

The natural behaviours of the dog and the use which each of these behaviours is put by man.

The natural behaviours of dog stems from the behaviour of their ancestors believed most likely to be the wolf. Ancestors can be clearly identified through studies of mitochondrial DNA¹ and such studies have found that the difference in the mitochondrial DNA from dogs and wolves differ by around one to two per cent. Scientists believe this is clear evidence that the closest ancestor of dog was wolf, and that this species was probably domesticated first, followed later by the jackal and other pariah dogs across the globe.² Furthermore, fossil remains found in the Central Russian Plain suggest, through the use of radiocarbon dating, that domestication of dogs was at around thirteen thousand years ago.³ According to Roger Abrantes, on average a dog has fifty to eighty per cent of the wolf's social behaviour traits "either in their true form or in a slightly modified form".⁴ Dogs' natural behaviours are borne out of their instinct for survival and reproduction, and man has put a number of these natural behaviours to use. So, what are the natural behaviours of the dog?

For predatory animals, the main source of food is prey that the animal has caught itself. Predatory or **hunting** behaviour follows a sequence of searching, tracking and stalking, selecting prey, chasing it, killing it and occasionally taking the kill to a safer place. We see this hunting behaviour with our pet dog through play and in some cases in reality where the hunting instincts are so great the family dog may attack or even kill wildlife. Although generally dogs have the same hunting abilities as the wolf, they vary greatly from breed to breed as man has selected specific traits and exaggerated these for his benefit. Dogs will **sniff** and **track** scents. This natural behaviour alerts the dog to what is in the environment, be it danger or a possible food source. The average dog has around 220 million scent receptors in its nose, compared to a human who has around five million.⁵ Dogs hunt by following scent along the ground or raising their head and tracking scent through the air.

The next part of the hunting process is **stalking** and **chasing**. Dogs like the thrill of the chase, be it birds, rabbits or even cats, but they will chase at short distances, "long chases are rare and easily given up."⁶ We see chasing behaviour typically when dogs are playing with one another. From a young age, puppies learn basic attack and defence movements through play that help them to learn to stalk and chase. Puppies will pounce and bring their litter mate down by the leg or neck and mouth to learn bite control.

¹ Note: Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is a useful tool for tracking ancestry through the female line and has been used to track the ancestry of species back hundreds of generations. Forensic laboratories use human mtDNA to identify individuals, and occasionally in the identification of older skeletal remains. [Source: Wikipedia, categories – DNA, mitochondrial genetics, mitochondria DNA, search: "use in identification".]

² Book: Coren, Stanley (2006), *The Intelligence of Dogs*, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, chapter 1, page 24.

³ Book: Coren, Stanley (2006), *The Intelligence of Dogs*, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, chapter 1, page 19.

⁴ Book: Abrantes, Roger ((1997), *Dog Language*, Wakan Tanka Publishers, chapter 'D', page 90.

⁵ Book: Fogle, Bruce (1990), *The Dog's Mind*, Pelham Books, chapter 3, page 35.

⁶ Book: Fogle, Bruce (1990), *The Dog's Mind*, Pelham Books, chapter 8, page 131.

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The mother will also play with her pups, teaching them how to hunt, to pounce and shake their prey.⁷ When a dog is stalking it assumes a wolf like posture as it prepares to attack. Once the dog has caught up with its prey the next part of the hunting sequence is to 'kill' it by **pouncing, shaking and throwing the prey around** before finally **biting** it to kill. Pouncing on the prey will stun it and make it easier for the dog to capture and prevent the prey from running away. Very often in play we see our dog pouncing on their toys and then once the dog has the 'prey', it will shake it vigorously as this stuns or causes fatal injuries making it less likely for the prey to fight back. The final stage of the hunting sequence is the killing; **biting, chewing and gnawing**. As dog owners, we often see our dogs chewing their toys to pieces, this not only exercises their jaws and cleans their teeth, but mimics "the ancient desires that would have enabled them to chew through the thick skin of large prey and chew up every last bit of carcass."⁸ The action of chewing is also a comforter, and this is a commonly seen problem in separation anxiety. As a human may chew its nails when anxious, some dogs will chew on items around the house (particularly those belonging to the owner such as a pair of shoes) when the owner is absent. The chewing action acts as a comforter, enabling it to direct its anxiety onto something else, this becomes self-rewarding, which can lead to repetition of destructiveness when the dog is left alone.⁹ Along with chewing and gnawing, comes **regurgitation**. In the wild, this behaviour enables wolves and other canids to provide for their pups after returning to the den from a successful hunt. In our domestic dogs, we see puppies lick the mouth of the dam to stimulate the regurgitation of food and in some cases the dam will respond to this; however with the provision of solid food from the breeder, this means this behaviour is less common. The puppy-like behaviour of licking often carries through into adult hood as owners encourage the licking response from their dogs, seeing this as an act of friendliness and love. Another behaviour linked with feeding is that of **guarding food**. This is borne out of the instinct of food being the means of survival, however this is not a desirable behaviour for the dog owner, and some behaviourists suggest this is associated with dominance aggression.¹⁰

