

# DOGS ARE NOT WOLVES

## CANINE CONNECTION WITH HEART

### WHAT IS THE TRUE NATURE OF A DOG?

Where did the concept of dog's dominance alpha pack training begin? I've heard numerous people share with me their use of the popular Cesar Millan ways of interacting with dogs. I'm choosing this subject because I believe that this method of training is a great disservice to dogs and their owners. In my 10+ years of working with dogs it's abundantly clear they're deeply hardwired to want to be with us as a benevolent partnership. A greater understanding of the true nature of dogs can allow a mutually kind, affectionate and loving relationship to deepen and flourish. It's my hope this newsletter offers some clarity. Please share this!

Wolf biologists originally based most of their ideas on studies of captive packs. Packs were often a random assemblies of unrelated individuals or fragments of packs. What all of these packs had in common was their structure which had been irrevocably disturbed by captivity. The wolves were thrown into a state of confusion and conflict. Unless their human captures decided to separate them, none has an opportunity to leave. Resulting in relationships that emerged were not based upon long-established trust but on rivalry and aggression. The alpha model emerges only in artificial social groups. The family model is based upon wolves



being allowed to choose who they live with or without. Packs that form naturally, in the wild, are usually harmonious entities, with aggression being the exception rather than the norm. Allowed to manage their own affairs, packs are generally peaceful.

Two more reasons popular conceptions about dog's behavior being like wolves is based upon false concepts and beliefs. It appears that Scientists have been inadvertently studied the wrong wolf on the wrong continent and ten thousand years too late. Until recently researchers assumed the Grey timber wolf is closely related to our present day dog. The vast majority of dogs are only very distantly related to the American timber wolf, separated by a hundred thousand years of evolution. Recent DNA analysis indicates that dogs descended from Eurasian grey wolves.

### THE HEART OF THE DOG!



Importantly none of the wolves studied over the past seventy years or so American or European can possibly be considered the ancestors of the domestic dog. There is no evidence that modern wolves closely resemble these common ancestors. Modern dogs do not trace their ancestry back to any particular kind of wolf. There is no wolf alive today that is a model for understanding dog's behavior. Dogs have been domesticated for thousands of years providing the opportunity for dogs to change radically.



There is no basis that supports the concepts of dominance, status, pack hierarchies of dogs over their humans. Recent research has shown it's completely implausible. This is not the nature of the dog. Please keep in mind dogs do NOT think you are another dog. Dogs put humans in a completely different category. In my experience in working with a dog trainer and caring for hundreds of dogs a dominance concept reduces a relationship to an adversarial authoritarian role by humans over dogs. This approach is a great disservice to both dogs and their owners.

Dogs by their very nature are happy, playful, forgiving, loyal, affectionate and loving. It's heart breaking to think of completely missing the rich emotional connection with your dog by reducing such a noble animal by adopting the belief that manipulative scheming behavior is who your dog is. Your dog does not want to dominate you he wants to love you.

Through my puppy/dog adoptions I've talked to many people and frequently hear of misconceptions of dog's behaviors, emotions, social and cognitive intelligence and training methods. The quality of our dog's life and the gift of having them grace our lives is supported by increasing our knowledge and awareness of who the dog truly is. People can contribute to the quality their relationship with their dogs by being calm, aware, patient, affectionate and loving.



Look deep into the heart of a dog and you will find your own.

#### References that may be of interest.

How Dogs Love Us.	The Genius of Dogs	Chaser	Dog Sense
Gregory Berns	Brian Hare Vanessa Woods	John W. Pilley	John Bradshaw

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