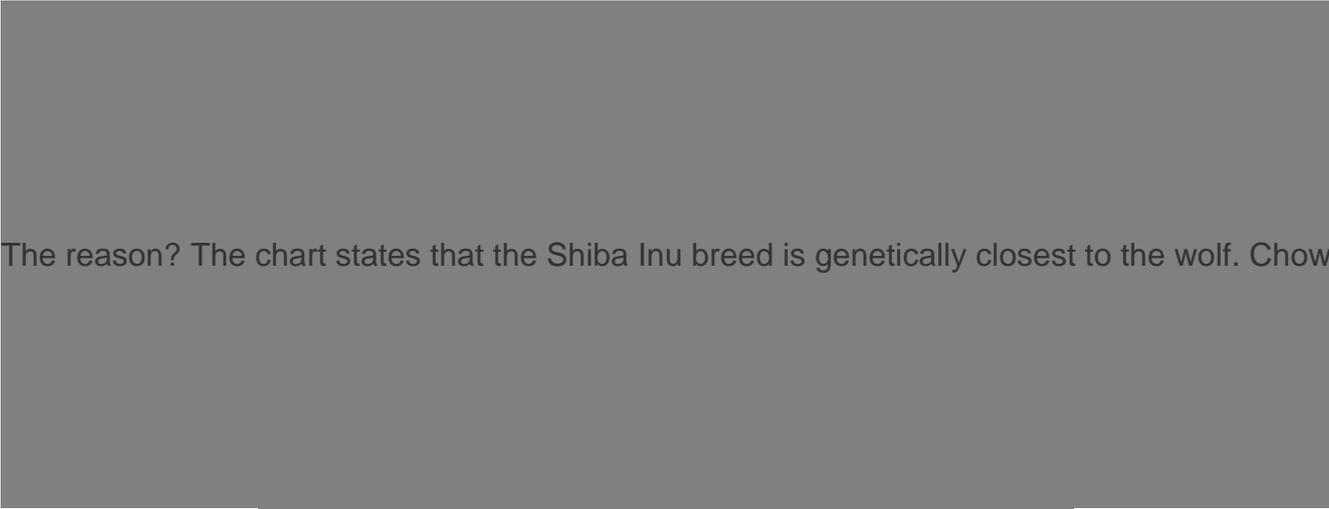


National Geographic – Shiba Inu is Most Wolflike

In their February 2014 issue, National Geographic (NatGeo? Not a fan of the new name) published an article about [how we came to have so](#)

[many different dog breeds](#) and what we can learn from their genetics. Included in the article is this chart that generated quite a buzz in the Shiba

Inu community.

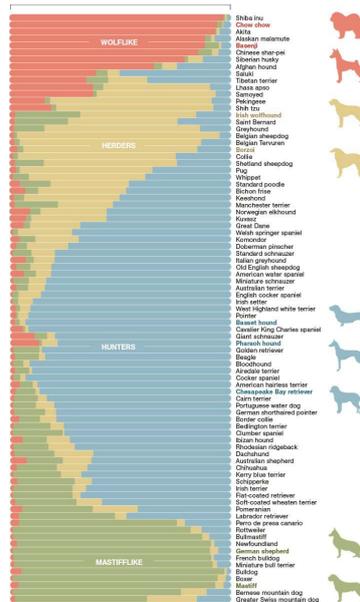


The reason? The chart states that the Shiba Inu breed is genetically closest to the wolf. Chow

Chow and Akita came in second and third, Malamute 4th.

Analyzing the DNA of 85 dog breeds, scientists found that genetic similarities clustered them into four broad categories. The groupings reveal how breeders have recombined ancestral stock to create new breeds; a few still carry many wolflike genes. Researchers named the groups for a distinguishing trait in the breeds dominating the clusters, though not every dog necessarily shows that trait.

The length of the colored bars in a breed's genetic profile show show much of the dog's DNA falls into each category.



WOLFLIKE

With roots in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, these breeds are genetically closest to wolves, suggesting they are the oldest domesticated breeds.

HERDERS

Familiar herding breeds such as the Shetland sheepdog are joined by breeds never known for herding: the greyhound, pug, and borzoi. This suggests those breeds either were used in the creation of classic herding dogs or descended from them.

HUNTERS

Most in this group were developed in recent centuries as hunting dogs. While the pharaoh hound and Ibizan hound are said to descend from dogs seen on ancient Egyptian tombs, their placement here suggests they are re-creations bred to resemble ancient breeds.

MASTIFFLIKE

The German shepherd's appearance in this cluster, anchored by the mastiff, bulldog, and boxer, likely reflects its breeding as a military and police dog.

JOHN TOMANIO, LAWSON PARKER, NGM STAFF

SOURCE: HEIDI G. PARKER, NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH