



# Chapter 1 – Characteristics of Dogs

---

## Academic Summary

This chapter introduces the biological and historical foundations of the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*). It examines mammalian traits, skeletal structure, dentition, reproductive characteristics, and evolutionary origins. The chapter traces canine domestication from early wolf ancestors through selective breeding, highlighting the functional relationship between structure, survival, and human partnership.

## Core Learning Objectives

- Explain the biological classification of the domestic dog.
- Describe key anatomical characteristics of mammals and carnivores.
- Summarize major theories of canine domestication.
- Identify structural features that distinguish dogs from other mammals.

## Key Vocabulary

- *Canis familiaris*
- Carnivore vs. Omnivore
- Carnassial teeth
- Vertebrae
- Whelping
- Dam and Sire
- Gestation
- Domestication

## Conceptual Frameworks

- Scientific Classification Model (Kingdom to Species)
- Evolutionary Adaptation Theory
- Structure–Function Relationship in Biology
- Domestication and Selective Breeding Model