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Dog's Multiverse is an independent popular science cynological magazine dedicated to the world of dogs in all its directions: from science and history to the practical experience of breeders, owners, and specialists.

Dog's Multiverse combines a scientific approach, practical experience, and love for dogs, creating a space for everyone interested in cynology.

The pages of the magazine publish materials about dog breeds, genetics, anatomy, physiology, breeding, and modern cynology. Special attention is given to historical topics — the development of cynology, the first dog shows, the formation of breeds, and the role of the dog in human life during different historical periods.

The magazine also covers current modern topics: hero dogs at the front, the work of service dogs, issues of adaptation, training, keeping, and welfare of dogs in the modern world.

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Two Wars — Two Dogs — One Hope

War changes cities, human destinies, and even the very perception of time. But there is something that does not change even among ruins, sirens, and the dust of destroyed buildings — a dog's devotion to humans.

In different centuries, under different skies, dogs again and again stood beside people where fear and death prevailed.

In 1940, burning London trembled under air raids during the Second World War. Houses turned into stone traps, and beneath the rubble remained people waiting to be rescued. It was then that a small terrier named Rip appeared amid the chaos.



He had no special training. No one taught him to search for people under debris. But the dog seemed to feel human suffering. Rip would stop among the ruins, sniff the air, freeze for a moment — and begin giving a signal.

Rescuers followed him and again and again found survivors. Together with his handler King, the little terrier saved 107 lives, including 30 children. But one story remained forever in people's memory. During another search operation, Rip suddenly disappeared into a narrow gap between concrete slabs. Minutes passed, and the rescuers were already afraid that the dog would not return. But soon he appeared again — pulling a bundle of bed linen in his teeth. Inside was an infant. The child and its mother were rescued. And after the war ended, that very family took Rip home with them.



For his devotion, the dog received the Dickin Medal — one of the highest awards for animals. But for people, he became far more than simply a decorated dog. He became a symbol of hope among the ruins of war.

More than eighty years passed. History seemed to repeat itself — this time in Ukraine. During Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, among the destroyed buildings of Kharkiv, a rescue service dog named Mriia began her work. She became the first dog in Ukraine who, during the large-scale war, found a living person beneath rubble after an enemy strike. Before the war, Mriia had been trained to search for missing people in forests and hard-to-reach areas. But the war changed everything. Her skills had to be adapted to a new reality — the ruins of residential buildings, devastated neighborhoods, and critical infrastructure. Among dust, concrete, and the smell of smoke, she searched for those who still had a chance to survive.



Together with her handler Oleksandra, she worked in extremely dangerous conditions. During one mission, they came under a repeated Russian attack, but they did not leave the search site and continued the rescue operation. It was for the lives she helped save that Mriia received the honorary title “Hero Dog of Ukraine.”



For many Ukrainians, Mriia became a symbol of endurance, devotion, and quiet courage. She does not know what war, politics, or hatred are. She simply searches for people. She searches as long as there is even the slightest chance of finding life beneath the rubble.

Dogs go where people almost lose hope. And sometimes it is a dog's heart that finds life amid the silence of a destroyed world.

Between the small terrier from ruined London of the 1940s and the Ukrainian service dog from Kharkiv lie decades of history, different countries, and different wars. But they are united by the most important thing — unconditional devotion to humans.





The First Steps of the Cynological Service: How Kyiv Became the Cradle of Police Cynology

Valeriia Efendiieva

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Kyiv was rapidly changing. The great city was growing, and along with it crime was increasing as well. The police could no longer cope using old methods, and the solving of serious crimes often depended not on evidence, but on chance. It was precisely then that a new system of criminal investigation began to emerge in Kyiv — modern, technical, and almost revolutionary for its time. And for the first time, dogs entered service alongside humans.



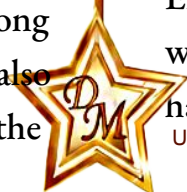
The history of Ukrainian cynology is often presented in various sources as beginning with the Soviet period or with military schools of service dog breeding. For a long time, historical and legal literature also maintained that the first service dogs in the

police system of the empire appeared only in 1906 in the Baltic provinces of that time. However, archival documents and facts testify to something entirely different: the true beginning of the police cynological service occurred much earlier — precisely in Kyiv, already in 1904.

The central figure of this story was Heorhii Mykhailovych Rudyi — a man ahead of his time. In 1901, he was appointed head of the detective division of the Kyiv city police.



For most officials of that era, criminal investigation remained a conservative structure, but Rudyi saw the future differently. Taking advantage of an official assignment, in the autumn of 1901 he traveled to London and Paris, where he studied the work of the criminal police of England and France. For that period, this was an almost unprecedented step. Europe had already long been actively



using anthropometry, fingerprinting, and new forensic methods, while within the empire such innovations were often treated with skepticism.

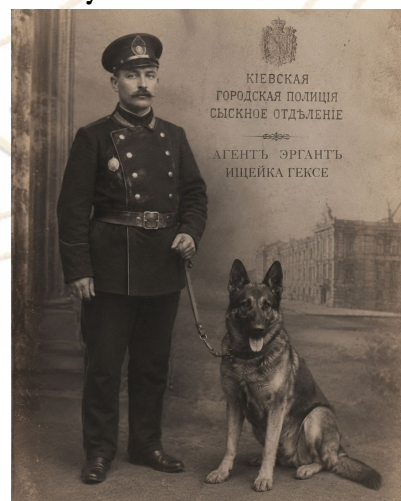
Upon returning to Kyiv, Rudyi began a large-scale reorganization of the detective department. He established anthropometric offices, introduced fingerprinting, studied European experience, and persistently sought to modernize the investigative system despite misunderstanding and resistance “from above.” But his boldest decision was the introduction of service dogs into police work.



In December 1904, four German Shepherds of different sexes were purchased in the German city of Schwelm for the needs of the Kyiv detective police. This became a true revolution for criminal investigation at that time. The acquisition of the dogs was assisted by Wilhelm Meister, editor of the German magazine *Polizei-Hund*.

Among all the dogs, a two-year-old shepherd dog named Hekse stood out in particular. She already had experience serving in the German police, had participated in the apprehension of criminals, and had even received awards at police dog competitions.

But working with dogs also required specialists. Thus, the first certified cynologist appeared in Kyiv — Oleksandr Erhant. In November 1904, he was sent to Germany to study methods of training and preparing police dogs. For nearly a month, Erhant studied the intricacies of service dog handling, and on December 20 he returned to Kyiv together with Hekse and an official certificate confirming the successful completion of his training. It is precisely this moment that can be considered the birth of the professional cynological service in Kyiv.



