

A large, brown Tibetan Mastiff dog is the central focus, standing in front of a white stone stupa. The dog's thick fur is adorned with a vibrant, flame-like mane in shades of red and orange. The stupa behind it is white with a golden spire and is surrounded by colorful Tibetan prayer flags. The background is a clear blue sky.

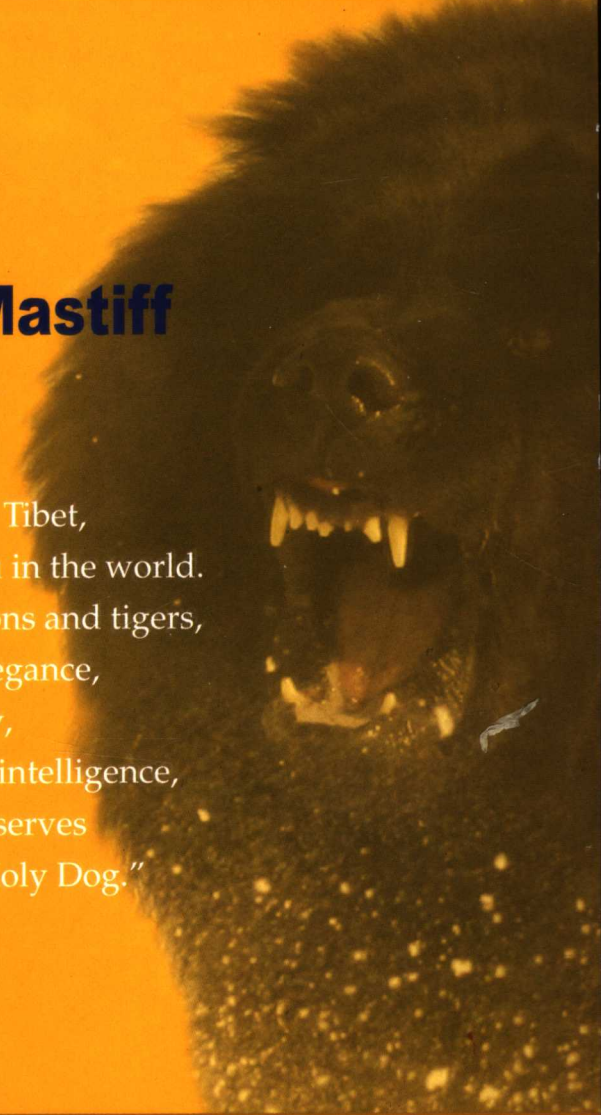
China's Tibetan Mastiff



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

China's Tibetan Mastiff

The Tibetan Mastiff lives in Tibet,
the most mysterious snowy plateau in the world.
Boasting ferocity rivaling that of lions and tigers,
aristocratic aloofness and elegance,
unquestionable loyalty,
and an amazingly high degree of intelligence,
the Tibetan Mastiff fully deserves
the honor of being titled "the Holy Dog."



