

Utility

Mexican Hairless (Miniature) (Imp)

A rich history adorns the Mexican Hairless: also known as the Xoloitzcuintle, which means God-dog, it was thought by the Aztecs to be a gift from the gods that was endowed with many magical and special qualities, including healing and protection. These dogs were also used as bed warmers as they are remarkably warm to the touch.

Unfortunately, they were also valued greatly for their flesh and were eaten as a delicacy, as well as sacrificed to the gods. It was also believed that the dogs knew the way to the 'Land of the Dead' and they were therefore often sacrificed upon the deaths of their owners and buried with them in the tomb.

The Mexican Hairless has been close to extinction on more than one occasion: the breed was decimated in the conquest of the Aztecs in the sixteenth century and in the political revolution in Mexico in the early twentieth century. In 1954, an expedition was mounted by scientists, conservationists and dog breeders to save the 'Xolo' from possibly extinction. The Mexican expedition, led by Norman Pelham-Wright, managed to collect some unrelated examples of the breed to form a workable conservation programme based in the USA, Canada and Europe as well as Mexico. A breeding pair came to London Zoo in 1956.

Fortunately, the breed survived, and gained a devoted, if specialised, following. It is not a breed that is ever likely to be numerically great: its lack of 'cuddlesome' appeal, due to its naked skin, does not lend itself to public popularity. However, those who get to know the breed will vouch for its intelligence and exotic charm. These dogs are hardy and healthy and make excellent companions.

The breed comes in three sizes. Obviously no grooming is required, but the skin can be kept in good condition with the application of baby oil or moisturiser.

Breed Group	Utility
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Small
How much exercise?	Up to 30 minutes per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	No
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Flat, Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	None
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Mexican Hairless (Miniature) (Imp)?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Assured Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

Accepted Registration Colours

- Black
- Black & White
- Bronze
- Grey
- Liver
- Red

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