And very quickly, Hekse proved the effectiveness of the new system.

On January 17, 1905, a brutal murder of Yevdokiia Ivasko took place in Kyiv. Detective police officer Unhurian and cynologist Erhant arrived at the crime scene together with Hekse. The dog carefully examined the scene of the murder, sniffed the crowd of people, but did not find the necessary scent.

Hekse was then taken to the Pechersk police station, where the victim's suspected killer — Filip Ivasko — was being held. He was placed among sixty people. The dog began moving through the crowd, and when she approached Ivasko, she suddenly lunged toward him and barked. Then she returned again, began pulling at a basket with a white cloth from the crime scene, and would not leave the man's side. For that time, this seemed almost unbelievable. A police dog had effectively helped expose a murderer.

Today, service dogs are a common sight in the police, military, and rescue services. But more than one hundred years ago, all of this was only beginning — and it began precisely in Kyiv. The story of Heorhii Rudyi, Oleksandr Erhant, and the shepherd dog Hekse is a story about dogs, and it is also a story about people who

were not afraid to introduce something new even when the system was not ready for it. They were the first to understand what today seems obvious: a dog can be not only a human's friend, but also a true partner in the struggle for safety and life.



Fancy Dog Shows — The Origins of Exhibition Dog Breeding in England

Valeriia Efendiieva

Although the first official dog show is traditionally considered to be the exhibition of hunting dogs in Newcastle in 1859, various forms of public dog displays had existed much earlier.

One of the earliest popularizers of exhibition dog breeding was Jemmy Shaw — a former boxer, participant in bare-knuckle fights, and owner of several pubs in London.

His personality vividly reflected the contradictions of the Victorian era. Jemmy Shaw lived a multifaceted life — from participant in brutal spectacles to entrepreneur whose activities unexpectedly influenced the development of companion animal culture.

He managed several famous London pubs: *The Blue Anchor* on Bunhill Row, and from 1853, *The Queen's Head* on Windmill Street in the Haymarket district. These establishments became gathering places for breeders, hunters, dog enthusiasts, and organizers of the first dog shows. It was there that an environment gradually formed which later evolved into the exhibition dog fancy movement. Especially interesting is the fact that

Shaw's activities united two opposing sides of society at that time. On the one hand, he was connected with the world of cruel entertainment — dog fighting, rat pits, and other popular spectacles of Victorian England. On the other hand, precisely through the culture of breeding dogs and fancy rats, he became part of the formation of new, more emotional and companionable relationships between humans and animals.



This duality was highly characteristic of the Victorian era — a time when alongside the cruel exploitation of animals there also began to emerge: companion animal culture, pedigree dog breeding, the exhibition movement, and the first animal protection societies.

For this reason, the figure of Jemmy Shaw is important for understanding the early history of dog fancy.

Unlike future official exhibitions, where

for example the working qualities of hunting dogs or exterior conformation would be evaluated, the pubs judged dogs exclusively by appearance — athleticism or, conversely, extreme декоративність. For example, Jemmy Shaw was proud that he could produce a terrier weighing only 4.5 pounds (about 2 kg), yet possessing anatomy “like a racehorse” and the heart of a lion.

In the famous work of sociologist Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (1861), the life of Jemmy Shaw and his environment is described in detail. Shaw's pubs attracted: professional London rat catchers and dog thieves (*dog-nappers* — the theft of pedigree dogs for ransom was a profitable illegal business), British aristocrats, and wealthy gentlemen seeking excitement, purchasing pedigree dogs for enormous sums, and proudly displaying their pets.

By the early 1850s, Fancy Dog Shows — early prototypes of exhibitions of decorative dogs (at that time the term was used to describe rare and extraordinary dogs) and pedigree dogs — began to be actively held in London. According to some sources, such shows were already taking place in 1851. They were organized by enthusiasts of rare dog

breeds and held in pubs and taverns. These events quickly became popular among the urban public.



Despite the paid admission of six pence and the rather questionable reputation of the venues, the exhibitions enjoyed tremendous success. Visitors lined up in queues to see unusual dogs and speak with breeders.

Among the breeds exhibited at the early Fancy Dog Shows were Italian Greyhounds, Chinese Pugs, Skye Terriers, Bulldogs, Black and Tan Terriers, as well as dogs of extreme sizes.

At that time, exhibitions still lacked official breed standards, systems of judging, stud books, and unified evaluation rules. Nevertheless, they became the first step toward the creation of organized exhibition dog breeding.

An important role in the development of early dog shows was played by Charles Aistrop, who is associated with the

development of decorative dog exhibitions and the activities of the Toy Dog Club — one of the first official dog clubs in England. Under his influence, Fancy Dog Shows gradually began transforming from chaotic public displays into more organized events with elements of judging and breed evaluation.



It was during this period that the first concepts of breed type began to form, descriptions of desired conformation started to appear, and the foundations of future breed standards were established.

Despite the rather chaotic nature of the first Fancy Dog Shows, they became the foundation for the further development of exhibition dog breeding.

In the second half of the nineteenth century: the number of exhibitions grew rapidly, breed clubs were established, the first standards appeared, pedigree books began to be maintained, and an official system of dog judging emerged. Exhibitions gradually moved from pubs

and taverns to large exhibition halls, while dog fancy transformed into a fully developed cynological movement. Despite all their contradictions, the early Fancy Dog Shows played an extraordinarily important role in the development of cynology.

It was they that: popularized pedigree dogs, initiated public evaluation of dogs, gave impetus to the formation of breed standards, became the foundation of modern Dog Shows, and contributed to the development of pedigree dog breeding.

And although the first exhibitions took place in pubs amid noisy crowds and the atmosphere of the Victorian city, it was from them that the history of organized exhibition dog breeding began — a history that today has become an inseparable part of the global world of dog breeding.

Morphometry in Cynology (Canine Morphometry): History, Development, and the Importance of Measurements

Valeriia Efendiieva

Morphometry, or canine morphometry, is one of the important fields of modern cynology that makes it possible to objectively evaluate a dog's structure, proportions, functionality, and conformity to breed type. The system of measurements did not originate directly in dog breeding — its roots go back to ancient animal husbandry, primarily horse breeding and zootechnics.

The idea of measuring animals appeared in ancient times. Humans sought to evaluate the strength, endurance, and suitability of animals for specific work. Early systems of measurement reached their greatest development in horse breeding, since the horse played an enormous role in military affairs, transportation, and agriculture.



In many cultures, natural units of measurement were used, such as the palm

and the cubit. One palm equals 4 inches, approximately 10.16 cm. To measure animals, people used measuring sticks, ropes, straps, and later special measuring instruments. A rope was used to determine body length, chest circumference, and height at the withers. The rope was then placed against a ruler or measuring stick to determine the exact size.