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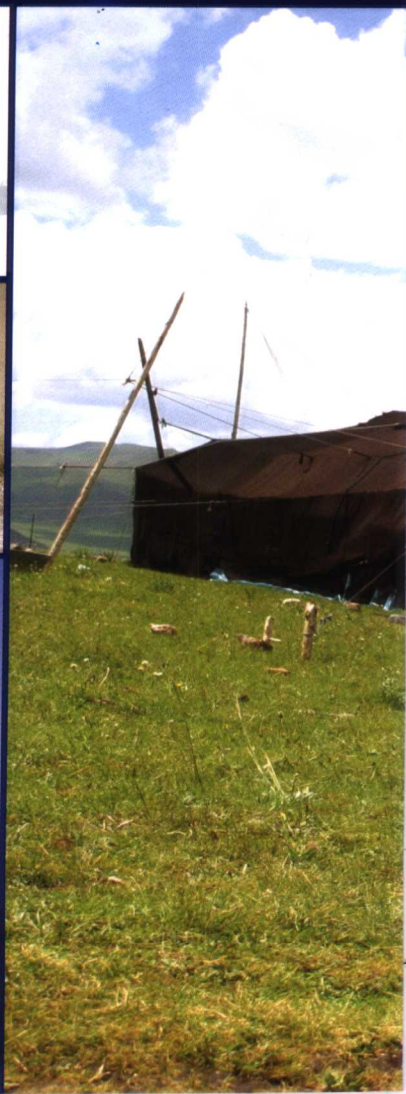
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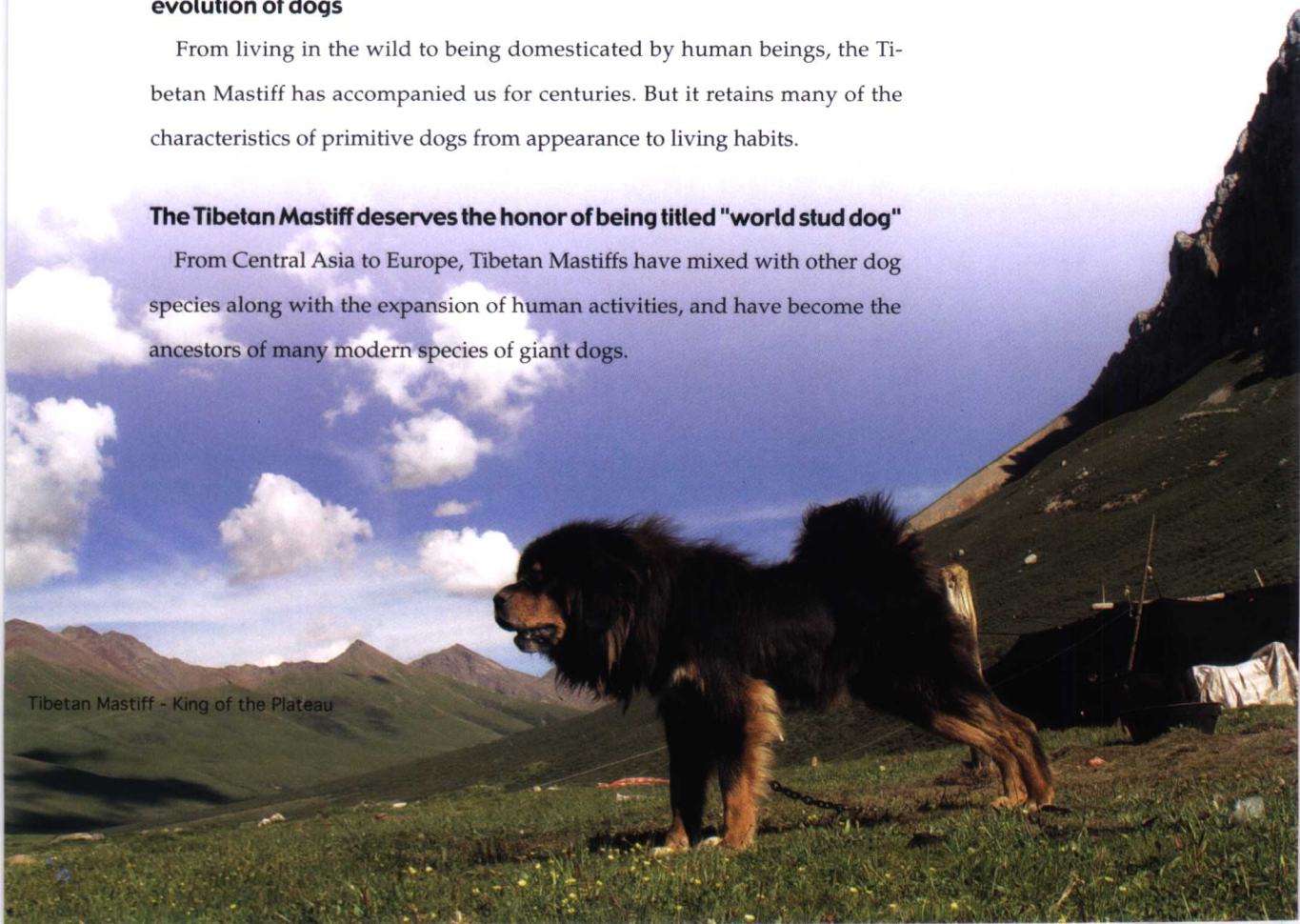
The Tibetan Mastiff is a "living fossil" for the study of the origin and evolution of dogs

From living in the wild to being domesticated by human beings, the Tibetan Mastiff has accompanied us for centuries. But it retains many of the characteristics of primitive dogs from appearance to living habits.