Digging is another natural behaviour of the dog. This is done for a number of reasons, firstly as an act of survival. Unlike humans, dogs do not have the luxury of knowing when they will eat again. This survival instinct can be so strong that some dogs will burying their food or dog treats as a way of hoarding that all important food source. Some breeds are more prone to digging behaviour than others; Huskies and Malamutes may dig to create cooling or sleeping holes for themselves. While Terriers (derived from the Medieval Latin *terrarius*, from the Latin *terra* meaning earth¹¹) were specifically bred by man to dig and go under ground to flush out foxes, rabbits and the rodents in hunting. Some bitches also dig when they are due to give birth, mimicking the behaviour of the wild canine.

⁷ Book: Woodcock, Dee (2002) *Preventing puppy problems; leave in peace with your puppy*, Dogsense Publications, part 1, page 29.

⁸ Book: Bailey, Gwen (2002), *What is my dog thinking?*, Octopus Publishing Group Limited, chapter *Life in a Hierarchy*, page 42.

⁹ Book: Fisher, John (1991) *Why does my dog...?* Souvenir Press Ltd, chapter 3, page 76.

¹⁰ Book: Fogle, Bruce (1990), *The Dog's Mind*, Pelham Books, chapter 9, page 137.

¹¹ Internet: Wikipedia online encyclopedia, search under working terrier. Website address http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_terrier

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A key part of survival is being alert to danger. A natural behaviour of the dog is **barking**. This is a means of communicating to the pack and signaling there could be a pending threat. Alarm barking not only warns the group of a threat but it helps to counter an intruder's advances; Steven Lindsay refers to barking as serving "a dual territorial and group-defense function."¹² Dogs also bark as a way of getting a human's attention or when taken by surprise, for example if a cyclist whizzes past a dog being walked, it may startle the dog causing him to bark at 'the danger'.

Dogs will also bark as part of the invitation to play or when they are in a highly excited state. I witnessed this behaviour recently at a fly-ball demonstration in Hertfordshire, the canine competitors were barking as their handlers held onto their collars before releasing them to start the course.

An additional behaviour of the dog is that of **territorial marking**. Through scent, dogs can understand who or what has been in the environment. Furthermore, when an animal is, for example, angry or frightened, hormones are secreted and a dog can 'read' these signals. "If reading scents is, for dogs, the equivalent of reading a written message, then the canine equivalent of ink is urine."¹³ As dog owners we typically see our dog sniffing objects like lamp posts or trees to 'read' who has recently passed by, he will then 'graffiti' over that scent with his own, to put his mark on that spot. Territorial marking is also seen in the wild, "in order to survive, each pack [wolves] must stake and defend its territory by defecating or urinating at strategic boundary points."¹⁴ Wolves may also mark with urine and faeces certain pathways which are important to them, creating a sort of map of their area. Interestingly, within this natural behaviour of territorial marking, male dogs will also try to mark vertical surfaces. Having the scent above the ground enables the air to carry it much further. Height dominance and size is important to dogs, so particularly with males (and some females) they have developed the habit of lifting their leg when they urinate so they can aim higher. Some wild dogs are known to produce extremely high urine marks by running directly towards a tree, then leaping when they are near the base of the tree and turning so their hind legs are almost walking up the tree. As they do this somersault they urinate up the tree. Scent marking in this acrobatic style communicates to other dogs that there is a particularly large and dominant dog in the area.¹⁵

Specific natural behaviours of the wild canine were noted by our ancestors, leading to the domestication of dog. But this relationship was mutually beneficial; man could take advantage of the dog's exceptional hunting skills of flushing out and if necessary killing the prey, and at night man provided dog with warmth of the fire and discarded scraps of food.

¹² Book: Lindsay, Steven R (2001) *Handbook of applied dog behaviour and training*, Blackwell Publishing, Volume 2, chapter 7, page 220.