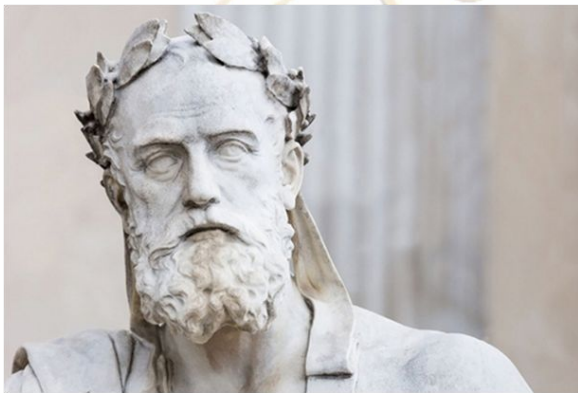


Already in the ancient world there existed certain knowledge about the patterns of animal growth. The ancient Greek military commander and philosopher Xenophon (c. 430–354 BC), in his works devoted to horsemanship and horse management, described desirable physical qualities in horses and drew attention to the importance of body proportions.

Ancient authors understood that certain body parts could indicate the future development of an animal. For example,



by the size of the cannon bone in a foal, they attempted to predict the future size of the adult horse. Thus, long before the emergence of modern zootechnics, humans sought to connect the structure of an animal's body with its functional qualities.



But for us, Xenophon's work *Kynegetikos* ("On Hunting," or "The Art of Hunting with Dogs") is of greatest importance, as it occupies a special place in the history of morphometry and canine evaluation. It is one of the oldest known texts devoted to dogs, hunting, and the principles of selecting hunting dogs.



The work was translated by G. A. Yanchevetsky and published in Mitava in

1880 under the title *Psovaya Okhota* ("Hunting with Hounds"). Although the main part of the work is devoted to the art of hunting, the text contains descriptions of dogs, their qualities, faults, and defects that are extraordinarily valuable for the history of cynology (this work can be found on our website in the Education–Library section).

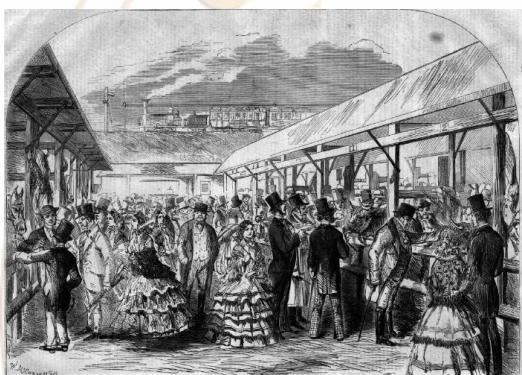
Xenophon was effectively among the first to: describe dogs according to external characteristics, connect body structure with working qualities, pay attention to faults of conformation, evaluate the functionality of individual anatomical features.

The author describes how selective breeding produced dogs with desirable hunting qualities, while many animals possessed faults that made them unsuitable for effective work. Xenophon's writings demonstrate that already in the ancient world, humans sought to systematize knowledge about dogs and evaluate them not only by appearance, but also by functionality and suitability for work. For this reason, *Kynegetikos* may be regarded as one of the earliest historical sources in which the origins of future canine morphometry and the scientific approach dog evaluation can be traced.





The systematic development of measurements began in Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries together with the development of pedigree livestock breeding. Great Britain made an especially significant contribution to this process, where horse breeding, cattle breeding, and selective breeding work were actively developing.



Pedigree livestock breeding could no longer rely solely on subjective observations. Accurate and scientifically grounded data were necessary for predicting the qualities of offspring. It was during this period that: systems of measurements were formed, the first standards appeared, body structure indices began to be used, pedigree exhibitions were organized.

By the end of the nineteenth century, animal measurement became an integral part of zootechnical practice. Different species of animals used their own systems

of measurements: horses — around 20 main measurements, cattle — around 20, sheep — 7, pigs — 6, poultry — 8.

The principal indicators included: height at the withers, oblique body length, chest depth, chest width, chest circumference, cannon bone circumference.

An important role in the development of animal evaluation systems was played by the introduction of the concept of “exterior” or conformation. This term is associated with the French scientist, veterinarian, and hippologist Claude Bourgelat, who in 1768 began using it to describe the external structure of animals.



C. BOURGELAT,

He established the doctrine of proportionality between individual body parts in the horse and introduced the practice of measuring animals in order to verify proportionality of conformation.

It was precisely the development of the theory of conformation that became the



foundation for the further introduction of measurement systems.

In the nineteenth century, together with the development of cynological clubs and dog shows, active standardization of dog breeds began.

There arose a need to: accurately describe dogs, compare them with one another, evaluate conformity to the standard, conduct selective breeding work.

Visual assessment, although it remained the primary method of judging, still possessed a subjective nature. Therefore, more objective and precise methods were required for standardization, and measurements became such a method. This was important both at exhibitions and particularly for breeds where even a difference of several centimeters could matter significantly. It was during this period that canine morphometry began to be used, especially among hunting breeds.

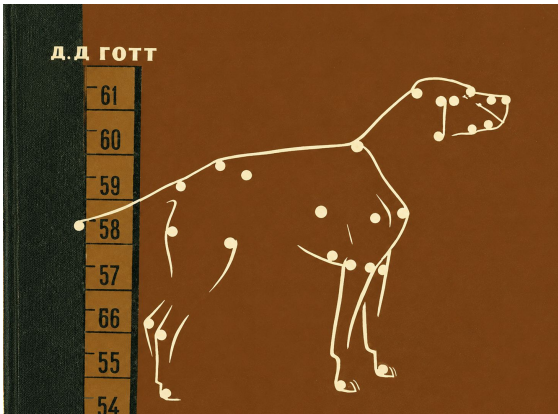
One of the first systematizers of morphometry in dog breeding is considered to be Leonid Sabaneev (1844–1898) — zoologist and hunting specialist. His contribution consisted of: systematizing canine measurements, developing body structure indices, attempting to create an objective system for dog evaluation.



Sabaneev emphasized the importance of accurate measurement for: selective breeding, evaluation of working qualities, breed standardization. His works became an important stage in the development of cynology.

In the first half of the twentieth century, supporters of a scientific approach to dog evaluation began to appear.

Among them, a special place was occupied by S. A. Buturlin, who believed that true cynology should be based on precise instrumental methods. His ideas were supported by D. D. Gott, author of the work *Measurements and Evaluation of Dog Conformation* (1935), where considerable attention was devoted to measurements of hunting dogs (this work can be found on our website in the Education–Library section).



