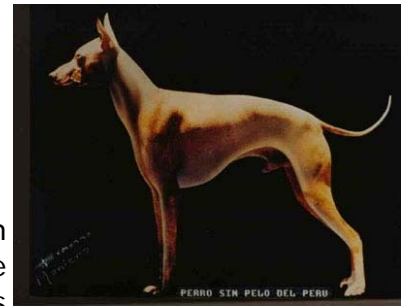


*Primitive, Elegant, Strong....*

# PERUVIAN HAIRLESS DOG

Perro sin Pelo del Perú

Presented by Melanie Chan, Zero-G Peruvian Hairless Dogs



## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN and STATUS

In October 2001, the government of Peru elevated the Peruvian Hairless Dog, or Perro sin Pelo del Peru, to national heritage status. The goal was to ensure that the breed never becomes extinct. The agriculture ministry next ordered the conservation, breeding, and export of this endangered breed.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Among canines with physical evidence of being the world's oldest breeds, Peruvian Hairless Dogs (PH Dogs) are independent-thinking and have a higher-order brain function characteristic of the "original dog". With a regal, elegant, yet often imposing look, their appearance commands attention, even within the three sizes that are organized by height.

Hairless and coated Peruvians are athletic and high-energy, but would never be labeled as hyperactive. Their anatomy is stronger and more substantially-structured than a traditional sighthound, but they possess the sighthound-like characteristics of speed and keen vision and hearing. The breed does not propagate any genetic health issues like most domesticated dogs. The genuinely hairless specimens of this breed do not aggravate allergies and asthma, and their skin is hearty, not comparable to that of coated dogs.

PH Dogs constantly seek stimulation, are extremely inquisitive and curious, like to be busy, and require a lot of mental challenges. They are trainable to the extent that they are capable of excelling in diverse canine events and tasks. On the other side of the brain, they are particularly loving, "kissing" dogs, with their families and people they know. Side by side with their independent nature, they are watchful, yet savor physical contact with their humans, and they get along well with other respectful dogs.

## WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED NOW?

From surveys of the kennel clubs of the countries where the breed is known to live, the estimate is that about 1,000 PH Dogs are alive now. This includes coated and hairless, and also accounts for a number of unregistered dogs. Most of the dogs live in these areas: (1) Peru, (2) western and eastern European countries of Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium, Estonia, Russia, (3) other South American countries, (4) United States, (5) Cuba, and (6) Canada, with a handful of dogs in other locations.

## PERUVIAN HAIRLESS DOG vs. PERUVIAN INCA ORCHID

Peruvian Hairless Dog vs. Peruvian Inca Orchid. The Peruvian Hairless Dog is a breed of dog that is native to Peru. It is a hairless breed, which means it has no fur. The Peruvian Inca Orchid is a breed of dog that is also native to Peru. It is a hairless breed, which means it has no fur. Both breeds are known for their unique appearance and are considered national treasures of Peru. The Peruvian Hairless Dog is known for its elegant and athletic build, while the Peruvian Inca Orchid is known for its more stocky and powerful build. Both breeds are highly intelligent and are capable of performing a variety of tasks. They are also known for their loyalty and affection towards their owners. The Peruvian Hairless Dog is a popular breed in Peru and is also found in other countries. The Peruvian Inca Orchid is a less common breed, but it is also found in Peru and other countries. Both breeds are considered to be one of the oldest breeds of dogs in the world.



T.p.11a 10/50 "Midnight hunters" H.-Sjöblom - 03

Etching Copyright 2003 Hanna Sjöblom (Finland)

Midnight hunters

Midnight hunters  
The two white hairless dogs are running through a dark, rocky landscape under a large, pale moon and a starry night sky. The dogs are depicted in a dynamic, almost leaping pose, with their bodies stretched out. The landscape is composed of dark, rounded rocks and a few small, dark trees. The sky is a deep purple, filled with numerous small white stars and a large, bright, circular moon. The overall mood is mysterious and nocturnal.

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## PERUVIAN HAIRLESS DOGS and XOLOITZCUINTLE in the WORLD CANINE ORGANISATION (FCI)

For you Xolo folks, Federacion Canofila Mexicana (FCM), or the Mexican Kennel Club, is the registry in Mexico for all dogs. Kennel Club Peruano (KCP), or Peruvian Kennel Club, is the registry in Peru for all dogs. Mexico and Peru are member countries of the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the international organization that governs dog shows and houses breed standards around the world.