¹³ Book: Coren, Stanley (2000) *How to speak dog*, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, chapter 16, page 250.

¹⁴ Book: Fisher, John (2001) *Think Dog*, Cassell & Co, chapter 1, page 10.

¹⁵ Book: Coren, Stanley (2000) *How to speak dog*, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, chapter 16, page 251.

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The dog was also the first line of defense, a sort of ancient 'alarm system', warning off attackers and predators alike, alerting the humans to any approaches to the camp. Although it is difficult to pin point the exact moment in time when man first domesticated dog, studies of archeological sites in China (the Zhoukoudian site) found skeletal remains of wolves amongst the human encampments dating from 200,000 to 500,000 years ago.¹⁶ Though the dog's primary role was probably utilitarian when man and dog first came together, strong bonds of affection were forged. This was illustrated dramatically at the Natufian site of Ein Mallaha in Israel, where archeologists found the well-preserved remains of an elderly man with his hand resting protectively on the head of a four to five month old puppy lying closely by his side, dating back approximately 12,000 years. (See Appendix; figure. 1)¹⁷ In pagan burial the positioning of items plays an important role in illustrating the significance of these items to the person being buried or its use in the next life. In the illustration we can see that the puppy is positioned near the head of the skeleton, which denotes the importance this dog had to this man.

Today, in our modern society humans continue to put to use a number of dog's natural behaviours, and over the hundreds of years man has developed specific breeds to enhance behavioural traits to satisfy his own purpose. Dogs bred for particular purposes were neatly classified into specific groups with the foundation of The Kennel Club in 1873. Currently, The Kennel Club recognises 209 breeds¹⁸ which are divided into seven breed groups, these are; the Hound group, Gundog group, Terrier group, Utility group, Working group, Pastoral group and the Toy group.

Many of the most popular breeds today were traditionally bred to help man in hunting. Breeds such as Labradors and Retrievers were used to gather game in the fields, where as Cocker Spaniels flushed out and retrieved game; and Pointers and Setters roamed over the fields helping to seek out birds and rabbits. **Hunting and shooting** is no longer a necessity for man's survival, however, it remains a popular sport and many dogs are still worked in this capacity and in field trials. The dog's natural **sniffing** and **tracking** ability helps in the finding and recovery of the prey.

The dog's natural ability to sniff and track scents are put to use by man in **police work**. Breeds such as Springer Spaniels are typically used in explosive or drug searches and regularly seen at places which are highly sensitive to such unwanted activity such as airports. Dogs are also used in arson cases, using their scenting ability to sniff out traces of gas or other flammable liquids.¹⁹ In recognition of the work police dogs do and the danger they face, a growing number of forces in the United States of America are outfitting police dogs with bulletproof vests.

¹⁶ Book: Lindsay, Steven R (2000) *Handbook of Applied Dog Behaviour and Training*, Blackwell Publishing, Volume 1, chapter 1, page 5.

¹⁷ Journal: report from *Nature* (7th December 1978), Evidence for domestication of the dog, Macmillan Journals Ltd, volume 276, number 5688, page 608-610.

¹⁸ Internet: The Kennel Club, (last updated 2nd August 2006), search under tab Pedigree dog types and Breed Standard, website www.thekennelclub.org.uk

¹⁹ Internet: Illinois Police Work Dog Association, "Arson Dogs", FAQs. Website address <http://www.ilpwda.com/faqs.htm>

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Furthermore, if a police dog killed in the line of duty it is traditionally given a full police funeral or burial just as they would for a human officer.²⁰

Dogs used in **search and rescue** are classified as airscenting, tracking or trailing according to SAR-DOG (Search and Rescue Dog Information & Resources).²¹ Dogs that use airscent to track rely on scent deposited on the ground by the individual, these dogs are typically German Shepherds and Border Collies. Airscent dogs will be used in areas of wilderness to track the places where the missing individual may be or likely to have passed. Where as tracking and trailing dogs are usually scent discriminating and need to have an uncontaminated scent article from the individual in order to follow the individual's path. **Disaster dogs** will help to locate victims of catastrophic events such as earthquakes, avalanches and building collapses. Such work was seen following the tragic collapse of the World Trade Centre's twin towers in New York on 11th September 2001. Within six hours of the disaster 250 search and rescue dogs were on the scene to help find missing persons amongst the rubble with their handlers. The dogs climbed and were carried by cranes to search areas considered too dangerous for humans. (Images of these dogs at work are included in the Appendix). According to Rick Lee and Rusty Gross, two firefighters from Sacramento involved in the rescue and recovery of the 9/11 victims, the dogs played a dual role; "As well as finding victims, they [the dogs] comforted the guys working here. Our team mates were constantly around the dogs."²²

The police force and rescue organizations also take advantage of the dog's natural ability to scent trail through air and along the ground, to locate deceased victims. Breeds typically used as **cadaver dogs** include German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Bloodhounds. A cadaver dog is trained to locate entire bodies including those buried or submerged, decomposed bodies, body fragments such as hair and bones, or skeletal remains.