It was during this period that canine morphometry gradually began to be regarded as an auxiliary tool for: judging, selective breeding, evaluation of juvenile development, study of intra-breed types.

Today, morphometry is an important part of: pedigree breeding work, scientific research, sporting and service cynology.

It is important and useful for: breed standardization, evaluation of conformity to the breed standard and comparison of animals, selective breeding, studying the dynamics of juvenile development, resolving disputed questions at exhibitions.

Measurements make it possible to compare animals with one another and an individual animal with a group, to compare dogs of different types living in different periods or different places, and to monitor changes occurring within a given population over time.

However, even the most precise measurements cannot completely replace

comprehensive expert evaluation.

Absolute numbers do not reflect: balance, breed type, temperament, movement, the dog's overall harmony.

For this reason, modern cynology combines: visual assessment, measurements, body structure indices, movement analysis, functional evaluation of the dog.

Canine morphometry has undergone a long path of development — from simple measurements in the ancient world to modern systems of analyzing canine body structure.

Despite technological progress, the primary goal of canine morphometry remains unchanged — an objective understanding of the dog's structure and its conformity to functional and breed type.



Border Terrier: Functionality Above Fashion

The Border Terrier breed originated in the north-east of England — on the heather moorlands and farmlands near the Scottish border. Local residents sought to protect livestock and supplies from pests and predators. Terriers were common “workers” on farms: they helped control the population of foxes, rodents, and other predators that threatened lambs, nesting birds, and more.

The earliest mentions of terriers from this region are associated with William “Piper” Allan, a well-known Scottish musician, bagpiper, and dog breeder of the late eighteenth century. It is believed that the Bedlington Terrier and the Dandie Dinmont Terrier are related to these early local terriers.

Various influences in the formation of the breed are mentioned, including the “dandie” type, as well as historical references such as the Border Foxhounds described by Sir Walter Scott in 1814 and the Bedlington Terrier. Certain lines of “rough-coated” terriers were maintained by the Robson and Dodd families, who were connected with local hunting packs. In 1896, Jacob Robson wrote that such

terriers “had been kept in the Borders for a very long time,” and that both his father and he himself had bred this type of terrier since approximately the middle of the nineteenth century — for driving foxes out of dens. Terriers were especially needed in areas with mountain slopes, rocky crevices, and valleys where foxes hid in cracks and burrows. Around 1880, the dog became known as the Border Terrier — after its region of origin and its work with local hunting packs.



Border Terriers were first shown at agricultural exhibitions in Northumberland around the 1880s, and the first officially scheduled show featuring Borders is mentioned as the Bellingham Show in 1881. By 1907, Border Terriers were already being exhibited at the same event, with most dogs coming from the local “hill” districts.

In Great Britain, the term “working terrier” was primarily applied to a dog that entered a den — the lair of a fox,

otter, or badger — drove out the quarry, held it until people arrived, pulled it out, or worked underground.

A working terrier had to be large enough to “do the job,” yet small enough to go wherever a fox could go. This is why breed enthusiasts adhered to the wording in the standard that emphasizes the essential point: “The Border Terrier is essentially a working terrier.”



The traits of the Border Terrier as a working terrier translate remarkably well into modern life.

Even when actual earth work with hounds declined in Great Britain, the Border Terrier remained popular thanks to its calm, businesslike balance, athletic build, and relatively low-maintenance coat.



This is a “ground-hugging” dog whose essence has remained unchanged since ancient times. Modern breeders and clubs recognize this foundation and strive to preserve the breed exactly as it is.

People say that the temperament of this dog is “hard as nails”; usually not quarrelsome, but when necessary, it will stand up for itself without hesitation. In the home, it is very friendly; and if one did not know of its courage and determination in the field, it would be difficult to believe such qualities existed. Active yet obedient, it jumps well and learns very easily. However, one must be careful in training, because harsh handling can ruin a Border — it is unusually sensitive.





The Border's expression is typical and distinctive for the breed: inquisitive, curious, intelligent, and friendly. The Border's head resembles that of an otter (Otter Head).

Only one species of otter lives in the wild in Great Britain: *Lutra lutra*, the European river otter. Once it was legal quarry for the Border Terrier, but for many years now it has been a protected and beloved species in Britain. This resemblance is most noticeable in water. This does not mean the Border should look like an otter overall, but the similarity of the head is highly desirable and should be clearly visible.



If we compare these two animals by the characteristics of the head, it is worth noting that the Border Terrier's muzzle is short and strong. The otter's muzzle is also fairly short and very strong. Otters have short whiskers, and the Border should have short facial furnishings as well (a long, luxurious beard is completely unacceptable for a Border).

The neck is of moderate length, yet long enough to provide freedom of head movement, and well set on.

When describing the topline, early standards mentioned a slight rise over the loin, but because judges often exaggerated this wording, it was removed. The only thing specified in the standard is the absence of a dip behind the withers. The Border's chest is long, with ribs not overly curved, so that the dog can be spanned behind the shoulders with two hands.

From the side, the Border's body may appear somewhat chunky, but unlike the Fox Terrier, it has a straighter underline. To properly evaluate the ability for earth work, attention must be paid to the flexibility of the body and to the process of spanning.



Spanning is a practical method of evaluating the volume of the dog's chest using the judge's hands — the so-called span test. Spanning is vitally important. It provides information not only for breeders and judges. Much more importantly, it determines the dog's ability to perform its work without becoming stuck or being endangered by quarry.

When a judge enters the ring of any breed, they must clearly understand why that breed exists — in other words, know the breed's function. Regarding the Border Terrier, during examination, when the judge manually reaches the ribs, they must ensure that they are long and not rounded at all. This is where spanning becomes useful — the hands are placed so that the thumbs meet behind the shoulders while the palms encircle the chest beneath the dog behind the elbows. If this could be done easily and the fingers touched or, ideally, slightly overlapped, it meant that the dog would be able to crawl and twist within the burrows of its quarry. At that time, the legal quarry of the Border Terrier included foxes, badgers, and otters; today, in the country of origin, only the fox remains legal quarry among the three.

The Border Terrier has loose, thick skin .



This is extremely important because it protects the dog from injuries inflicted by quarry, other dogs, or thorny brush. A judge should confidently grasp a fold of skin over the shoulders and lift it.

At a time when the Border Terrier was primarily a working dog of the border regions of England and Scotland, it was required to work in all weather conditions and over varied terrain. It had to enter deep, narrow, dark dens and swim in icy streams and brooks.