The United States is not a member country of the FCI. Instead, the United States allows the American Kennel Club (AKC) to rule the dog show world here. In its infinite wisdom, the AKC essentially has chosen to ignore the existence of the majority of dog breeds in this big world. As you know, many of those breeds, like the Peruvian Hairless Dog and Xoloitzcuintle, are truly primitive, are much older, and have deeper historical significance than most of the breeds recognized by the AKC.

The FCI is the World Canine Organisation, on the web at <http://www.fci.be/>. It includes 80 members and contract partners (1 member per country) that each issue their own pedigrees and train their own judges. The FCI makes sure that the pedigrees and judges are mutually recognized by all the FCI members.

There are several hundred identified breeds of canines in the world and the FCI recognizes 332 breeds. Each breed is the "property" of a specific country. Each "owner" country writes the breed standard, a description of the ideal type of the breed), in cooperation

which the judges base themselves when judging in shows held in the 80 FCI member countries.

### **BREED STANDARD for the PERUVIAN HAIRLESS DOG**

FCI #310, available through the FCI website, is the official and only breed standard used worldwide for the PH Dog. The official names are "Peruvian Hairless Dog" and "Perro sin Pelo del Peru", listed as the Spanish translation, since Peru is the owner country of the breed as explained in the previous paragraph. The breed is in Group V, Section 6 Primitive types, the same location as the Xoloitzcuintle (FCI #234).

Once upon a time, Peruvian Inca Orchid folks in the U.S. wrote a shorter, more general standard for themselves. It is not used by any of the rare breed or all-breed organizations in the U.S. for conformation shows. Nor is the PIO standard or the PIO name used or accepted by the FCI.

Breeders of PH Dogs in FCI countries register their litters, regardless of whether the puppies are hairless or coated, with the name "Perro sin Pelo del Peru". The registration documents do not indicate coated or hairless. Registrations do indicate a size – small, medium, or large. In keeping with the name and historical significance of the breed in its native country, only the hairless dogs may be exhibited in conformation shows.

Peruvian Hairless Dog breeders in the U.S. have a long history of breeding hairless dogs. The breed is known for its unique appearance, which is a result of a genetic mutation. The breed is also known for its intelligence and loyalty. The breed is a popular choice for many people who are looking for a unique and intelligent dog. The breed is also known for its ability to adapt to different environments. The breed is a true companion dog and is known for its ability to form strong bonds with its owners. The breed is a true representation of the Peruvian culture and is a source of pride for many people. The breed is a true gem and is a must-have for anyone who is looking for a unique and intelligent dog.

### **BREEDING PHILOSOPHIES -- HAIRLESS vs. COATED**

Technically and scientifically, there can be positive benefits to using coated Peruvians for breedings, mainly centering on dentition. However, over time, the probability of having coated puppies in a litter generally increases as more coated dogs are introduced into breeding programs, particularly when hairless offspring of coated-hairless parents are subsequently bred. There are clearly documented explanations of the modes of inheritance of genetic traits, including hairlessness. Simply, research and probability tells us how to lower the chances of producing affected dogs, in this case affected meaning "coated".

Peruvians are purists and typically only allow hairless to hairless breedings. Hairlessness is dominant in PH Dogs, and there are still bloodlines in Peru that result in totally hairless litters from 2 hairless parents. This is usually not the case other places, as the hairlessness has been diluted by breeding practices not in keeping with those of the Peruvian culture.



*Melanie with Hairless Female and Coated Male Puppies, Zero-G Littermates of Hairless Parents*



Breeding to a standard should not take a backseat to producing healthy animals. Fortunately, in the case of Peruvian Hairless Dogs (and Xolos), the standards from the native countries encourage closing the gene pool to unwanted conditions in the pursuit of physical perfection. For us, that means “hairless rules”, and it’s the job of responsible and devoted breeders to promote this trait, while simultaneously working to achieve excellence in traits such as those of fuller dentition and healthier skin.

## GENETIC DISEASES

None. Other.... seldom an “outie” belly button or umbilical hernia results during the whelping process.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

Perros sin Pelo del Peru had diverse uses: (1) religious sacrifice as burial companions to their owners, (2) hunting, because of keen natural instincts of vision and hearing, (3) bed warmers, (4) curative qualities to heal asthma and rheumatism, (5) as guardians, with skepticism and a suspicious nature, (6) as carriers of goods and mail between villages.



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