

**Class Discussion Notes 2/25/14**

**Reading: *Part Wild*, pp. 1-139**

**Discussants: Corinne and Molly**

**Scribe: Kara**

**taylor swift goat parody: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4luiKvnBaY4>**

**A. conceptions about wolf/dog ancestor: dog food**

- domestication of dog, “cave wolf”, helping with hunting, evolve to modern dog/people, common ancestor not a wolf, 15,000 years not a long evolutionary period,
- more selective pressure for the aggressive wolves in the wild become more dominant. does aggression mean better in the wild? in a social hierarchy manner the more dominant wolf is considered better.
- not much pressure on the wolf to change because it is already successful, last 10,000 years wolves much less successful than the dogs
- wolf very small carrying capacity? endangered by default? carrying capacity is lower but the wolf won't overproduce and crash.
- <http://www.isleroyalewolf.org/node/135> (Isle Royal Wolves)
- case study between moose and wolves, the drop in moose population is due to climate change in the last couple of years not hearing the pups meaning population decline as well
- reintroduce elk back into VA and reintroduce wolf back into XX state: result townspeople killing the wolves, not a success

**B. what are the theories about the wolf and the dog?**

- Terrill: page 15: evolutionists would argue that while dogs and wolves share a common ancestor, as do wolves and coyotes, that doesn't mean Fido is necessarily the direct descendant of the wolf, and certainly not of the modern wolf.
- cute theory: we as humans are attracted to animals that look like juveniles.
- scavenger hypothesis: wolves scavenged on human waste/ mutual scavenge on carcass
- food hypothesis: to domesticate a predator as a food source? not logical in terms of energy required: cat/dog stew in China
- <http://www.dogbreedhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/chinese-crested.jpg>

**Dog brains react to human voice:**

**<http://wtop.com/884/3568738/Study-How-dog-brains-react-to-the-human-voice>**



● This image shows a dog whose “expression” is often misinterpreted by people:

<http://www.patriciamccconnell.com/theotherendoftheleash/applied-ethology-translations-and-mis-translations>

- wolves with black pelt came from domesticated dogs
- frozen mammoth sperm, breed with elephants enough to reintroduce mammoth
- tasmanian wolf: controversial idea to bring it back

C. how can you tell the difference between tame/domesticate/wild?

- semi-domesticated: not quite as tame and obedient as humans would like
- attachment studies
- study on wolf puppy always choose dog, dog to human, what would cat choose?
- cats very territorial
- BBC documentary: wolves will create boundaries using urine to keep out other packs

Something comparable about dogs:

<http://on.aol.com/video/alexandra-horowitz-talks-about-on-looking--eleven-walks-with-expert-eyes-517598200>

- territory maps: are dogs capable?
- degrees of intelligence--different types of intelligence so difficult to compare
- wolves: not protective of humans
- wolfdog aggression: not concerned about hurting humans,
- working definitions of domestic and tame? not the same but definitions of domestication vary
- is tameness a prerequisite for domestication?
- moscow dogs riding on the subway
- study of dog brains and human brains in response to human voices: both respond the same way, same part of the brain reacts to the human voice

D. legal/ ethical issue with wolfdog

- humans use dogs for their own needs, forcing wolfdog into a role it can't fulfill, placing responsibility on wolfdog to satisfy human social need but it constricts them to an environment they are not meant for
- environment a factor: large open areas wolfdogs maybe can thrive but not in large human present areas

●  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/131114-europe-dog-domestication-wolves-hunter-gatherers/>

<http://scienceblogs.com/thoughtfulanimal/2010/10/07/two-theories-of-dog-domestication/>  
on the common ancestor:  
<http://www.sott.net/article/272118-Dogs-are-not-descended-from-modern-wolves-but-split-from-common-ancestor-34000-years-ago>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origin\\_of\\_the\\_domestic\\_dog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origin_of_the_domestic_dog)

### Research Project:

This week: research evolution of your species and its ethology

Start building a bibliography

<http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/domesticate/>

Set up a google doc in the Research Projects folder to work on your project

For class next week: different definitions of domestication

(Diamond, Clutton-Brock, Bulliet, Belyaev, Dunn, Zeder....)

**Bring your computer to class, please!**

**citations-** author, title, year, page number/ website- links

### Reading change:

Dunn, *Wildlife*, pp. 110-139 (typo in syllabus - sorry) - Please blog about this.

No more *Hunters, Herders and Hamburgers* (yay?) **Yay!**

Instead: consult this article:

Zeder, Melinda A. "9 Pathways to Animal Domestication." *Biodiversity in Agriculture: Domestication, Evolution, and Sustainability* (2012): 227.

[http://alexandriaarchive.org/bonecommons/archive/files/zederzptsetal2012\\_96265cead7.pdf](http://alexandriaarchive.org/bonecommons/archive/files/zederzptsetal2012_96265cead7.pdf)

<http://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/african-wild-dog>

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0426\\_060426\\_hyenas.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0426_060426_hyenas.html)