Hairless Xoloitzcuintle

Docked tail

Hair on any part of the hairless Xoloitzcuintle body other than the head, ears, neck, feet and tail

Albinism, blindness or deafness

Dogs taller than 62 centimetres or shorter than 25 centimetres

Any dog showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified

● NOTE

Males should have two testicles of normal appearance fully descended into the scrotum.



Fig.22: A Xoloitzcuintle puppy 13 weeks old exhibiting wrinkled skin and correct ear erection developing.

JUDGING THE XOLOITZCUINTLE

The Miniature and Intermediate varieties are examined on the table and Standard variety examined on the ground. The Hairless Xolo is sensitive to touch and therefore may flinch or roach on examination. Final judgment of topline and outline should be made with the dog standing naturally on the ground rather than posed. The Xolo is a primitive breed by nature and can be aloof and wary of strangers. When judging, it is better to allow the handler to show the expression. The tail is not to be held above the topline during presentation.

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Information edited and obtained by Jacqi Dinis with the help of Xoloitzcuintle Clubs around the world.

FCI STANDARD TRANSLATION

Federación Canófila Mexicana, A.C.

Revised by: J. Mulholland and R. Triquet FCI