



All the living members of the dog family **are descended from** a wolf-like creature called *tomarctus*. This **ancient canine**, called “the father of dogs”, roamed the Earth’s forests perhaps 15 000 000 years ago.

The characteristics and habits of the wild dogs are all shared by the domestic dog. **Domestic dogs** are brothers under the skin to wolves, coyotes and jackals – the typical wild dogs. All belong to the branch of the dog family called *Canis*. A long time

ago early man **tamed** a few wild dogs. These dogs may have been **wolf cubs**, jackals or some other member of the wild dog family. People found that these animals could be useful. They used them to help catch other animals and birds for food and clothing.