The Tibetan Mastiff deserves the honor of being titled "world stud dog"

From Central Asia to Europe, Tibetan Mastiffs have mixed with other dog species along with the expansion of human activities, and have become the ancestors of many modern species of giant dogs.

Tibetan Mastiff - King of the Plateau



The Tibetan Mastiff can rival lions and tigers with its ferocity

Besides its giant size, people are alarmed at its fierce visage and thunderous bark. The Chinese have a saying that one Tibetan Mastiff can put three wolves to flight, and two Tibetan Mastiffs can subdue a tiger.

The Tibetan Mastiff is an elegant aristocrat

Like human nobles born into renowned European families with hundreds of years of history, Tibetan Mastiffs may also feel proud of the blue blood running in their veins, and therefore often hold themselves aloof from other breeds. You will never find a Tibetan Mastiff being greedy, wretched or fawning.



The beautiful Shangri-La Grassland

The loyalty of the Tibetan Mastiff is unquestionable

The Tibetan Mastiff regards itself as one of the family members, rather than as a pet. To protect the family property and the lives of its family is all it lives for. Its concern extends even as far as the family's cattle and horses.

The Tibetan Mastiff is a born fighter

Whoever has seen a fight between a Tibetan Mastiff and its enemy will have such an impression. Its instinct is to forge ahead rather than fall back, to attack rather than evade, to bleed rather than yield.

The Tibetan Mastiff has a high degree of intelligence

It is an animal that for centuries has maintained its own way of thinking, and the habit of making decisions on its own. It does not simply obey its master's orders; it can also make judgments that benefit its master, based on its own observation of the situation. No one knows where it gets such an amazing ability.



Mt. Minling

Be careful! You have entered its territory.





Preface

"Ao" (mastiff) is a word the Chinese have used for a giant ferocious dog since ancient times. According to the *Er Ya* (*Near to Correctness*), the earliest Chinese dictionary, compiled in the second century BC and one of China's ancient classics, "Ao is a dog that is longer than four *chi* (three *chi* equals approximately one meter)." The *Shuo Wen Jie Zi* (*An Analytical Dictionary of Chinese Characters*), another important Chinese dictionary, explains "Ao" as "unrestrained," which may be interpreted in modern Chinese as "wild, fierce, obstinate and unruly."

In fact, most of China's giant fierce dogs live in the west and north, or the main pasture areas in Qinghai and Gansu provinces, the Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions, western and northern Sichuan Province and part of Yunnan Province.



View of the Tibetan grassland



A herder of Tibet's Khampa people and his loyal "comrade-in-arms" — a Tibetan Mastiff

Despite the poor natural conditions there, a dozen hardy ethnic minorities have dwelt in the northwestern region of China for thousands of years. They relied on hunting and pasturing, and bred giant dogs as assistants in their life and production, and even adopted them as part of their families and loyal guardians.





China's Tibetan Mastiff

བོད་ཁྱི།

The Tibetan Mastiff is an outstanding representative of such dogs. The breed mainly lives in the frigid zone at an altitude of 3,000-5,000 m on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and are domesticated by the Tibetan people, hence the name. It has also had other Chinese names, such as Black Lion-Dog, Songpan Dog and Tibetan Dog. The British Kennel Club named it the "Tibetan Mastiff," while the Tibetans usually call it "Dokhyi" (chained dog), as they are usually chained to a pole on the grazing grounds. They will bark and leap wildly when strangers approach them, causing the chains to rattle.

Unfortunately, the number of purebred Tibetan Mastiffs is decreasing. The animal has been listed in Category II under state protection.



Dokhyi, the Tibetan name for the Tibetan Mastiff, means a tethered dog. No stranger can approach a Tibetan Mastiff or the territory it guards if the dog is not tethered by an iron chain to a wooden stake.



The terrifying snarl of a Tibetan Mastiff



The Tibetan Mastiff is
a lover of freedom.

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