Some dog owners have also claimed that their dog's natural scenting ability has alerted them to life-threatening tumours. One such case was that of a Border Collie cross Doberman in 1989 in the United States of America. The dog persistently sniffed at a mole on the leg of her owner, which made the 44 year old female owner suspicious. The mole was removed and found to be cancerous. Such stories led to an experiment in 2003 at Amersham Hospital in Buckinghamshire, to test the theory of whether **dogs can sniff out cancer?** The team of scientific researchers was led by Carolyn Willis, who headed up a seven month trial in which six dogs were trained to identify the smell of urine from patients with bladder cancer.

²⁰ Internet: Osterhelweg L, "Cadaver dogs – A study on detection of contaminated carpet squares", *Forensic Science International*, Volume 174, Issue 1, 15th January 2008, page 35. Website address www.sciencedirect.com

²¹ Internet: SAR-DOG, home page information "Types". Website address www.sardog.org

²² Internet: Sourced from online ITN video interview with two Sacramento fire fighters Rick Lee and Rusty Gross, working on the Twin Towers disaster site. Website address <http://www.blinkx.com/video/usa-rescue-dogs-who-participated-in-9-11-recovery-effort-visit-ground-zero-for-the-fifth-anniversary-of-the-september-11-attacks/yqVIFqJHCPQaEIQJoBseng>

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“Tumours produce volatile organic compounds which are released into the atmosphere through breath and sweat...these are likely to have distinctive odours...they could be detectable by dogs with their exceptional olfactory acuity.”²³ The dogs were tested to see if they could select the one cancer sample out of seven samples given. According to Willis the dogs chose the correct sample by lying down next to it, on 22 out of 54 times. Although this was a low success rate of 41 per cent (which the Telegraph newspaper alleged could be down to inadequate training)²⁴, what the six dogs did spot, was cancer in the urine of a man who was thought to be cancer-free who’s sample was used as one of the controls. Further tests on this man found he had a kidney tumour. Such findings may mean that scientists look towards our four-legged friends for assistance in medical research.

The dog’s natural hunting ability follows the sequence of eye, stalk, chase, inhibit and bite. Man has put to use domestic dog’s **chasing** and herding instinct in the name of sport. **Greyhound racing** is a popular spectator sport which uses this chasing ability in the dog, as a mechanical ‘rabbit’ is released at high speed around a circuit track. Greyhounds chase the rabbit and individuals gamble on the likely winner having studied the dog’s form. Perhaps the most famous sporting greyhound is that of “Mick the Miller”, who won 46 of his 61 races between 1928 and 1931. After Mick passed away he was stuffed, mounted and put on display in the Natural History Museum in London until 1995, when he was moved to and remains at the Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum in Tring, Hertfordshire²⁵. The dog’s natural **herding** ability and predatory actions are put to use in a working capacity by farmers to assist in the movement of sheep, cattle and the like, these are referred to as **herding dogs**. These dogs tend to be small to intermediate in size and dark in color with prick (upright) or semi-prick ears. A typical breed used as a herding dog is the Border Collie. Such working dogs are also used in **sporting field and sheep dog trials**. Field trials, working and spring pointing tests are held during the shooting season (August to end of January) and consist of 12 competitors and their individual gun dogs. The aim of the trials is to replicate the work a dog and handler would do if they were on a shoot, for example hunting, pointing and retrieving game.²⁶

Sheep dog trials are a popular worldwide sport too, and the BBC even dedicated a show to the sport called “One Man And His Dog” which ran for 23 years. Although the show was cancelled in 1999, new digital channel Horse and Country television regularly broadcast National and International sheep dog trials, and in 2009, Wales will be hosting the World Sheepdog Trials.

