

ANNOTATE ON THIS WORKSHEET

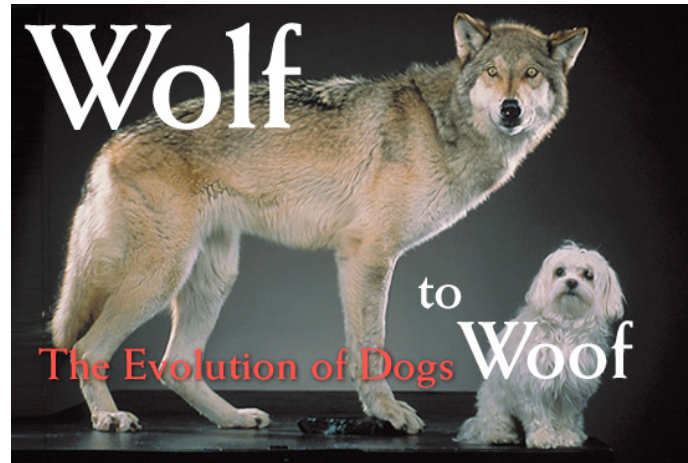
Wolf to Woof: Evolution of Dogs

By Karen E. Lange

National Geographic Magazine

Introduction: About 12,000 years ago hunter-gatherers in what is now Israel placed a body in a grave with its hand cradling a pup. Whether it was a dog or a wolf can't be known. Either way, the burial is among the earliest fossil evidence of the dog's domestication. Scientists know the

process was under way by about 14,000 years ago but do not agree on why. Some argue that humans adopted wolf pups and that **natural selection** favored those less aggressive and better at begging for food. Others say dogs domesticated themselves by adapting to a new **niche** (habitat or area to live in)—human refuse dumps. Scavenging dogs that were less likely to flee from people survived in this **niche**, and succeeding generations became increasingly tame. According to biologist Raymond Coppinger: "All that was selected for was that one trait—the ability to eat in proximity to people."



****The First part of this article talked about the Evolution of Dogs... The Second Part talks about a new controversy surrounding wolves and dogs!!!**

Wolves and Dogs and Wolf-Dogs: It is commonly accepted that the modern dog resulted from the domestication of the wolf, a process that began 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. A current hot issue is a new type of breeding involving a present day wolf and a present day dog.

A wolf hybrid is the offspring of a breeding between a wolf (*Canis lupus*) and a dog (*Canis familiaris*). Breeding is possible since wolves and dogs are closely related genetically. Though estimates vary, the current population of hybrids in the United States has been reported to be around 300,000. Growing interest in them has led to a proliferation (increase) in the number of wolf hybrid breeders, with many profiting from the breed's increasing popularity.

A small but energetic industry has sprung up around the wolf hybrid. A number of publications, periodicals, and at least two registries are devoted to the breed. Several regional and national wolf hybrid organizations catering to breeders, owners, and enthusiasts have also become established. As their numbers continue to increase, wolf hybrids have become the center of a growing controversy. A number of attacks on people--mostly children--have resulted in severe injuries and several deaths. Consequently, many people have begun to question whether such animals belong in their communities, or whether they should exist at all.

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Name (print): _____

No Excuses!!

Period #: _____

Date: _____

BIOLOGY Dog or Wolf?

Why we are doing this: to learn about how evolution can be seen before our eyes and tampered with.

What to do: read the small article and answer the questions as you read. Use correct, clear, and complete English sentences.

1. Who wrote this article?
2. How did the modern dog come about?
3. Why can you cross-breed wolves and dogs? (*Why is this possible?*)
4. Why would humans want to crossbreed wolves and dogs? Is this right or wrong? Why?
5. If you were a congressman or congresswomen would you make a bill banning this type of breeding? Why or why not?
6. Write 3 sentences about your reaction to this article. For example: I found this interesting b/c I love my dog Fido... or I hated this article because I would rather watch t.v. and let my brain rot =)