

# Dogs

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## History

Originally dogs were actually wolves. Dogs originated in central Asia and have been companions to humans as far back as 13,000 BC. Wolves were run off of camps until people realized that it was cleaner to have them around because they ate garbage and rats. Later people also realized that they would bark as an alarm when something was approaching.





These early wolves were hungry and realized that it was easy to scavenge food off of people. The nicest and most **docile** wolves became smarter and had pups that were more and more smart and docile. Eventually these wolves were no longer considered wolves and became what we now know of today as dogs.

## Breeding

Today dogs all come in different shapes and sizes, and have different purposes. This is

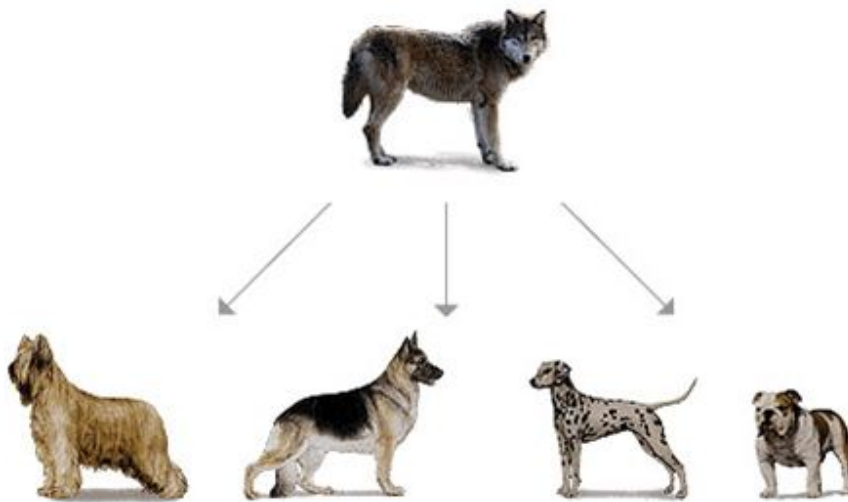


because people **breed** dogs to be that way.

How this works is that if someone wanted a taller dog they would breed the two tallest dogs. If they wanted a small dog that would breed the smallest together. If they wanted a good hunting dog they would breed a pair of dogs that were the best at smelling and tracking.

## Breeds

Worldwide there is around 340 different **dog breeds**. That means that 340 different types of dogs all came from the same ancestors, the wolves. From the largest to the smallest dogs, they all have wolves as their oldest ancestors.



## Habitat and Diet

Currently dog's habitats are human homes and yards. This can range from apartments to ranches and farms, anywhere that a human lives.

A dog's diet consists of scraps they find, animals they may catch, and mainly processed food given to them by their owners. Dogs were **carnivorous** but domestic dogs are **omnivorous** eating grains, vegetable, and meats.

## Lifecycle

Puppy-A puppy is born and needs to be with its mother for a full 8 weeks. The puppy stage ends at 6 to 18 months.

Adolescence- At 6 to 18 months the puppy begins to start **adolescence** where hormones begin to kick in and it reaches its adult size

Adult Dog- Dogs reach adulthood between 1 and 3 years old. They are less energetic but should be well trained at this point.

Senior- Dogs reach old age between 6 and 10 years, normally their **muzzle** with turn gray, and they will be more tired and calm.



### Fun Facts about Dogs

- Dogs have a really good sense of smell, they are able to differentiate smells that are lower than 1 million times that which a human can.
- They can hear sounds that are four times the distance away than a human can.
- Average lifespan of a dog is 10 to 14 years.



-Dogs tend to have more than one puppy at a time and those puppies are called a litter.

-There is said to be 400 million dogs on the planet.

-Dogs have formed such strong bonds with humans they have earned the nickname “man’s best friend.”



## Uses of Dogs

Dogs can perform various tasks for humans such as:

Hunting



Shepherding

Companionship



Aides

And more!

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## **Questions**

1. Where do dogs live?
2. Who do dogs live with?
3. What do dogs eat?
4. When do dogs reach maturity?
5. Why did dogs and humans begin to live together?

## **Answers:**

1. Humans' homes
2. Humans
3. Dog food and scraps
4. At one year
5. They helped each other, humans provided food and shelter, and dogs provided security and services.



# Glossary

Docile: easily taught, led, or controlled

Breed: to take animals and produce offspring or babies from them.

Dog Breeds: different types of the same animal (example: Labrador, beagle, and bulldog)

Carnivorous: eats only meat

Omnivorous: eats meats and plants

Adolescence: the period of life when a child changes to an adult

Muzzle: the long nose and mouth of an animal

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# Common Core State Standards

- RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for answers
- RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding in the text
- RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

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