²³ Internet: Boseley, Sarah, *The Guardian*, *Study finds dogs can smell cancer*, 24th September 2004. Website address <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2004/sep/24/medicineandhealth.lifeandhealth1>

²⁴ Internet: Neve, Clare, *Telegraph.co.uk*, “What’s up, dog? Another top diagnosis”, 10th November 2004. Website address <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/digitalife/main.jhtml?xml=connected/2004/11/10/ecrdog10.xml>

²⁵ Information taken from a personal visit to the Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum in Tring on 21st June 2008. Mick the Miller is exhibited in the household dog’s section. According to statistics from the museum this section is visited by over 60,000 people a year.

²⁶ Internet: Blakes, Alice, *Working hunt point and retrieve info page*, “What happens at field trials”. Website address <http://www.scottishmunsters.co.uk/fieldtrial.html>

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Such an event has attracted high profile sponsors from car manufacturer Landrover to supermarket giant Tesco and even the Welsh Assembly Government!²⁷ Other popular non-hunting sports which man and dog have come together include **fly ball** and **agility**. I believe that the attack and defense moves and chase games a dog learns as a puppy from its litter mates comes into use within these sports as the dog has to use speed, movement and thought to navigate the course and achieve the end goal. Both fly ball and agility are relatively young sports; the former being established in late 1960's in California, and the latter being the brain child of John Varley, a committee member of Crufts who was tasked with coming up with entertainment for the audience between the obedience and conformation competitions in the main ring for the 1978 Crufts dog show.²⁸ Channelling the instinctive behaviours of tracking, chasing and searching/sniffing in the dog through play, toys and reward is important otherwise these natural behaviours may lead to unwanted behaviours such as chasing cars or joggers. How to correct such behaviours requires an analysis of what is causing the problem – is it for fun or is there a predatory or killing intent? Once the drive for this behaviour is determined then this instinct can be redirected for fun chasers into ball play, or where the problem has predatory intent then increased control, training and possibly sound aversion therapy is needed.²⁹

Earlier, I discussed the dog's natural behaviour of barking particularly as a means to alert the pack to danger and to counter the intruder's advances. Man puts this natural behaviour to use by having dogs to act as either a watch dog or a guard dog. Both guard dogs and watch dogs bark to alert their owners of an intruder's presence, be that of unexpected animals or people. **Watch dogs** will literally watch over the owner's property or livestock such as sheep, and bark as a means of alerting the owner to any potential threat. Many breeds of dog bark a lot and this is caused by selection and learning. While alarm barking is highly valued by most dog owners, it may represent a nuisance to neighbours.³⁰ Where a herding dog will move the flock around, a sheep dog otherwise known as a **livestock guardian dog (LGD)** protects the animals from predators such as wolves. "Livestock guarding dogs are probably among the oldest of the working dogs."³¹ The origins of LGDs can be tracked back nearly 6,000 years to the upland region of present-day Turkey, Iraq and Syria. LGDs tend to be large (25 inches or more at the withers) and have drop ears. Large dogs are present in 13th BC illustrations recovered from the ruins of Babylon and domestic dogs and sheep first appear together in archaeological sites dated 3,585 BC.³² Early Greek and Roman writers, such as Marcus Terentius Varro and Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella, describe two kinds of large guard dogs already commonly seen in Greece (Epirus) and Italy; a dark dog and a white dog.

²⁷ Internet: Forgrave, Andrew, *The Daily Post*, "Wales is ready for sheepdog world cup", 3rd January 2008 Website address <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/farming-north-wales/farming-news/2008/01/03/wales-is-ready-for-sheepdog-world-cup-55578-20307411/>

²⁸ Internet: Wikipedia online encyclopedia, "History of Dog Agility", taken from the article *An Introduction to Agility*, 1998, ESAA October newsletter. Website address http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_dog_agility.

²⁹ Book: Fisher, John (1991) *Why Does My Dog...? Souvenir Press*, chapter C, page 97.

³⁰ Book: Lindsay, Steven R. (2001) *Handbook of Applied Dog Behaviour and Training, Volume 2*, chapter 7, page 220.

³¹ Book: Coppinger, Raymond and Lorna (2004), *Dogs, Crosskeys Select Books*, chapter 4, page 102.

³² Rigg, Robin (2001), *Livestock guarding dogs: their current use world wide*, *The Canid Specialist Group*, section 'Basics', page 7.

