

Dear all,

This is a long email and I do apologize for this. As a matter of short introduction, my name is Denis Gautheret, I am the elected President of the German Kennel Club (within the VDH Association) that deals on a daily basis with **exotic dog breeds** (among others the Chinese Crested Dog with the variations Hairless and Powder-Puff (228), Perro sin Pelo del Peru (310), Xoloitzcuintle (234)). We are working very closely with our colleagues from VDH on this and are in direct contact with Embassies of Mexico and Peru.

This message is a matter of information, NOT escalation. It is however extremely important to inform about what is happening in Germany currently against truly ancestral breeds: **we start to be confronted with harsh and complete bans to run these naked dog breeds on shows BECAUSE (and only because) they ARE naked** or have little hair.

Let me provide **two cents of history** about what happened: back in 1999 the German government asked an expert commission to recommend concrete next steps as to what shall be done to reduce animal suffering when breeding. The report of the commission was provided with a number of sources and a recommendation about what should happen for each main dog breed known at that time in Germany. In the case of naked dog breeds, the expert opinion on the interpretation of §11b of the Animal Welfare Act (prohibition of torture breeding) was concluded with the **recommendation to ban breeding of these breeds completely as they would suffer from various diseases and allergies, would have many missing teeth, would die prenatally and would definitely suffer from having no fur.** This expert opinion remains to this day the ONLY source in Germany to answer the question to what extent naked dog breeds are considered to be torture breeding or not.

About 4 years ago the German Veterinarian Association started a project dedicated to taking dog breeds one by one and organize media campaigns against their “man-made” development (among other things for the mops (breathing difficulties). They started as of last year to gather data about other breeds with the argument of banning these from being showed on shows, from breeding, etc. To cut a long story short, we are confronted with a very well organized movement of veterinarians, lawyers and animal rights activists who want to make every step possible to obtain the banning of certain dog breeds. Some of these people are extremely well positioned within the regional States of Germany and have put pressure on the government of Germany (before last year’s elections) to adapt the laws and reach higher animal / dog protections. This triggered the old government to issue a new Law which is full of holes that lead to further interpretations.

Now the content, statistical relevance and arbitrary interpretations from the 1999 expert opinion for naked dog breeds left very many questions unanswered. This expert opinion did not prove at all that the Mexican and Peruvian Naked Dog breeds (both so called cultural goods in their mother countries) or Chinese Crested dogs suffer or are in pain of having no fur. We have even proven to them that the references used back in 99 were absolutely not acceptable, using a mix between Xolo and beagle! See www.fakten.exotischerasshunde.de Versions in French, English, German and Spanish.

Our Club is committed day by day to the protection of animals, condemns in the strongest terms any animal experiments and obliges its own members to comply with the strict standard regulations given by the FCI and VDH. The Club understands itself as a pedigree dog breeding association in the sense of the statutes of the VDH. The purpose is the pure breeding of the breeds Chinese Crested

Dog with the variations Hairless and Powder-Puff (228), Perro sin Pelo del Peru (310), Xoloitzcuintle (234) according to the (valid) standards deposited with the F.C.I.. Accordingly, our Club promotes all efforts that serve the fulfillment of this purpose. The basis for this is the preservation and consolidation of the purebred dog in its breed purity, its character, its social suitability, its constitution and its perfect appearance. In addition, the club takes every opportunity to fight HD and other hereditary diseases. The members undertake to report hereditary diseases and all breeding-related information to the breeding management of the club: we have been keeping statistics on this for years.

Now for the first time ever, the Veterinarian office that oversees one of the next shows have mentioned they would ban showing naked breeds, solely based on the conclusions of the 99 analysis and some new events supporting these. The new events refer to 2 documents written by a lawyer last year who does what a lawyer does when he is at his best: interpreting documents. We have protested (see mail below in German) against this obviously particularly in the case of the 3 ancestral naked dog breeds because as other side's argumentation is based on the 99 analysis.

Looking forward, we have started to collect data so that a new, this time scientifically supported, expert opinion can be commissioned. This should prove that the purebred naked dogs of the 3 above mentioned breeds neither suffer nor have pain. For this purpose we have started a worldwide questionnaire campaign with many partners at home and abroad. The aim is to have the data evaluated by an independent scientific body. Data collection on the breeding of naked dogs (www.exotischerassehunde.de).

At the same time we are looking for support in gathering data around these 3 old breeds, documents like

- Ancestral discoveries
- Statistics about healthiness and or diseases (they have very few)
- Pictures of them with teeth
- Scientific studies about their behavior, about their character
- National recognition of the breed (we have the statement that makes the Perro a national and cultural good of Peru already)
- Anything else that would serve to demonstrate that these breeds not only do not suffer from having little fur, but are very healthy

We, the German Kennel Club for Naked breeds are overwhelmed already with the worldwide wave of support that is starting and I want to thank everyone for their support in that manner!

With kind regards

Denis Gautheret

Club für Exotische Rassehunde e.V.

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