



Dog: Man's Best Friend for a Really Long Time

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Yes, it's a really early dog! With a mammoth bone in its mouth! They say it's from 27,000 years ago. So if you're not an evolutionist, the timing is off. Nonetheless, this announcement of May 29, 2014 in the science world is a must read for dog lovers!

Pat Shipman, Professor Emerita at Penn State, has been studying European archaeological sites where lots of mammoths died. So many, in fact, that the people in the area were building their homes out of mammoth bones.

These sites are said to have appeared throughout central and eastern Eurasia between 45,000 and 15,000 years ago, though scientists believe that humans had been hunting mammoths for at least a million years prior to this. (note: this is the opinion of scientists following the popular understanding of carbon dating. Other scientists date the appearance of humans on earth to less than 10,000 years ago.)





Model of mammoth bone shelter



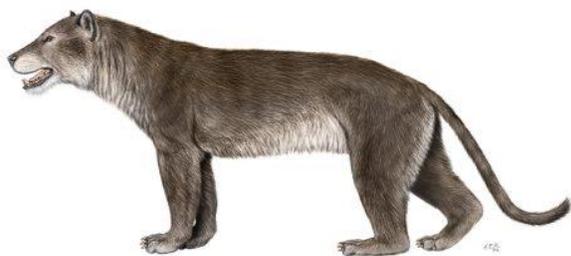
Until now, scientists had not been able to figure out how such large numbers of mammoths could have been killed with the crude weapons available in that time period.

Surprisingly, Shipman said, she found that "few of the mortality patterns from these mammoth deaths matched either those from natural deaths among modern

elephants killed by droughts or by culling operations with modern weapons that kill entire family herds of modern elephants at once." This discovery suggested to Shipman that a successful new technique for killing such large animals had been developed and its repeated use over time could explain the mysterious, massive collections of mammoth bones in Europe.

Her fascinating conclusion and subsequent discoveries propose that the mammoth killings were a joint effort between humans and the first domesticated dogs or semi-domesticated wolves. This also explains why there are an abundance of wolf and fox bones at the same sites...killed by the territorial domesticated animals.





Additional studies by others seem to confirm this hypothesis. One team found that the diets of these canids was different, suggesting that they were being fed by humans. Another team found that the specimens thought to be dogs had distinctive DNA unlike any

other animals of that time. They may, in fact also be extinct, because their DNA doesn't even match any of today's dog breeds.

The awesome conclusion: dogs may indeed have been man's best friend for longer than we knew, and may be more linked to man's survival as a species than we ever imagined.

Journal Reference

Pat Shipman. *How do you kill 86 mammoths? Taphonomic investigations of mammoth megasites.*

Quaternary International, 2014; DOI: 10.1016/j.quaint.2014.04.048

Prehistoric dog images: Found in a Google search for "early dogs."



Pre-historic Dino Dog!

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- [Full Story at Science Daily](#)
- [More Insight at AAAS Science Mag](#)
- [2008 Discovery of "World's First Dog"](#)