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Dark coloured dogs were used to protect home and property from night-time intruders, and the white "shepherd's dogs" were used for guarding sheep. The colour of the dogs did serve a purpose; dark dogs were better able to surprise night-time intruders, while white dogs bedded down with the sheep were a surprise to predators but were easily distinguished by the shepherd from the darker colored wolves and bears.³³ Old world LGD breeds include the Armenian Gampr, the Tibetan Mastiff, the Polish Tatra sheepdog and the Caucasian Ovcharka.³⁴

Guard dogs act in a similar way to LGDs in that they will bark to alert its owners to the presence of intruders and act in a threatening manner. But, guard dogs can also be trained to attack or restrain an intruder with the owner's guidance. Home owners as well as businesses often use dogs to aid in the protection of their property because of the dog's acute sense of smell, hearing and speed, and its natural barking and guarding instinct. This is underlined by Bruce Fogle who writes "protective aggression can be a good thing...a dog hears a noise outside and barks. It's a natural behaviour".³⁵ Companies like Anglo American, a global mining business, even run their own in-house guard dog breeding and training scheme, using their dogs to protect its platinum and diamond sites in countries like South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, from potential thieves.³⁶ Guard dogs tend to be large, strong and impressive looking, typical guard dog breeds include the Doberman Pinscher, the Rottweiler, German Shepherds and the Bullmastiff. When guard dogs attack they have the ability to cause serious injury, but they can also be gentle, loving family pets when properly socialised and trained.

The role of pets, in particular dogs to aid human health is now widely acknowledged amongst doctors, scientists and psychologists alike. **Assistance dogs** play a vital role in the care of the disabled. The dog's ability to retrieve and tug (hunting behaviour), nudge and paw (behaviour originating from the puppy promoting regurgitation from the dam and the nudging of the mother's teats after birth) and barking, means assistance dogs can help perform tasks that would render their partner almost impossible. Assistance dogs through training will learn tasks such as assisting in loading clothes into a washer, helping to remove shoes, switching lights on and off, and bringing the owners cane or walker to them.³⁷

³³ Internet: Taylor, Tamara (1995) *Dairy Goat Journal*, article "Predators!", *Livestock guarding breeds*, magazine article reproduced online. Website address <http://people.unt.edu/~tt0002/livest.htm>

³⁴ Internet: Livestock Guardian Dogs Association, "Rarebreeds". Website address <http://www.lgd.org/rarebreeds.html>

³⁵ Book: Fogle, Bruce (1990), *The Dog's Mind*, Pelham Books, chapter 9, page 125.

³⁶ Source: Anglo American South Africa office.

³⁷ Internet: Charendoff, Meg, *Dogs that make a difference*, *Dog Central*, 7th May 2007. Website address <http://dogcentral.msn.com/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4935942>

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Research scientist Faith Fitzgerald, from the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento states, “[Dogs] have an important role to play as helpers to the handicapped...they may alleviate depression, solace the lonely, facilitate psychotherapy, socialise criminals, lower blood pressure, increase survivorship from myocardial infarction [heart attack] and ease the social pain of aging in our society.”³⁸ Humans are even using dogs to help encourage young children to read. These dogs are called Reading Education Assistance Dogs; this scheme is relatively new in the United Kingdom, having first been established in the United States of America. Research with therapy animals has shown that children are often more willing to interact with an animal than a person.³⁹

In summary, humans have exaggerated the natural behaviours of dog from hunting and stalking, scenting and tracking to barking and chasing for our own means; be that for entertainment and sport, our protection, in search and rescue, solving crimes, and assistance in research. They also provide social contact and aid recovery for the disabled and sick. However, the dog also has an important other role, that of companion. The unconditional love and friendship given by pets to humans is one of the most rewarding. As our lives become ever more complicated by politics, financial crisis, gadgets and wizardry, there is little doubt there is any substitute that can fulfill the valuable role dogs play in our lives.

³⁸ Journal: Fitzgerald, Faith .T, *The Therapeutic Value of Pets*, West J Med, January 1986, Volume 144, chapter 1, page 103.

³⁹ Vicary, Rachael, *Your Dog Magazine, Teacher's pet*, page 91, July 2008 issue.

Appendix

Image from Journal article "Evidence for domestication of dog 12,000 years ago in the Natufian of Israel" (Article from Nature, Volume 276, No. 5688, pp.608, 7th December 1978).

Fig.1



Fig. 1 Tomb H. 104 at Mallaha, showing the human skeleton and puppy.

Appendix cont.

Images numbered 1-4, of the search and rescue dogs deployed at the Ground Zero site – collapse of the World Trade Centre, New York on 11th September 2001, six hours after the attack. Images sourced from the Canine Search and Rescue Tribute webpage part of the Connecticut Legal Guide. Website address <http://www.ctlegalguide.com/SlideShow/canintribute.htm>

No.1



No.2



No.3



No.4