None of this would have been possible if the dog had thin skin and a soft, non-waterproof coat. Often, it would spend hours tied to the handle of a shovel while other terriers worked underground - and during this time, it still had to retain warmth. Thick, strong skin not only protects against weather and environment - it is also serious protection

against an opponent's teeth.

When a fox grabbed a Border Terrier by the neck, it often damaged only the outer layer of skin, and thanks to this many Borders were saved from death. The elasticity of the skin allows the dog to move through narrow underground passages, sliding its body inside the den.

The same rough terrain and climate required a double coat for protection during work. Preference is given to a hard, slightly broken coat. The absence of undercoat is a serious fault. The coat must be harsh; the double structure should be obvious. If it cannot be seen, it should be assumed not to exist.

The Border should never be excessively trimmed to resemble other breeds; over-grooming should be penalized. If the coat is not stripped (except during shedding season), it grows out and within 8–12 weeks reaches a dense, waterproof condition. After this, it continues to grow, begins to part, and at this stage is considered “blown.” A blown coat loses its protective qualities, does not retain warmth, and fails to repel moisture, which is a serious fault for a working terrier.

No breed standard in the world establishes a height requirement for the Border Terrier. When the Border was formed as a



breed, it was a working terrier, and “work” meant going to ground, giving voice (bay), or driving quarry out of the earth or den. The one thing that never changed was what was required for earth work: narrow, flexible (compressible) ribs. The people who created this breed knew exactly what they were doing and had an ingenious method of ensuring the dog was the correct size for work, regardless of height. They performed spanning.

Faults in the Border are those that indicate the dog is unable to fully perform its work. A Border must enter a den, drive out quarry, or, if this is impossible, remain with it until a person arrives to dispatch the animal, or, in extreme circumstances, possess the strength to destroy the quarry itself.

Today, most Borders no longer work underground. But this is by no means an excuse for breeders to allow faults to enter the breed. They must continue breeding dogs with quality heads, preserving all the virtues described in the standard and maintaining the breed's working characteristics.

“Dogs Look Into the Soul”: A Story of Loss, Friendship, and Memory



Today our magazine is visiting the well-known Odesa master of transformation — Artem Cherednyk — hairdresser, stylist, KEMON Ambassador in Ukraine, DJ, and a creative personality for whom style has long become a way of self-expression.

Creator of: @thelab.artche
@adamartche #artchestyle

But this time we are not talking about fashion, stage life, or the art of transformation. We are talking about dogs. About those who come into our lives not by accident, heal the soul, and sometimes save a person far more than a person saves them.

— Artem, when did the first dog appear in your life?

— My first dog appeared when I was seven years old. My brother went into the army and left me his Giant Schnauzer — a large working dog. But that event became a great trauma for me because the dog died literally a week after my brother left.

Then there were other difficult stories, and at some point I decided that I would never have dogs again. At that time, a cat appeared in my life, and he lived with me for seventeen years.

Years passed. I moved to Odesa, and one day I finally decided to give myself another chance. That is how Eros appeared in my life — a Toy Poodle.

When my cat passed away, Eros was very sad. So I decided to find him a companion. That is how Brigita appeared in my life — a Lagotto Romagnolo whom I had waited for a very long time.

She and Eros became true friends.

— I generally believe that dogs are better than people. They are genuinely close. The most sincere friends who never pretend.

He especially loved Brigita.

— I felt that it was mutual. She had

absolutely human eyes...

What exactly happened, Artem still cannot fully explain. Perhaps it was a congenital condition or pulmonary failure. But one day Brigita was gone.

— Every time I saw dogs that looked like Brigita, it became a trigger. I felt intense pain. She was one of a kind. Forever in my heart...

In her memory, Artem organized a charity collection for a shelter.

— We collected about 200 kilograms of food and delivered it to the dogs. And then I thought: if I feel some kind of connection — I will take a dog.

At the shelter, a completely different feeling awaited him.

— The very first thing I felt was enormous sadness. The sadness of all those dogs. And at the same time — hope. In every pair of eyes there was hope that someone had come specifically for them.

Among dozens of animals, one large dog especially caught his attention — a dog who literally could not take his eyes off him.

— I was one step away from taking him home. But then I realized: such a big dog in an apartment is almost impossible.

And at that very moment, a “little miracle” approached him.

— It was a kind of “dachshund-mutt,” says Artem, a mixed breed, but somewhere back there, apparently, grandma definitely “went for a walk” not with a Newfoundland, but with a Dachshund, — Artem laughs. — And I immediately understood: this is my dog.

But the story did not end there.



— Almost immediately another dog ran up — a little female. As it turned out, she was his sister. So we went home already as three.

Today Artem speaks about them not simply as pets anymore.

— I realized that they are the best friends of my life. No matter how much I loved all my animals — purebred, titled, with status and everything else... I had never met anyone so devoted, loyal, loving, and grateful simply because you chose them.



And after a short pause, he adds:

— But it is important to understand: it was not me who saved their lives. In reality, they saved mine.

— Do you work with specialists in raising your dogs?

— Yes, from the very first day we have worked with a canine behavior specialist. I believe that when you take a dog, you must immediately understand: the breed characteristics, functionality, purpose, and possible behavioral problems.

Well, in my case only half the breed is known, — Artem laughs.

— Everything depends on this: upbringing, adaptation, and mutual understanding with the dog. The specialist helps me understand them better, raise them properly, and teach them basic things — to walk beside me and respond calmly to the world around them.

The story of these dogs was not easy either.

— They lived at a gas station, then in a shelter, and suddenly found themselves in a completely different environment — in a high-rise building, surrounded by many people and dogs. Before that, for a long time, all they had seen was a cage.

Artem speaks about responsibility calmly and without pathos.

— My dogs receive all necessary treatment,

vaccinations, and care. But the most important thing is upbringing.

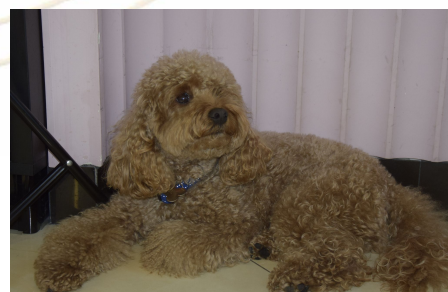
— And how did Eros react to the new dogs? Artem laughs:

— He keeps them at paw's length. They are very active, while he is already a respectable gentleman. He can play a little, and then climbs somewhere higher and watches their games from above with superiority.

Artem speaks about Eros with particular warmth.

