

die off.

Well, if a wild dog is simply an efficient hunter, killer, and eater of other animals, then why did man first domesticate the wild dog and try to make a "companion" out of it? *The answer to this question is your first step in understanding dogs.*

Simply put, wild dogs were first developed and domesticated by man in order to perform the task of helping man in his own quest to eat and to survive. Again, those tasks that man selected for when he bred his first wild dogs (ultimately into the various breed types) were solely in relation to the many distinct attributes and traits that wild dogs possessed that allowed them to hunt and kill effectively themselves. Man simply recognized the uniqueness of each distinct hunting trait that some dogs possess, more so than other dogs, and so man tried to isolate and intensify each hunting trait, by selectively breeding only for that trait.

Thus man set out to zero-in and really develop each distinct trait he thought would help him in his own hunting, and man developed each given canine trait into a specialty—to the exclusion of all other traits—so that each "new dog" created could help man hunt even more effectively *in that particular specialty*. And that is how the breed types first came to exist: based upon that one, lone trait the newly-produced dogs typified. Further, that is also how the true "bond" came to exist between man and dog: when the dog did his job in that needed special capacity, to perfection, for his owner. Both man and dog have always enjoyed "that perfect moment" together after the hunt, successfully surviving as a team together—and there is nothing quite like that moment to those of you hunters who have experienced it for yourselves.

You see, most people today only keep dogs as "pets," and thus most people have no concept as to why man first created breed types to begin with. Thus most people do not even understand the very dog they are keeping and feeding. Being "a pet" is not the purpose for which man originally domesticated dogs. "Looking pretty" (or unusual) is not why man originally domesticated dogs either. Yes, I understand that dogs can be intelligent and tractable pets, and yes again I understand and agree that some dogs are absolutely gorgeous—but even though dogs can be a pure joy to have around as companion animals, or a pleasure to behold, the fact of the matter is dogs were *originally* domesticated by man to help him survive, not to be cute, cuddly, or pretty. And even though helping man survive may no longer be necessary today, for most of us anyway, the fact remains that this is why dogs were first domesticated by man. Therefore, to understand a dog is to understand the reason why man first domesticated him.

Since there are many tasks that dogs can do better than man, man has thus utilized dogs in these respects to help him since antiquity. Eventually, man also recognized that some dogs would both give voice when they see a human intruder—and he also saw how a few of these dogs would take it to the next step and actually attack the intruder—and thus the various "guard dogs" and "protection dogs" were eventually developed. But, here again, the selection process still involved *a specific function* being bred for, not looks or physical beauty. In this way, it is once again confirmed that man began to breed and train wild dogs to help him survive, and as he did so, man began to realize that certain dogs performed various key tasks better than other dogs. *This is how breeding selectivity first took place*—based on critical areas of hunting prowess and/or survival: scenting, running, digging, killing, retrieving, guarding, etc. Gradually, man began to breed specifically for only one of these certain individual traits, to the exclusion of all other traits, thereby intensifying each key trait beyond the means of any wild dog—and thus the original breed types were born:

♦ *By breeding only those dogs with the most acute sense of smell, Bloodhounds were eventually created, as specialists in scenting, to aid man in finding wounded game by its scent. And people are still enjoy the benefits of bloodhounds today for finding wounded prey, lost people, hidden drugs, etc.*

◆ By breeding only those dogs that would corral and harness his sheep and other livestock, various Shepherds were eventually created, as specialists to corral both and keep in union man's livestock. Some shepherd dogs were further developed not just to corral and guide the herd but also to protect the herd from would-be predators. And even today, there are people who still benefit from these wonderful shepherds, now expressed in many different breed types.

◆ By breeding only the fastest of dogs, Greyhounds were eventually developed, as specialists in running. Originally, this was to take down the swiftest of prey in the open field, but now the greyhound's tremendous speed is mostly utilized to satisfy man's competitive desires in the sport of dog racing—and people still enjoy the sport of dog racing today.



The regal grace of a pointer is something everyone should take the time out to experience in the field! (Photo courtesy of Okie Logan.)

◆ By breeding only those dogs that had the propensity to freeze and/or lift their front paws at the first sign of wild game, Pointers were eventually developed by man, as specialists in the field to signal to man where small game was hiding, to help man in the hunt, and people still enjoy hunting with their pointers today.

◆ By breeding only those dogs that had the propensity to trail and bay after raccoon, 'Coon Dogs were eventually developed by man to pursue and tree 'coon for man, giving voice while doing so, to let his owner know where he is in the woods at all times. And people still enjoy hunting with their 'coon dogs today.

◆ By breeding only those dogs that had the propensity to chase and kill rabbit, Beagle Hounds were eventually developed by man to catch and kill rabbit in the field for man, and people still enjoy hunting with their beagles today.

