Historical review about dogs in Sudan

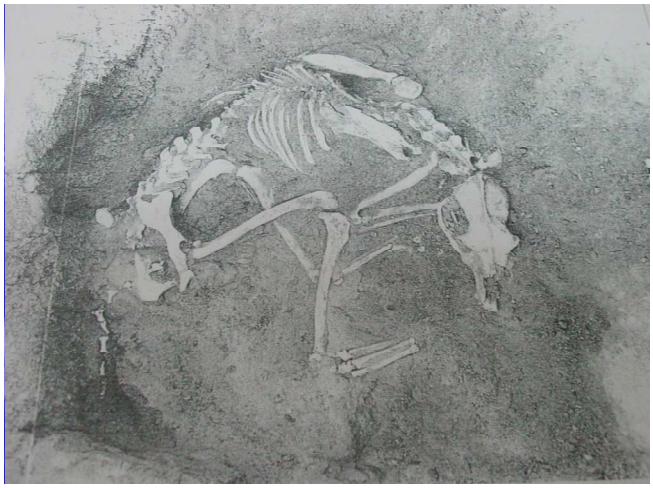
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Dogs are the first domesticated animal. The dog which is known as "man's best friend ", is common place throughout the world. This is not true only today; but it has also been true throughout the history of man. If we try to search for cultures without dogs since prehistoric times, we come up empty handed, with the earliest breeds coming from the Middle east, Africa and Asia (Thorpe- Vargus, Colie, *et al* 1998).

Early man needed the canine's speed, power skills and intelligence to help as he hunted. As man migrated throughout the world, their dogs migrated with them; as they demonstrate desirable traits or skills (Zahosky, 1997). In other words man and dog are shared this intimate friendship for very long time

During the Egyptian old civilization, dogs had a great importance in their social activities and religious believes. They appear clearly in the archaeological discoveries during the past century especially the ancient mummies of dogs which are found the cemeteries of kings. This

phenomenon was also found during the old civilization of morwe in Sudan. It appears continuously for more than five thousand years during the historical development stages of the old Sudanese civilization. A Swiss archaeological mission found many dogs mummified with the kings and nobles in pyramids in Kerma historical location Northren Sudan and it was suspected that it was from 3000 BC. Also in Musawarat 180 kilometres north of Khartoum and 30 kilometres far from the river Nile there were many sculptures of dogs with the kings of the later merowitec kingdom 275- 350 BC. At that time Egyptian and Sudanese kings and nobles used dogs in hunting especially the Saluki dog which is shown as the Egyptian royal canine in Egyptian tombs circa 2000 BC. Many Saluky type dogs were mummified with their masters, the pharaohs, whose remains have been found in the ancient tombs of the upper Nile (ACK, 2000).



Types of dog breeds

The American kennel club (AKC) recognized 148 different breeds

of dogs. A breed is defined as “a relatively homogenous group of animals within the species developed and maintained by man (AKC,2000)”. Of course all mammals but especially dogs display the greatest genetic variety (Mc Ciag, 1996).

Even though there is enormous variation among dogs they all belong to the same species *canis familiaris* . This determination is made because all dogs are able to interbreed and produce fertile offspring and this satisfies the biological species concept (Mayr, 1982).

With biotechnological techniques available today including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and gel electrophoresis, the variations could not only be studied at the level of morphological features, but they can be studied at the DNA and gene level as well, following the lead of the human genome project.

Types of dog breeds in Sudan

Most of the dog breeds found in Sudan have been studied by European researchers or by fancy travellers. The famous breeds found in the Sudan are the following:

The Saluki dogs



The Saluki is undoubtedly the oldest known breed of the domestic dog. It has been found on the entire coast of north Africa deep in the Sahara, the Sudan Egypt and all of the near east, breed type varying only in size and amount of hair coat. The North African dog has a smoother coat and is a slightly coarser in type and bone. The Arabian strain is finer while the Persian gazelle hounds are longer, stronger and have more profuse furnishings.

The Saluki has a slim body with long silky feathering on the ears and tail (there is also a rarer smooth variety with no feathering the smooth coat is generally a bit coarser feathered than the other variety's silky skin). Ears are pendent. The long curved tail is carried low. The neck is long and flexible, and looks elegant. The legs are thickly haired between the toes for protection from rough terrain. It comes in many colours white, cream, fawn, golden, red, grey, fiery red and tricolour.

The Saluki's purpose in life has always been as a sight hunter. He must be able to sight, flush and kill his game and patiently wait by his prey for his master to retrieve it. The saluki is a brilliant desert sight hunter

capable of incredible speed and agility over rough terrain. He has also been used to hunt fox, jackal and hare. It is a sensitive and friendly dog, good with gentle older children, very independent, good watch dog, though not aggressive, graceful and elegant.