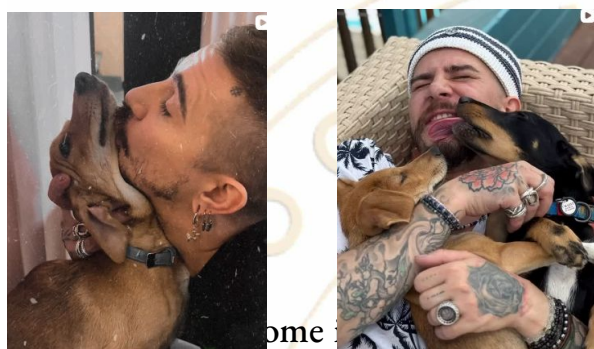


— Eros is the perfect, well-mannered dog. He has never destroyed anything. He also worked with a canine specialist and went through socialization, but he did it very easily, quickly, and with pleasure. He has a very proud character.





But Diana is completely different.
— She is very delicate, gentle... Completely different in temperament. Every dog has its own personality, habits, and story.



with the sound of paws, games, fur on clothing, and living emotions. But behind this everyday life stands something far greater — the experience of love and loss, responsibility, and a second chance.

Artem's story is not only about shelter dogs or purebred companions. It is about how animals sometimes return to a person the ability to feel again, to trust, and to continue living.

— I think dogs always feel when they are chosen with the heart, — says Artem.



And perhaps it is exactly then that true friendship is born between a person and a dog.

And watching the dogs peacefully settle at his feet, it is difficult not to agree.



The First Dog Show in Odessa: Facts and Legends

The beginning of the 20th century became a time of tremendous change for Odessa. The city was rapidly transforming from the “bread capital” of the empire of that time into a major industrial, cultural, and commercial center. It was precisely in this atmosphere of progress, technological discovery, and social life



It was within the framework of this grand exhibition, according to researchers' assumptions and references in the press of that time, that the first large dog show in Odessa may also have taken place. The Industrial Exhibition of 1910 was not merely an economic event. It was a genuine social season. Industrialists, artists, officials, military officers, engineers, and members of the aristocracy arrived there. The people of Odessa wished to demonstrate that their city was in no way inferior to the great European capitals.

The sensation of the summer became the flight of the famous aviator Sergey Utochkin, who on July 3 carried out a demonstration flight over the exhibition grounds and the Gulf of Odessa. Thousands of people flooded the park alleys, leaving the pavilions almost empty. It was an era when technological progress bordered on romance, and exhibitions became symbols of a new world.



Against this background, the appearance of a dog show seems entirely natural. At the beginning of the 20th century, dog breeding was gradually ceasing to be an exclusively utilitarian sphere of hunting or farm protection. It was precisely within this large-scale event, according to researchers' assumptions, that on June 20, 1910, the first major dog show in Odessa may have taken place.

The organizer of the dog show was the “Odessa Society for Proper Hunting” — an influential organization that united hunters, breeders, and admirers of

purebred dogs.

To conduct the judging, Nikolai Kishensky was invited to Odesa — a legendary figure in the world of hunting dog breeding. He was the author of works on hounds and an expert in the field of hunting cynology. By that time, he had already remained the permanent judge of dog shows for more than ten years, and his authority was considered unquestionable.



He was responsible for the first theoretical substantiation of the characteristic traits of hound breeds, which he implemented in his judging practice, laying the foundation for all subsequent work with hound breeds. Kishensky's views on hounds, as well as his theoretical and practical work in this field, became the starting point for all future generations of hound breeders.

He was also the first to substantiate the theory and practice of gun hunting with hounds. His fundamental work "Gun Hunting with Hounds" became a classic.

According to memoirs and newspaper notes of the time, the exhibition was organized with the utmost solemnity.

A special platform covered with straw was prepared for the dogs. Nearby stood their owners, as well as city policemen. Even today, it is difficult to say for certain whom they were supposed to protect more: the spectators from the dogs, or the dogs from an overly emotional public.



The Odessa city governor, Ivan Tolmachov, was also present at the exhibition. Beside him stood the mysterious "Madame S." with her Bolognese dog. Newspapers never revealed the woman's full name, but this story later transformed into one of the most famous legends of Odessa dog breeding.

After the judging and the selection of the winners, an official awards ceremony was supposed to take place.

Three medals for the best representatives of the breeds had been specially brought to Odessa.

However, at that very moment, an incident occurred that caused considerable surprise among the participants, the public, and even the judge himself. According to reports in the press of that time, the hunting society's gold medal was allegedly awarded to Madame S.'s Bolognese dog even before the judging had officially concluded — to the very close acquaintance of the Odessa city governor.



Whether this was genuine social favoritism or simply a newspaper sensation is difficult to determine today. Yet it is precisely this story that adds a special color to the first Odessa dog show and transforms it into an urban legend. Newspapers wrote that in reality the highest award should have gone to a hound named Letunya — a dog who



impressed the experts with working qualities and breed type, and whom the judge himself reportedly favored among all participants of the exhibition.

At the beginning of the 20th century, dog shows were far more than simple demonstrations of animals. They became places where breeders, hunters, aristocrats, and the urban intelligentsia gathered together. Here, an understanding of breed purity, dog culture, and responsible breeding was formed.

Odessa, as a cosmopolitan port city, absorbed these tendencies very quickly. Hunting traditions, European fashion, technological progress, and a love for spectacle all coexisted there side by side.





Archival photographs suggest that the exhibition in Odessa was not limited exclusively to hunting breeds. Dogs of other breeds can also be seen there, which makes this event even more interesting for the history of Ukrainian dog breeding.

Most likely, spectators of that era observed not only the traditional evaluation of exterior. Dogs also demonstrated their working qualities, because at the beginning of the 20th century the functionality of a breed still remained the principal criterion of its value.

That is why it seems deeply symbolic that one of the first major cynological events on Ukrainian lands may have taken place precisely here — among park alleys, the noise of fashionable crowds, aeroplane flights, and disputes surrounding a gold medal for a Bolognese dog.

The appearance of a dog show in Odessa was not an accident, but rather a reflection of changes within urban society itself. At the beginning of the 20th century, dog breeding was already moving beyond purely practical use. It was becoming part of urban culture, fashion, and prestige. Alongside the development of industry, sports, and technical societies, a new cynological culture was also taking shape in Odessa — a culture of exhibitions, judging, and purebred dog breeding.

And perhaps it was precisely then, in Odessa, that the history of Ukrainian cynology truly began.



From Sirko to the “Cats of the Armed Forces”: Animals in Ukrainian Cultural Memory

Valeriia Efendiieva

Ukrainian culture has never existed separately from animals. They lived alongside people, worked with them, saved lives, fed families, guarded homes, and became part of collective memory. Yet attitudes toward different animals were formed in very different ways — through lifestyle, agriculture, history, and even geography.

