

THE FIRST DOMESTICATED WOLVES WERE THOSE IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN AREA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE
HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS

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We often read in books and articles, concerning the origin of the dog, that it was "tamed" about 12.000 years ago, what would mean that there had to be "wild" dogs.(?). The same, or others, said that adult wolves approached human communities and started good relationship as hunters.(?). And always when referring to breeds considered to be ancient, it is said that they come from far away countries, like China or Tibet...(?).

Basing on recent research and discoveries concerning the H. Sapiens Sapiens and the wolf and the dog, and on very new ethological works, I presented in the " Catalan Academy of Veterinary Sciences ", and was my admission speech as numerary member (June 1993), a new view about the wolf evolution towards the dog.

There are no doubt about the wolf origen of all dogs breeds. Starting from the location in time, that I pointed to be much earlier than the 12.000 years considered, because from those dates there have been already found quite a number of burials (Palegawra and Ein Mallaha and others) containing dog skeletons, some together with human ones. The dog skeletons are anatomically different from the wolf's. Then, obviously, the change had to have happened much earlier !!!!.

Considering that the previous period, when the modern man originated, was the Upper Paleolithic (100.000 to 12.000 BC) it can be supposed that such evolution took place gradually during that period. The men had a developed reasoning, with the faculty of speech, and organize themselves, at much higher level than was believed recently, (Vandermeersch 1991), both for the Neanderthalensis as for the AMM (Anatomic Modern Man). Men who coexisted for the first time in the Mediterranean area !!!!.

The east coast of the Mediterranean sea is where more ancient evidence of AMM (80.000 years BC) is found and also spread out on today Europe. For the discoveries in France was call Cromagnon...Besides the Euphrates (Babilonia) is nearer the Mediterranean sea than the Seine (France)... During the Upper Paleolithic, due to the Würm Glaciation, the China and Tibet were not habitable at that time !!!!.

The other aspect I discussed was the frequency the humans may had taken hold of wolf cubs before imprinting, only period when they take as their own family that wich feed and look after them (Konrad Lorenz) and is easy to do, and frequent today. It would be extremely rare that adult wolves, not even the individuals rejected from the pack, should had been the wolves that became " tamed ". Nobody has contacted adult wolves friendly..!!!!

The cubs adapted, the others served as food, was used as

companions, and as watching and guarding, before becoming hunters and, later, as herding dogs. The latest research on the Paleolithic men habits show that the stone implements were more " tools " than " weapons ", and there was a greater womanly influence at home, which together with a high maternal feeling, even for the help a wolf cub give to the mothers who had lost a child while nursing, originated the affection of women towards the wolf cubs (puppies ?) captured.

Due to human enormous curiosity there was crossbreeding and selection of those cubs that looked more different from the wolf, fact that led to a neoteny, or juvenile heterochronism, that went transforming the greater predator of northern hemisphere into the devoted companion of today. With only 20 mutations that there are in the genetic nature hundreds of breeds can be formed, until reaching the enormous and exclusive variability in weight (1 / 100 ratio), in shape, color, abilities, etc, etc.

As per my own study, there is a correlation between some dog characteristics and infantile aspects, more evident in antique, or mediterranean, dogs, such as jumping towards people and liking (only the wolf cubs do it when asking for food); barking, and having hanging ears (all them infantile characteristics, as no wild adult canidae bark frequently, and all of them have erect ears); "saddle" (typical in many dog breeds, or main place for the spots, and that the juvenile wolves have); fetal appearance (more in puppies than in cubs); games-fighting and dominance (alternating in puppies and permanent in cubs); docility; etc, etc.

The dogs representation in the Old Egypt started (maximum) with the art, in 3.100 BC. A lot of breeds. From the typical sight hound, to fighting or war dogs like mastiffs (white colour and hanging ears), to small hunting dogs (braque type), and home pets (small or toy type similar to papillon, Pharaoh Nefertiti's tomb - XIX dynasty) etc, etc.

Five or four thousands years ago was not a relation with China and Tibet. Was completely unknown for the Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans... The Chinese and Japanese dogs derived from other types of wolves, later as the Mediterraneans, the same with the AMM. Marco Polo visited China in the XIII's.

The sum of all argumentations can be summarized in the following sentence:

" TODAY DOGS, EXCEPTION MADE OF THE CHINESE - JAPANESE ORIGIN AND THE NORDIC ONES THAT WERE SURELY CREATED LATER, COME FROM SOME VARIETY OF WOLVES THAT LIVED IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE MEDITERRANEAN, EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE WHOLE UPPER PALEOLITHIC (NES AND A.M.M.), AND THAT IT WAS MAINLY THE WOMEN, STARTING FROM WOLF CUBS BEFORE IMPRINTING, SELECTING THOSE OF JUVENILE APPEARANCE, LESS AGGRESSIVENESS, AND DIFFERING MOST FROM THE WOLF, WHO ACHIEVED THE TAMING OF THE WOLF, AND FROM THERE OCCURRED THE CREATION OF A SUBSPECIE THAT TODAY WE CALL D O G "
