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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE:

DOGS

忠实伴侣

生动讲述狗的故事，让你真正地了解它

人民教育出版社

自然英语

Discovery

听读系列

忠实伴侣

人民教育出版社综合编辑室

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编者

2002年10月

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The Ultimate Guide – Dogs

At times, dogs appear to move and react like wild animals. Yet they are, by definition, domesticated. In perhaps only fourteen thousand years, humans have modified and manipulated a single species to create more than four hundred breeds.

But for all their variety of appearance, all dogs are simply mutations of their closest ancestral relative ... the wolf.

Wolves are opportunistic pack hunters, always alert to the possibility of an easy meal. Was this the catalyst for their domestication?

Over thousands of years, wolves had competed for prey with another group of hunters, complex communicators not unlike themselves.

Perhaps the wolves were drawn in by the smell of meat cooking over a fire ... and into contact with their human rivals.

Eventually, some wolves may have stayed simply to scrounge scraps, the humans allowing these less-aggressive and more curious animals to remain nearby and to breed.

“Go away!”

And so by lucky chance began the relationship that would transform the wolf.



忠实伴侣

狗的动作和反应常类似于野生动物，然而却被归类为家畜。大概仅在 14 000 年的时间里，人类对这种动物进行驯养、调教，已转变出了 400 多个品种。

这些狗虽然外表各异，但都是从狼演化而来的，狼是它们亲缘关系最近的始祖。

狼集体猎食，又爱投机取巧，容易到手的食物绝不放过。这就是它们被驯化的原因吗？

数千年来，狼一直和另一群猎食者争抢食物，他们和狼一样用复杂的方法彼此沟通。

也许，当初狼是被烤肉的香味吸引而来，并开始同它们的对手——人类有了来往。

最后，有的狼就留下来讨东西吃。人类没有赶走这些好奇心胜过凶残性的狼，开始喂养它们。

“走开！”

也许就是缘于这些机遇，狼开始进行变种。



This is the starting point for obtaining the DNA to do the genetics research.

Evolutionary geneticist Doctor Rodney Honeycutt is trying to figure out precisely how the accident of domestication occurred.

“... and see it come out of solution.”

His analysis may even reveal where wolves were first domesticated and when.

“...genetics research.”

“Domestication is a very rare event, really. It is not something that humans in their great wisdom can, can do multiple times. It obviously was something that occurred not many times and it might have been blind, stupid luck that allowed us to domesticate a particular species to begin with.”

But how quickly could wolves have been domesticated. It was once thought to have taken hundreds, even thousands of years.

In Siberia, an experiment gone wrong has changed that view. Over thirty years ago the Russian fur industry try to breed silver foxes that were tame and easy to handle.

Tameness in wild animals is usually a juvenile trait. So foxes were found that had retained their tameness into adulthood.

It took less than twenty-five years to achieve adult tameness that could be reliably reproduced from one generation to the next.

这就是获取 DNA 进行遗传学研究的开端。

进化遗传学家罗德尼·哈尼克博士正在研究动物的驯化究竟是如何发生的。

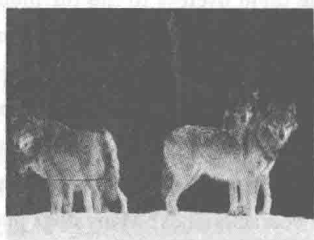
“……马上就要得出结论了。”

通过分析，他甚至能揭示究竟是在何时何地人类开始第一次驯养狼的。

“……遗传研究。”

“驯化野生动物是很少见的，真的，不是靠人类的伟大智慧就能使其一再发生。可能全凭机遇。最早也许就是凭盲目的运气才把某种野生动物逐步驯化的。”

但是驯养狼到底需要多久呢？过去以为要几百年，甚至上千年。



在西伯利亚，一次失败的试验改变了这种观点。30 多年前，俄罗斯的毛皮商尝试人工饲养银狐，因为它们温顺、易驯养。

野生动物幼小时通常很温和，而狐狸长大后还同幼时一样温顺。

饲养不到 25 年就能让成年狐狸形成驯良的特性，并代代相传。

But in domesticating the silver fox, the fur industry got more than they bargained for. The domestic foxes inherited not only the juvenile tameness, but often their physical characteristics. For instance, white markings began showing up on the fox's heads and chests. Some developed permanently floppy ears and tail lengths became unpredictable, some short, some long, some curled like a Husky.

"Here is a very interesting animal as a result of domestication."

In the extreme, the foxes became remarkably unfox-like.

"This animal has one half blue eye...white side of the body and a very interesting shape of the tail."

This made them useless to the fur industry. But it did illustrate how quickly the wolf could have been tamed and then physically modified.

Although it's easy to see the wild wolf beneath the skin, domestic dogs have been bred into malleable creatures.

But with four hundred different breeds, what are some of the dog's basic characteristics? Many dogs in the Third World appear to share the same physical features.