Two images are especially fascinating in this regard: the dog and the cat.

Today, during the war, they have once again found themselves at the center of Ukrainian symbolism, though now with completely new meanings.

Why did the Ukrainian village dog spend centuries living on a chain?

Why are Ukrainian soldiers today affectionately called “cats”?

And why has the cat — rather than the dog — unexpectedly become one of the unofficial symbols of modern Ukraine?

To answer these questions, we must look not only at the present, but also at history, folklore, linguistics, and folk psychology.

If one carefully reads Ukrainian proverbs

about dogs, it becomes clear: people treated them with respect, but without idealization.

“Even a dog knows who feeds him.”

“A trained dog cannot be bribed.”

“An old dog does not bark without reason.”

“Be friendly with a dog, but keep a stick in your hand.”

“Do not trust a dog — it may bite.”

“Every dog is master on its own rubbish heap.”

“As Ryabko is fed, so Ryabko barks.”

There is no romantic image here of “man’s best friend.” In Ukrainian tradition, the dog was first and foremost a function. It guarded the yard, warned of danger, and protected the household.

This was no coincidence.

For centuries, Ukrainian lands were predominantly agrarian. The foundations of life were: fields; grain; livestock; vegetable gardens; orchards; hard physical labor.

In such a world, everyone had a role: the horse worked; the cow fed the family; the ox pulled; the dog guarded.

Dogs were valued for usefulness rather than emotional closeness. That is why even today, in many villages, a chained dog, a kennel, and a bowl of food are still

seen as signs of “good treatment.” This was rarely viewed as cruelty. Rather, it was a continuation of the old peasant worldview, where an animal existed alongside humans as part of the household economy.

This traditional Ukrainian attitude toward dogs is vividly reflected in the культ classic animated film *Once Upon a Dog* (*Zhyv-buv Pes*). The old yard dog in the film is not a modern-style pet, but a guard and worker valued only as long as he fulfills his function.



At the same time, the cartoon perfectly reveals another important feature of Ukrainian culture — a hidden emotional attachment to animals. A person may never openly speak of love, may never treat a dog as a “child of the family,” and yet still feel gratitude, compassion, and moral responsibility toward it.

Perhaps this is why the story of the old dog became so deeply embedded in the

memory of several generations of Ukrainians. It turned out to be not merely a fairy tale about animals, but a remarkably accurate image of the traditional Ukrainian village — harsh, practical, yet capable of empathy.

In Western Europe, rural dogs developed under somewhat different conditions.

While Ukrainian lands were historically centered around: agriculture; gardening; yard protection, many regions of Western Europe depended heavily on: sheep herding; cattle breeding; grazing livestock.

For this reason, shepherd dogs gained special importance there.

In Scotland, France, Belgium, and the Pyrenean regions, a dog did not merely guard the yard. It constantly worked alongside humans: managing flocks; accompanying shepherds; making independent decisions; interacting with people almost continuously.

This type of work shaped a very different relationship. The shepherd dog was not merely property — it was a daily partner. The survival of the flock and the success of the farm literally depended on mutual understanding between human and dog.

It was within this environment that many European herding breeds were formed.

Although these dogs also served practical purposes, the model of coexistence itself differed. Dogs spent far more time directly beside humans, rather than simply “out in the yard.”

Perhaps this is why Western European culture developed the image of the dog as a companion and partner much earlier, while in Ukrainian tradition the dog remained primarily a guardian of the household.

The Dog Without Sacredness.

Despite its closeness to people, the dog in Ukrainian tradition almost never possessed sacred status.

Ukrainian culture is generally practical and grounded. It does not idealize animals, but perceives them as they are: useful; dangerous; loyal; territorial; instinctive.

Even in proverbs, dogs often serve to describe human behavior:

“A foolish dog barks at everyone.”

“When your own dog bites you, it hurts the most.”

“Like a dog in the manger.”

The dog becomes a mirror of humanity, but not a sacred figure.

For Ukrainian tradition, symbols such as the horse, stork, wolf, and ox carried far greater mythological weight. The dog remained beside humans — loyal, necessary, but above all a guardian of the household.

The Cat: A Completely Different Archetype

The cat occupied an entirely different role in Ukrainian culture.

At first glance, it also served a practical purpose — catching mice and protecting grain. Yet in folk imagination, the cat was always a far more mystical creature.

Cats were: the first to enter a new home; associated with the otherworld; believed capable of sensing evil spirits; connected with night, intuition, and the boundary between worlds; seen as mystical companions of witches.

The image of the Ukrainian witch itself is particularly fascinating. Unlike the Western European stereotype, the Ukrainian witch often appears not simply as an evil sorceress, but as a strong, independent woman connected to nature, knowledge, and the protection of her own space.

And beside her there is very often a cat — not merely as a pet, but as a companion, familiar spirit, and mystical helper.



After 2022, Ukrainian culture rapidly began creating new archetypes. Suddenly, Ukrainian soldiers started being affectionately called “cats.”



Cats in pixel camouflage and body armor appeared on stamps, graffiti, postcards, and military patches. At the same time, the image of the “Ukrainian witch” emerged — a woman destroying the enemy not only with weapons, but with strength of spirit. Why the cat?



Perhaps because the cat best embodies the qualities Ukrainians recognized in themselves during the war: independence; the ability to survive under any conditions; cunning; inner freedom; silent endurance; the ability to be gentle with one's own people and dangerous to enemies.

A cat does not submit. It does not lose itself, even while living beside humans. It is flexible, cautious, patient, and always finds a way to survive.

That is why the image of the “cat” became far deeper than merely an internet meme or affectionate nickname.

It unexpectedly combined: domestic warmth; resilience; self-irony; intuition; the ability to keep living despite danger.

The Dog as Hero, the Cat as Soul
And here a striking contrast appears.
During the war, the dog became:
a rescuer; a service companion;
a protector; a hero.

This is why all of Ukraine knows Patron — the dog who became a symbol of service, assistance, and rescue.

The cat, however, moved into an entirely different sphere — emotional and cultural. It became: a meme; a symbol of “our own people”; an image of resilience; an embodiment of the home that survived.

Perhaps attitudes toward animals reveal the character of a nation better than anything else.

For centuries, the Ukrainian dog was the guardian of the yard and helper to humans.

The Ukrainian cat was the silent keeper of the home and the boundary between the real and the mystical.

And during the war, these ancient images unexpectedly came alive in new ways.

The dog became a hero.

The cat became the soul of resistance.

And perhaps it is precisely in this strange combination — between the yard and mysticism, between service and freedom — that a new Ukrainian cultural symbolism is now being born.

