KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

XOLOITZCUINTLE
[MEXICAN HAIRLESS DOG]
(MINIATURE / INTERMEDIATE / STANDARD)

The three varieties of this breed are judged separately and may each be awarded Challenge Certificates and/or FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s ® (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International).

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2019

ORIGIN
Mexico.

UTILISATION
Miniature Size: Companion Dog.
Intermediate Size: Watchdog.
Standard Size: Watchdog.


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

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 dogs, therefore this has been preferred. It has been proven that this breeding maintains and improves the quality of the breed. For providing genetic diversity, well-constructed coated Xoloitzcuintles with excellent type, conformation, standard accepted colours and coat, may be used for breeding purposes. The breeding between two coated Xoloitzcuintles is not permitted. Xoloitzcuintle coated breeding stock must be the offspring of registered parents with at least three generations of hairless-to-hairless breeding. The coated variety must be evaluated as a true breed at dog shows, to be able to be bred to hairless dogs only.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY
Their origin dates far back in history. The meat of the Xoloitzcuintle (in Spanish), or Xoloitzcuintli (in Nahuatl language), was considered a delicacy in pre-Hispanic Mexico, eaten by the indigenous Mexicans at special ceremonies as a ritual to their beliefs and 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. Therefore, the dog became scarce, reaching a point of near extinction. The Federación Canófila Mexicana (Mexican Kennel Club) rescued this native breed, and has used the Xoloitzcuintle on its logo since 1940. 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 "Itzcuintle".

GENERAL APPEARANCE
The Xoloitzcuintle is an ancient natural primitive dog, modelled by evolution, going by the general conformation, it is a very attractive, slim, and elegant dog, moderate in all aspects, that expresses speed, harmony, and strength without appearing coarse; possesses a clean-cut outline, and has a well-proportioned body. The chest is ample, ribs well-sprung, limbs and tail are long. There are two varieties in the breed: hairless and coated, both identical in conformation except for coat and dentition.

Hairless variety: The most important characteristic is the complete or almost complete lack of any hair in the body, with a smooth and soft skin. The particular feature is that the dentition is nearly always incomplete, associated with the congenital hairless gene.
Coated variety: A very attractive, completely short-coated dog. Coat should be tight, flat, and smooth, with no undercoat. The coated variety should have the same harmonious proportions as the hairless variety in conformation, but dentition must be complete (42 teeth) normally developed and in a normal position.

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 high: 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.
- There are three sizes in the breed, all lean and sturdy, well-muscled, with a spacious rib cage and moderate bone, the outline is rectangular, and the distance from the elbow to the ground is equal to, or slightly greater than, the distance from the withers to the elbow.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The Xoloitzcuintle is a silent and calm dog, cheerful, alert, and intelligent, he might be suspicious toward strangers, he is a good watchdog and an excellent companion. He is never aggressive. The coated variety should be equal in every aspect.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Broad and strong, wedge-shaped. Seen from above, it is wide and elegant; tapering towards 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 pinkish in bronze-coloured dogs, spotted in spotted dogs.
Muzzle: Seen from the side, the muzzle is straight, and the upper and lower jaws are square and very strong. The tongue is generally pink, but may have black markings, spots, or marks, which is a common characteristic of the breed. The tongue is always inside the mouth, a paralysed tongue hanging outside the mouth is disqualifying.
Lips: Tight and close-fitting.
Cheeks: Slightly developed.
Jaws and teeth: Both varieties: with strong jaws. The incisors should close perfectly in a scissor bite with the superior *[ed. upper]* incisors overlapping; the interior surface of the superior incisors touching the external surface of the lower incisors, set square to the jaw. A level bite, edge-to-edge, is also permitted.

Hairless variety: Complete set of incisors is preferred. The absence of a few incisors, canines, molars, pre-molars, or rotated teeth should not be penalised, as many of these dogs' teeth do not have deep roots. Genetically, the absence of hair is closely linked to the absence of teeth.
Coated variety: Full dentition (42 teeth), a scissor or pincer bite is required, normally developed and normally positioned teeth.

Eyes:

Medium-sized, almond-shaped, with an alert, and very intelligent expression. The colour varies according to the skin/coat 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 tolerated in light-coloured dogs but this is not a desirable colour.

