

Grades 6-8**Nova, "Dog Tales"**

Dogs have long been dependable companions by our sides, but it wasn't always that way-and a look at their closest living relative, the wolf, makes it clear why. Researchers reveal how humans tamed fearsome canines over tens of thousands of years, and how modern dog intelligence and behaviors have made them indispensable companions.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is the author trying to say through the episode? What from the text makes you believe this?
- How were dogs trained over the years?
- In what ways have dogs become indispensable companions?
- What genetic material do dogs possess that makes them bond with others?
- How are dogs different and/or the same as wolves?
- Why is it important to study how humans tamed dogs?
- Are certain dogs more prone to bonding than others?

Question Box 2

- Do you have a dog? How do you know your dog has bonded with you?
- What was one section of the episode that stood out for you and why?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- Did this episode make you feel differently about dogs? How?
- Would you have a wolf as a pet? Why or why not?
- How do you know a dog is intelligent?
- When should children have a dog for a pet? Is there a certain age that is better than another?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- The average yearly cost of owning a dog ranges anywhere from \$1,500 to \$9,900. Why do you think such a span exists? Justify your reasoning using mathematics.
- Forbes Magazine states that small dogs have an average life span of 15 years and cost \$15,051 over their life span. Middle sized dogs have an average life span of 13 years and cost \$15,732 over their lifespan. Large breed dogs have an average life of 10 years and cost \$14,480 over their lifetime. Justify to your parents what type of dog you should get. Use mathematics to justify your reasoning.
- Research and describe in a PowerPoint, infographic or other presentation, how humans

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domesticated dogs.

- Make a timeline of the domestication of dogs.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Illustrate/Describe with evidence, what dog breeds are most closely associated with wolves.
- Describe with evidence, what is meant by new evidence that suggests that dog domestication may have happened twice.
- Describe the domestication of other animals that humans keep as pets. How does a wild horse get tamed? What about wild animals such as tigers or chimpanzees?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Dogs are trained to do many things from tricks, tasks, and support. Trained service animals are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act while emotional support and therapy dogs are not. Watch this video to learn more about the differences: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C459sQwrAo>
- Social –Emotional Connection: We can practice mindfulness with animals and pets. Here are some things you can do to practice mindfulness with animals.
 - Observe an animal mindfully. What do they look like? What colors or patterns do they have on their skin, coat, or feathers?
 - Does this animal make vocalizations, or are they quiet? Can you hear any sounds as they move?
 - If it's safe/ permitted to touch the animal, what do they feel like (i.e., soft, scaly, smooth, fluffy, silky)?
 - Look into the animal's eyes if you can. NOTE: Some animals consider staring a sign of aggression, so focus on looking at them kindly, smiling with your eyes, and blinking softly and slowly.
 - If you're doing an activity together (i.e., walking a dog, riding a horse), mindfully observe your physical bodies as you move. What can you notice about how you move together?