◆ *By breeding only those dogs with the most intensity and ability to fight and kill tracked-down prey, **Pit Bulls** were eventually developed as specialists for conquering all creatures great and small. Called "Kill Dogs" in days of yore, what we now call "pit bulls" were actually "catch and kill" dogs, who would finish the big game trailed by the trailing and baying dogs. One group of dogs trailed the game (like 'coon dogs), and when the prey was finally cornered then the "kill dogs" would be brought-in to finish the beast. Eventually, man (being the way he is) began to stage contests between his "kill dogs" against bear and bulls, and that is how the term "bulldog" first got coined—and that is how "kill dogs" later became known as "bulldogs," through such staged contests. Later, man (again, being the way he is) began to stage contests to see whose bulldog was better than whose—and so the "bulldog" eventually became known as the "pit bulldog"—and finally he is now known simply as the "pit bull." And the pit bull has been bred and used primarily as a fighting dog to conquer other dogs in the pit ever since—but then laws eventually were enacted against staged pit fights. Yet there are still many people, even today, who enjoy using the "pit bull" for his original purpose, which is hunting, and they use him to catch and kill wild boar and all kinds of different game animals. Unfortunately, the reputation of this breed (which is indisputably the most courageous dog on earth) has been sullied by imbeciles (and the media) to the point the breed's image has been ruined. But the truth is, when owned and raised by knowledgeable dogmen, the "pit bull" is one of the finest and most versatile performance breeds ever developed.*



Terriermen using their terriers as they were originally intended to be used: digging up varmints from the earth and dispatching them. (Photo courtesy of Henry Johnson, Fults Cove, TN)

◆ *By breeding only those dogs that would dig and go into holes after pesky varmints, **Terriers** were eventually created as specialists to rid man of the multitude of vermin that infested his farms and property. A true terrier derives his very name from the earth (terra firma), into which he was designed to dig and kill varmints. The few true terrier breeds that remain today are*

still extraordinarily tough and able hunters, and there is a whole subculture of people who still enjoy varmint hunting with their terriers. In fact, in some areas, terriers remain absolutely indispensable for farmers, and the use of such varmint terriers to dispatch pesky varmints is a whole lot more natural and biologically-friendly way of ridding the area of vermin than is using poison or other less desirable methods.

♦ *By breeding only those dogs that had the propensity to bring back killed game, Retrievers were developed by man to bring back various small animals shot in the field. And, again, there is a whole subculture of people who still enjoy hunting with their retrievers today, and as a result many wonderful different breed types of retriever (and spaniels) have evolved to meet the various retrieving needs and challenges avid bird hunters face.*

On and on it goes ...

The point of all this is to reinforce THE FACT that man originally domesticated wild dogs because of their hunting and killing abilities. Man not only selectively bred his dogs for these abilities, but he actually named virtually all of the original breed types *based on* these abilities. Each ability (scenting, running, fighting, retrieving, shepherding, digging, etc.) was then intensified by man, through selective breeding, **to the exclusion of all other abilities**, again which is how the different breeds of dog originally evolved and were named: based on what they *could do*. A true dog fancier really needs to understand this in order to appreciate how truly significant all of the performance dogs really were for people in days not too far gone by—as well as to appreciate the fact that it is the performance breeds which still need to be bred and perpetuated today, above all others, if true breed types are to survive and true canine excellence is to be maintained.

With this correct perspective clearly in mind, it is easy to see how sad it is that, nowadays, breed types are seldom maintained for their original hunting standards, but instead these treasured breed standards have degenerated to the point where dogs are bred based solely on how they “look”—or (worse) based upon absolutely no standards whatsoever. Tragically, there has been a shift away from breeding dogs true to type (that is, to maximize their distinct performance abilities), and this degeneration of purpose is reflected in the degenerated purpose of our new decadent, non-physical, plastic society—that shuns the outdoors—and that shuns animal performance excellence on all levels. Thus “conformation shows” are pretty much the only means by which any so-called “standards” are maintained today in most breeds—with their “look” being more important than their substance—which again is reflective of our own modern, decadent, plastic, and limp-wristed society.

It is easy to see why most people today simply have dogs as “pets”—because few of us really need to hunt and kill our own food any longer, or to corral our livestock any longer—but the flipside is that most dogs today are therefore useless. Most dogs today are “feed burners,” as it were, dogs who can do nothing but eat, sleep, and \$#!^!. Most people today, who have no true understanding of dogs at all, can’t even imagine wanting a “hunting dog,” or a “performance dog,” so far removed are they from the reality of what dogs are. But, you see, when you really come to understand dogs, the real question is not, “Why have a performance dog?”, the real question is, “Why have any dog *that isn’t specifically developed to do something?*” If analyzed by a knowing mind, it is actually the toy dogs, show dogs, mutts, lapdogs, etc. (that have lost any true utility as beneficiaries to man) who in fact need to justify their existence, not the other way around. Think of it, I mean truly, what good are dogs that can’t do something useful? By definition, they are *useless*. Such dogs waste our resources and they fill our dog pounds, and that is about all they do.

If one aligns his thinking to reality and to correct principles, it is the performance dogs (of *all* breed types) that are of any lasting, real value to man. This is not to say that toy dogs, mutts, lapdogs, and show dogs can’t be loving companions, they can. But unless there has been an equally-earnest effort to keep the performance aspect of a dog intact, such non-performance dogs are essentially useless ornaments that pale in value next to an equally-