Ears:

In both varieties 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 50º – 80º from horizontal. Both ears should be in the same position, when alert. Droopy or cropped ears are disqualifying.

NECK

In both varieties the neck is smooth, dry, and carried high; slightly arched. Proportionately long. Slim, flexible, well-muscled, and very elegant. The skin on the neck is firm, elastic, and close-fitting, without dewlap. Puppies show folds, which disappear with age.

BODY

Strongly built.

***Topline*:** Perfectly straight and level.
***Back*:** Short, strong, and firm.

***Loin*:** Strong and muscular.
***Croup*:** Profile should be slightly convex with an inclination of approximately 40º to the horizontal.
Chest: Seen in profile, it is long and deep, descending to the elbows. The ribs are well-sprung, not exaggerated, nor flat. Seen from the front, the upper chest is of good breadth. The point of the sternum should not protrude.
***Underline and belly*:** Graceful line. Abdomen muscled and moderately tucked-up.

TAIL

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

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Flat and muscled, with good scapula-humeral angulation that allows a long, free, and elegant stride.
Elbow: Strong and firm. They fit close to the chest, never turned outwards.
Forearm: Forelegs seen from the front are straight and perpendicular to the ground.
Metacarpus (pastern): Firm and almost perpendicular.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: The hindquarters should be strong and well-muscled. Seen from behind, they are perfectly straight and parallel, never close. 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.
Thigh: Well-muscled.
Stifle (knee): With a moderate bend.
Hock joint: Cow-hocks are highly undesirable.

FEET

Of medium length (hare-feet) with toes arched and close together; may have short, coarse hairs in the hairless variety, and be covered with short hair in the coated variety. Nails are black in dark-coloured dogs, and lighter in bronze or blonde 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 not be present on all four limbs except in countries where it is illegal to remove them.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The dog should move freely with a long, elegant, springy step; the trot is quick and flowing, with head and tail carried high. Hindquarters with free and strong movement.

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 coated 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 penalised. The dog tends to sweat through its feet (foot pads and inter-digital membranes), which is why it seldom pants, except in extreme heat. It should be free of obvious skin problems.
Coated Variety: The skin of the coated variety is smooth and must be completely covered with hair.

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 2.5cm (approx. 1”) and should never form a long, soft topknot. It is common to find coarse hair on the feet and on the end of the tail; however its absence should not be penalised.
Coated Variety: This variety has hair all over its body. It can be expected to have very little hair on its belly and inside the rear legs. The hair should be short, flat, preferably smooth and with no undercoat.

COLOUR

Solid, uniform, dark-coloured skin is preferred.

- The range includes black, blackish grey, slate grey, dark grey, reddish, liver, bronze or blonde.

* There may also be spots of any colour, including white markings.

SIZE

Height at withers:

There are three sizes for males as well as females.

Miniature: 25cm – 35cm (approx. 8½" – 13½").
Intermediate: 35cm – 45cm (approx. 13½" – 17½").
Standard: 46cm – 60cm (approx. 18" – 23½").

There is a tolerance of +2cm in top quality dogs.

N.B. *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points 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, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- 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.
- Steep croup.
- Excessively cow-hocked.
- Tail tightly curled over the back.
- Short tail.
- Flat feet.

Severe faults:

- Long narrow body with short legs.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Atypical dogs.
- Blindness or deafness.
- Any Hairless or Coated Xoloitzcuintle with prognathism *[ed. underbite]* or retrognathism *[ed. overbite].*
- Deviated jaw (very wry mouth).
- Dogs with a poor bite, denoted by poor positioning of the jaws.
- Paralysed tongue (outside the mouth).
- Blue eyes or different-coloured eyes (Heterocromia).
- Cropped or droopy ears.
- Docked tail, short tail.
- Hair on any part of the hairless varieties body, except slight hair on the head, ears, neck, feet, and tail.
- Hair other than short or smooth in the coated variety.
- Albinism.
- Merle colour. Also, any other colour not mentioned in the standard, i.e. black and tan, brindle, white, sable etc.
- Dogs over 62 cm or under 25 cm.

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FCI Standard No 234: XOLOITZCUINTLE

FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types
Section 6.4. Primitive type
Without Working Trial