

Assignment 1

1. Design a chart detailing different breeds, and if possible, showing lineage, as to how they were bred.
2. What animal does the modern dog descend from?
3. Describe when and why the dog was taxonomically reclassified? What was the change in the taxonomical name?
4. What were the factors driving the evolution of dogs?
5. Distinguish between sight and scent hounds with examples.
6. What was the primary purpose of a Working dog?
7. Differentiate between terriers and toy dogs. Give examples of each.
8. Describe the history of dog grooming - where it originated and how it evolved over time.
9. What is the 'Continental Clip' as regards dog grooming?

Lesson 1



1. History and Evolution of Dogs
2. History of Dog Grooming
3. The Dog Grooming Profession
4. Further Reading & Research

The History and Evolution of Dogs

The evolution of dogs over the ages has been a matter of great interest to researchers and evolutionary biologists. The general consensus is that dogs as we know them today, both wild and domestic breeds, all descended from the Grey Wolf (*Canis Lupis*).

The most significant findings stem from the work of the prominent expert Dr. Wayne, a biologist and geneticist at the University of California, Los Angeles, who in 1993 carried out specialised DNA tests to establish conclusively that dogs are a much closer relative of the Grey Wolf than previously thought. Thanks to these findings, the prominent journal, *Mammal Species of the World*, amended the previous listing of dog from 'Canis Familiaris' to 'Canis Lupus', thereby highlighting their Grey Wolf ancestry.

The Evolution of the Different Breeds of Dogs



The evolution of dogs has been strongly driven by selective breeding by humans. As a result of this, classification and breed standards of dogs have become easier to examine.

The Hound Dogs



The primary purpose of hound dogs, throughout history, has been to track down targets set for them by their human masters. Hound dogs such as Whippets and Greyhounds, have excellent eyesight in addition to their keen sense of smell, enabling them to track down targets with great speed. Certain other dogs such as the Bloodhound have such an exceptional sense of smell, that their speed and eyesight are less significant to them, as they follow the scent of their target, however faint it may be.

The Sight Hounds

Unlike the other hound varieties, Sight Hounds capitalise on their enhanced vision and agile bodies to hunt prey. They are so reliant on their eyesight, that their sense of smell is secondary to them. You can distinguish a Sight Hound from afar by their characteristic long neck and jaw. In addition to this, their bodies are slender with well-defined muscle tone, long legs and deep chest – they are fine-tuned to chasing down prey.

The Scent Hounds

Scent Hounds, as their names suggest, rely on their exceptional olfactory sense to track their target. Unlike Sight Hounds, they do not have keen eyesight, and consequently do not rely on it. They are not built for speed as the Sight Hounds are, since they can slowly but methodically track the scent of their target over vast terrain, even across still and moving water. Hunts involving Scent Hounds may be long, and as such these dogs are characterised by their stamina to last such long forays.



Scent hounds are characterised by the following:

Moist lips that
are tuned to
picking up
scent particles

Bigger noses than
normal dogs have, with
larger nostrils, to let
maximum scent to enter

Even their ears,
slender and long, are
tuned to guiding
scent into the nostrils

Exceptional
stamina to
pursue targets
over long hunts