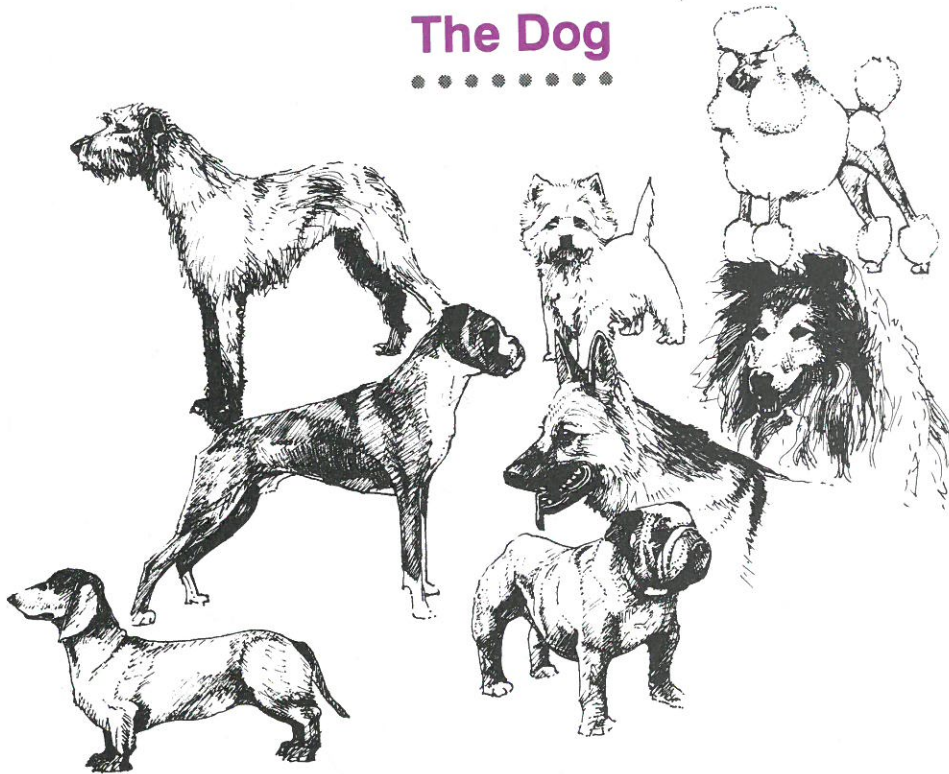


Unit F

The Dog



Dogs lived on Earth long before people. Wild dogs hunted in forests. Some of these wild dogs were tamed by humans. Cave paintings, made during the Stone Age, show that dogs helped people during the Stone Age. They helped people with hunting, herding and guarding. We call these dogs which were tamed domestic dogs.

Today there are more than 130 breeds or types of domestic dogs. Many of these are kept as pets by their owners. Others are trained to do difficult jobs. Some dogs herd sheep. Some dogs guard property. Other jobs include guiding the blind, pulling sledges and racing. Many dogs are trained by the police and the army to find people who are trapped or in hiding.

The dog can see well during the day, but not very well at night. Its hearing is sharp. The dog's ears can turn to find where a sound is coming from. The dog has a very good sense of smell. On each paw the dog has four claws. The tough pads on each paw help it to grip well while running. The dog's coat of fur keeps it warm and dry. When a dog becomes hot, it opens its mouth and pants to give off heat and cool down.

The dog is related to both the fox and the wolf.