Legal Aspects of Dog Breeding and Ownership

Olha Kozyrska

Dogs and the Law: What Every Owner Should Actually Know

In modern cities, a dog has long ceased to be merely a pet “for the soul.” The moment an animal enters the legal sphere, it automatically becomes part of a system of rules, obligations, and responsibility. And this is exactly where most owners begin to encounter problems: the emotional perception of a dog often does not align with legal reality.

A Dog as a Legal Object and as a Living Being

From a legal perspective, a dog simultaneously has two statuses.

On the one hand, it is an object of civil rights — that is, property.

On the other hand, it is a living being protected by special laws against cruelty and abuse.

And this creates a key legal nuance:

The owner has full ownership rights, but cannot treat the animal as an ordinary object.

This creates a balance that people often underestimate: rights exist, but they are always accompanied by obligations.

The City as an Environment of Increased Risk

In urban conditions, a dog is no longer a purely private “at home” matter. It constantly interacts with other people, animals, vehicles, and public spaces.

Therefore, legislation essentially requires one primary thing from the owner — control.

In practical terms, this means:

The dog must remain manageable at all times.

Walking the dog must not create danger for others.

In public places, the animal must remain under supervision.

The owner is obliged to prevent aggression or escape.

An important point: in the event of an incident, statements such as “I didn’t react in time” or “she never behaves like this” carry almost no legal significance. Responsibility still remains with the owner.

Responsibility: Something People Remember Only After a Problem Occurs

In dog ownership and breeding, responsibility is never theoretical — it is always practical.

It may take several forms:

Civil liability — compensation for damages.

Administrative liability — fines for violating animal keeping regulations.

Criminal liability — in serious cases involving severe consequences or cruelty to animals.

Documents: A Formality That Often Saves the Owner

Although many owners view documentation as mere bureaucracy, in practice it forms the foundation of both legal and veterinary protection.

Usually this includes:

1. Veterinary passport.
2. Vaccination records (primarily rabies vaccination).
3. Animal identification (microchip).
4. Documents confirming pedigree or origin.

These are not simply “formalities.” In conflict situations, such records often determine the owner’s legal position.

The Main Principle to Remember

Within the legal framework of dog ownership, there is a simple but strict formula:

The more freedom an animal receives, the greater the responsibility assumed by the owner.

In other words, the right to keep a dog is never “unconditional comfort.” It is

always the management of risk.

Interested in the Topic?

Dogs themselves do not require a complicated legal approach — situations surrounding them do.

Join a deeper study of the subject to better protect both yourself and your dog.

👉 Learn more and register: Webinar Series: “Legal Aspects of Dog Ownership and Breeding”



Lavenderish, or The Touch of Nature: An Aromatherapy Experience in Caring for Dogs

Yuliana Melnyk



“Rex survived not only because we knew what to do. But because we could not bear to lose him. We simply kept breathing together.” There are stories that stay in the heart forever.

Not stories about heroism or great achievements. Stories about life itself. About how a few drops of oil, a prayer, and faith in a miracle can save what matters most.

Rex is one of our Rottweilers. A large, powerful, serious guardian of the farm where we lived. He was never afraid of strangers — nor even of wild cats the size

of a medium dog. But it was the chase after one such “guest” that nearly became fatal.

Rex entered a storage area containing chemical substances and suffered severe chemical burns to his mouth and throat. The veterinarian’s prognosis was devastating: if there was no improvement within two days, euthanasia would be considered.

Medication could not even be administered — his jaws would not open, and bloody foam flowed from his mouth. And then we did what we knew best: we trusted essential oils, nature, and love.

We gathered our collection of essential oils. Lavender — our main “angel” for burns. Tea tree — as an antiseptic. Fennel — for support.

We prepared two natural sprays: one based on olive oil, the other on green tea. Every hour, despite fear and pain, we gently sprayed these mixtures into our dog’s mouth.

Within a day, a miracle happened.

The following evening Rex stood up, opened the door himself, and walked outside into the yard. He made his usual rounds of the property. His eyes were alive again. His spirit had returned. Life had returned.



At the next veterinary visit, euthanasia was no longer even discussed. We were simply sent home to continue recovery. Since then, we affectionately call him *Lavenderish*.

Living with Aromas: How We Use Essential Oils in Everyday Life with Dogs
When people ask whether essential oils are safe for dogs, I always answer honestly: We do not *treat* dogs with oils — we *live* with them.

They are part of our daily environment. Part of our way of existing with respect, gentleness, and minimal intrusion. And for us, it works.



All of our dogs' whelpings take place accompanied by a diffuser with lavender. It has become a ritual. Lavender helps reduce anxiety, ease tension, and create an atmosphere of trust and safety.

Many times we have noticed how the females begin breathing more calmly as soon as the familiar gentle scent fills the air. Another story is about our Cobra.

She is extremely emotionally sensitive. She loves silence, space, and her own special evening rituals. Every night before sleep she lies near the diffuser glowing softly with a blend containing ylang-ylang.

This was entirely her choice — we never forced it. She simply found her own form of comfort there. And she falls asleep murmuring in her own way — a canine version of purring.



Naturopathy is not a replacement for veterinary medicine. But it can become meaningful support — and sometimes, as in Rex's case, even an alternative path when options are limited.

Essential oils have become part of our lives.

We use only natural, high-quality oils. We avoid anything harsh or potentially toxic. And we always observe the dog's reaction carefully — because even the best remedy must be chosen with care.

During warm seasons we also use essential oils as part of tick prevention.

Instead of chemical products that often cause irritation, we prefer natural blends: a few drops of citronella eucalyptus, geranium, or lemon placed on a bandana or collar worn by the dog.



Sometimes we diffuse the aromas in the air before walks as well.

Of course, not every experience suits everyone.

We are not veterinarians. And we do not replace medicine with fairy tales.

But anyone who has ever seen a dog's breathing calm beneath the whisper of lavender knows this:

Essential oils can become more than fragrance.

They can become calm. Care. Support.

Before using any oil, we always verify its quality, origin, and the individual reaction of each dog.



We have long since entered a world where dogs are no longer simply pets — they are partners, friends, members of the family.

And we want to give them more than care.

We want to give them a life scented with love.

Rex — our Lavenderish — still walks past the diffuser every evening and inhales the familiar aroma deeply.

And Cobra still “purrs” in her sleep beside the scent of ylang-ylang.



And I know for certain:
For them, this is not about treatment.
It is about presence.
About knowing that we are near.
That even in the darkest times, there is
still light.
And a scent that leads you home.
“Not all medicine is sold in
pharmacies.
Some remedies are created by
nature itself...”





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Dog's Multiverse Journal