

Wolfiness Score

The Wolfiness Score is based on the number of ancient genetic variants your dog has in our unique Wolfiness marker panel.

Cerberus's Wolfiness Score is high at 9.5%.

What it means for Cerberus

Cerberus's Wolfiness Score is not a measure of recent dog-wolf hybridization and does not necessarily indicate that he has some recent wolf ancestors. (If he has recent wolf ancestors, you will see that in his breed mix report.) Instead, the Wolfiness Score is based on the number of ancient genetic variants Cerberus has in our unique Wolfiness marker panel.

Most dogs have wolfiness scores of 1% or less. We find populations and breeds with higher scores of 2-4% occasionally, and unique dogs with scores of 5% or above more rarely.

Wolfiness scores up to 10% are almost always due to ancient wolf genes that survived many generations, rather than any recent wolf ancestors. These ancient genes may be a few thousand years old, or may even date back to the original domestication event 15,000 years ago. **They are bits of a wild past that survive in your dog!**

The science

Cerberus's Wolfiness Score is based on hundreds of markers across the genome where most dogs are the same, but wolves tend to be different. These markers are thought to be related to "domestication gene sweeps" where early dogs were selected for some trait.

Scientists have known about "domestication gene sweeps" for years, but do not yet know why each sweep occurred. By finding rare dogs carrying an ancient variant at a certain marker, we can make associations with behavior, size, metabolism, and development that likely caused these unique "dog" signatures in the genome.