The Basenji dog



The Basenji is a very ancient breed; similar to the dogs pictured on the walls of pharaoh's tombs in Egypt. Explorers later discovered the breed in Democratic Congo (Zaire), hunting wild game for his native masters. The first time European people knew about Basenji was in London 1895 when a brace of the dog was exhibited as an African bush dog or Congo terriers but they contracted distemper shortly afterward and died. Then many efforts were made to import other Basenji but they kept dying from the disease till 1938 when Tudor Williams imported a black, and white bitch from the Sudan. However this bitch died from rabies soon after her arrival. The next year Tudor Williams imported a black tan and white dog and a red and white bitch from the Sudan- Uganda border; the dog, Simolo of the Congo did

not make a great impact on the breed; the bitch was not typical and was never bred. In 1941 Tudor Williams acquired Amatangazig a native bitch brought to England from the Sudan by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Byron. She became foundation bitch for Tudor Williams's kennel of the Congo. Another dog was imported in 1952 from the Southern Sudan. He was acquired near a town Tembura, in the border of the Sudan and French Equatorial Africa about 200 miles from Meridi, where lady Nutting's basenjis were found in 1923 (Tudor Williams 2nd, 1932). The last native import into England was Fula of the Congo, discovered during Tudor William's last visit ot the Zande country in 1959 (AKC, 2000).

The Basenji dog described as a small elegant athletic dog about the size of the fox terriers, with a smooth shiny coat of copper, red, black and tan, black or brindle standard have white feet and white on the chest and tip of the tail. The back is level, the legs are long and the fore head is furrowed with wrinkles. The ear was bricked and the tail curls up over and slightly to either side of the back.

The Basenji is very alert, active playful and demanding. Highly independent and somewhat aloof, but can also form a strong bond with people. It Should be extensively socialized, and it can be quite willful, but also it can be trained. It doesn't bark but does have a lot of other

unusual vocalization. It may yodel, howl, growl or crow, depending on his mood. Avery clean dog, the Basenji grooms himself like a cat, washing his face paws after meals. The coat doesn't smell, even when it is wet (AKC, 2000).

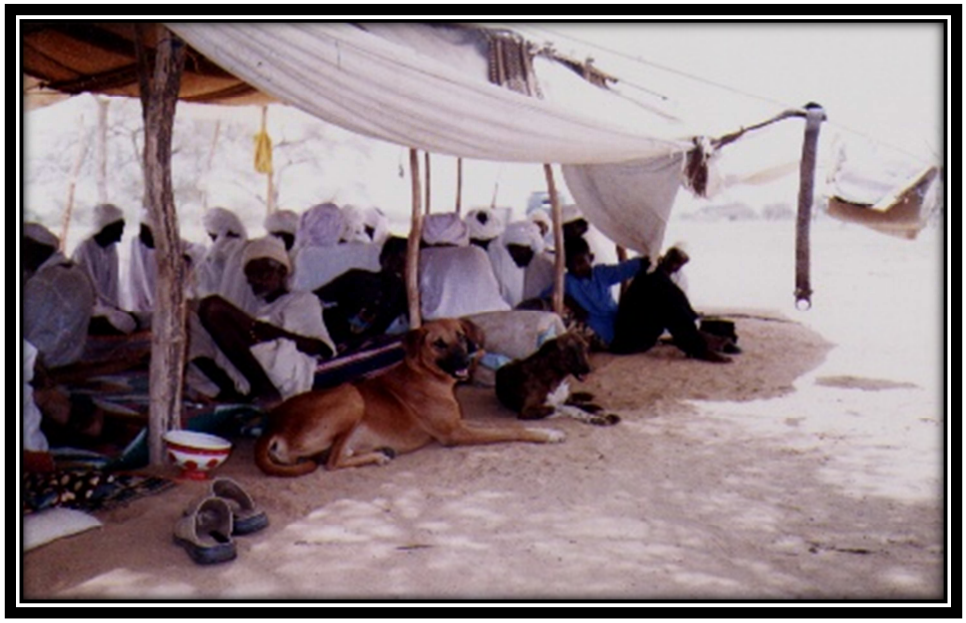
Unfortunately most of studies about these breeds were done outside the Sudan. The present study is attempt to survey for the local breeds of dogs according to the definition of the American Kennel club, 2000. and to evaluate also the trainability of those dogs to work as police dogs in the field of narcotic detection.

This study is targeting the dogs in four areas:-

1- **The Kababeesh tribe's area in North Kurdufan state (North west of the Sudan).**
2- **Umbararu tribes area in the Blue Nile state (east south of Sudan).**

3- The River Nile area northern Sudan

4- The Gadarif state eastern Sudan



The kababeesh Dogs with their owner



The River Nile Dogs



The Blue Nile Dogs

The choice of the first two tribal study areas above was due to the fact that both tribes are herding animals and they depend on dogs very much in herding and guarding their animals. Kababeesh tribes use their dogs to herd camels and sheep whereas the Umbararu tribes use them for herding cattle. They have their traditional breeding and training principles, they isolate the bitch from other dogs during the oestrus and they choose a specific dog for mating according to its traits and performance on herding skills, dominance and fertility. They forge a strong relationship between the dogs and the animals to be herded by them when they are on early stage of life (three months of age). They feed them the milk of one ewe in the flock training the dog to become a sheep herding dog or they may tie the dog on the back of one camel for three months or more when they are planning to make the dog a camel herding dogs.

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