"Well, in my mind the Third World dog and, ah, Lizzie here is a classic example, about thirty-five pounds of perfectly proportioned canine intelligence, ah, the Third World dog is a natural dog. Ah, she has not been subjected to, ah, ss ... selective breeding by human beings. She's not been shaped to conform to some particular human ideal of perfection or utility. She has been shaped by the forces of nature."

但在驯化银狐的过程中，毛皮商得到意外收获：家狐不只继承了幼狐的驯良，还承袭了它们外表的特征。例如，狐狸头上和胸部的白毛；有些狐狸的耳朵不再笔直地竖着；它们的尾巴长短不一，有的尾巴卷曲着，像爱斯基摩犬一样。

“这是一只非常有趣的动物，是驯化的结果。”

有时通过驯化狐狸变得根本不像狐狸。

这只狐狸有只眼睛半边呈蓝色。身体一侧是白色的，尾巴长得很好玩。

这些动物对毛皮业毫无用处，但却说明了狼的驯养过程并不长，且其外形也会很快改变。

尽管从形体上很容易看成是野狼，但家狗非常温和，这是一点一点驯化的结果。

狗的品种多达400种，它们有哪些基本的特征？许多第三世界的狗(非宠物)看起来有些共同特征。

“我认为第三世界的狗，呃，这个莉丝就是最典型的例子，大约重35磅，比例完美又有灵性。第三世界的狗生来就是如此，他们并未经过人类刻意的选择培育，样子没有为了符合人类想象中的完美和应用条件而经过特意改变，他们的样子完全是自然生成的。”

These fine-boned and thin-coated dogs of the South American rain forest look like dogs throughout the Tropics.

On the remote Mongolian steppes, another natural dog shares life with nomadic people.

These northern dogs are larger, bigger boned and have thicker coats for a colder climate.

They must be sturdy enough even as puppies to travel long distances. Nomadic people may move every few weeks to find better grazing for their livestock. The dogs are expected to keep up, or they will be left behind.

These people value their dogs highly, feeding them the same rich goat milk that they drink. Some Mongolian dogs have been selectively bred. One such breed has tan markings over the eyes that gave rise to their name.

"The Mongolian four-eyed dog is a wonderful example of how we can creatively reassemble canine genes to have an incredible effect. Because a direct stare in a wolf of two eyes is threatening. But to turn it into four eyes is even more intimidating."

The Mongolians prize their four-eyed dog so much that they even provide veterinary care, a costly practice for people in less-developed countries.

"We use dogs for protecting livestock and hunting."

"People have dogs instead of a good friend."

In the West, dogs are still used in traditional ways to solve a familiar problem.



南美洲雨林中这些骨小皮薄的狗看起来和热带的狗差不多。

遥远的蒙古大草原上，狗和游牧人民生活在一起，它们也是天生如此。

这些北方的狗，个高骨壮，厚重的毛皮可以应付寒冷的气候。

这些狗很强壮，连小狗也能长途跋涉。游牧民族几个星期就得迁移一次，为牲畜找寻较茂密的草地。他们的狗要是跟不上，就会被丢弃荒野。

这里的人们很看重狗，它们同人一样喝的是羊奶，营养丰富。有些蒙古狗是经过选择培育出来的，其中一种眼睛上有棕黄色的斑点，并由此得名。

“蒙古四眼狗是很好的例子，它证明了我们可以别出心裁地重组狗的基因，令其产生绝佳的效果。因为狼两眼直视时让人害怕，所以变成四只眼睛就更恐怖了。”

蒙古人很珍爱四眼狗，甚至还为它们请兽医，这在欠发达地区费用是很高的。

“我们用狗来保护牲畜和狩猎。”

“一只好狗比得上一个好朋友。”

在西方，很长时间以来，人们用狗来解决类似的问题。



In the Colorado hills, a herding breed of dogs from Italy known as Maremmas guard a flock of cashmere goats against one of the dog relatives, a coyote.

Raised among goats, the Maremmas identify with the flock and become their pack leaders, protecting the goats from predators.

Because the Maremmas keep the goats safe, farmers can leave the coyotes alone. The coyotes will need to find their sources of food.

In the winter, coyotes scavenge wherever they can, even stealing fish from the mouths of otters.

Coyotes are symbols of the American wilderness, and yet have had to adapt their scavenging skills to man-made environments.

Today, thousands of coyotes live within the greater Los Angeles area.

The wolves have not been so adaptable. They were once the most widely distributed land mammal after humans. But perceived by us as a threat, some have been driven to the edge of extinction.

Still, these tenacious predators survived, thanks in part to their ability to operate in packs.

They live and hunt in well-organized teams, each member knowing its place. Subordinate members must wait until the pack leaders have eaten.

Ritualized play-fighting reinforces the hierarchy.

Domestic dogs don't appear to have an intricate social structure like that of wolves.

And yet dogs and wolves are probably a single species.