

Re: evolution of wolves into dogs.

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On May 16, 12:51 pm, "//// Owen \\\\\\\\\\\\" <[m...@xxxxxxx](mailto:m...@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

I am not a troll. My question arises from ignorance and confusion. I was reading about a theory of how wolves evolved into dogs. It involved thyroxine, the hormone secreted by the thyroid gland.

My confusion is this: Is the domestication of the wolf evolution at all? In my ignorance, it all seems so simple. Some wolves were amenable to domestication, and we domesticated them. Other wolves were not amenable to domestication, and we didn't domesticate them.

Evolution is a word that is used for a lot of things. "The evolution of the petroleum industry." That phrase has little to do with biological evolution.

Domestic dogs are a sub species of wolf. There is no doubt that they have a lot of genetic differences. The allele frequency shifts in the population is evolution by definition, but it isn't what most biologists would call speciation or what is termed macro evolution. This isn't the creationist term it is a scientific term for evolution above the species level. There are probably dogs that can't effectively reproduce with other dogs or wolves (toy poodles and Irish Wolf hounds). A Yorky would more likely be a meal than an object of affection for a wolf. You probably have to consider domestic dogs as a sort of ring species. There is still a continuum where they can all interbreed with each other, but the extremes would have a problem.

There is still gene flow between wolves and domestic dogs. As far as I know they are fully fertile hybrids and you can obtain animals with varying degrees of introgression.

Ron Okimoto

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