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MESOAMÉRICA

# Maya Dogs in Classic Maya Art



**Skin Wrinkled and mostly without Hair**

FLAAR Reports  
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The dogs of Mesoamerica are well known and the original "barkless and hairless" species still live in Mexico, Peru and elsewhere. Codex Style vases show these dogs: most of their "fur" is on the end of their tail. 3-dimensional dogs are found as "cookie jars" and that is my focus for the current report. All the Codex Style vases that show dogs have already been published by Robicsek and Hales (1981). *The Maya Book of the Dead The Ceramic Codex*.

Dogs were used for hunting and are frequently pictured in hunting scenes (but without the details of the wrinkles that are shown in 3-dimensional cookie jar and other 3D examples such as on the front cover of this report). Dogs are also used to lead you into Xibalba, the Maya underworld.

The three-dimensional dogs of the art of Colima, western Mexico, are estimated to be the variety (size and shape) that were eaten. Yes, dogs are edible (Clutton-Brock 1994) as you learn in restaurants in China and especially in Korea.

**CLUTTON-Brock, J.**

1994 Hot dogs: comestible canids in Preclassic Maya culture at Cuello, Belize. *Journal of Archaeological Science*. 21.6. 819. *AnthropologyPlus*. U of Kansas, Lawrence. 11 Sept. 2008

<http://firstsearch.oclc.org.www2.lib.ku.edu>





Since this dog is in 3-dimensions you can notice there is not thick fur all over his body. To see the tail fur you need to look at examples on Codex Style vases. That is not pictured here (tail may have been cut?).





Excellent 3-dimensional example of a dog in Classic Maya art. Early Classic attachment to Peten area blackware cylindrical tripod. FLAAR Photo Archive.



I call these "cookie jars". They are Early Classic and Peten area. Most of the little anatomical detail is on the face.





You can see one of these dogs at the Guatemala national museum of art, MUNAE; this dog is on exhibit at the museum.



The national museum of art of Guatemala has several 3-dimensional dogs (MUNAE). The main details are down on the jaw area; always the same (parallel indentations).