

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2018

Man's Best Friend

Dogs have often *Says...* been called man's best friend, but did you ever wonder how they came to be known that way? If not, then you aren't alone—even experts have difficulty determining how relationships between dogs and humans developed.



Happy New Year!

What we do know is that before even the advent of agriculture, humans were hunters and gatherers. In this time period, humans formed a partnership with another animal—the grey wolf. Over time, those wolves and humans became more dependent on each other. Evolution began to physically change these wolves who partnered with humans—their skulls, teeth, and paws shrank, their ears flopped, they became more docile, and they learned how to read human facial expressions.

When exactly did dogs become domesticated? It's not certain, with some people saying it happened 10,000 years ago and others suggesting as far back as 30,000 years ago. But dog domestication is unique from the domestication of other animals, such as cats, chickens, cows, pigs, etc., in two ways. For one, dogs were the first animals that humans managed to domesticate. And two, domestication of dogs happened in two different places.

It's believed that the first wolves were domesticated in central Asia. Then, about 1,000-2,000 years later, people in Europe also domesticated wolves. Two different cultures on different sides of the world both making the decision to domesticate the same kind of animal is very unusual. How could that have happened?

There are a few possible scenarios suggested by scientists. One is that wolves basically domesticated themselves to take advantage of human resources. They would scavenge the carcasses left behind by human hunters and hang around human campfires until in time, they became tamer. Another theory is that humans actively bred and trained wolves so they could be more effective hunters.

Whatever the case, fossil evidence suggests humans and dogs began closely associating around 15,000 years ago. That's when people began burying dogs, which suggests a sign of affection. In some cases, humans were buried *alongside* dogs. As far back as 8,000 years ago, dogs were considered an important part of the human family to aid in hunting.

So how did dogs go from being hunting partners to companions kept inside the home? That's believed to have begun around 2,000 years ago during the time of the Roman Empire.

Today, dogs are the most common pet in many different countries across the world. The most common form of bonding between two different species is between dogs and humans. Not only have humans managed to influence the behavior of dogs, but it's believed by some anthropologists that dogs have influenced the behavior of humans. Human behaviors such as social bonding and marking territory in the form of symbols is believed to have been learned through our interactions with dogs and wolves.

So celebrate the Year of the Dog by giving a thought to man's best friend.

Article by Perry

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here's a site with a short history about dogs:

<http://www.petwebsite.co.uk/dogs/about-dogs/history-of-dogs>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Many early philosophers, such as Plato, branded writing as a detriment to the human intellect. Well, for Plato at least, this may have been true, but writing in your second language is a great tool for developing confidence in speaking. Writing, especially dialogue, gives you a chance to “see” how you speak and to analyze the mistakes you make while speaking. Writing also allows you to consolidate your thoughts in your second language.... Oh, and Happy New Year!

Junko Says: Another New Year has come and gone and here we are in 2018 already! Crossroads will be turning 35 at the end of this year! I can't believe it! I can't believe how the time, the years, have gone by. But as the saying goes, “time waits for no one.” So, we'll just continue to help you to develop your second language skills and be as supportive as we possibly can. I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and I hope you continue to studying hard!



Perry Says: New Year's resolutions are commonly made in January. People will try to set massive goals, such as losing weight, improve finances, or make other big changes. But a 2007 study showed that 88% fail to keep resolutions. Many people make too many, fail to track their progress, or just set unrealistic goals. So if you set a resolution, make it a manageable goal and be sure to keep track of your progress.

Darrin Says: And another year is upon us. Phew, 2017 seemed to whizz by so fast, I barely had time to get into it. Okay 2018, I'm ready for you. I've enjoyed my New Years feast, said my prayers, made my resolutions, so bring it on. I Hope that you all have a great 2018.



Mandcy dit: J'espère que vous avez passé des bonnes vacances. Bonne année et bonne santé à tous !!! Je vous adresse tous mes vœux de bonheur pour 2018 !!! N'oubliez-pas non plus ce mois-ci de vous régaler avec la galette des rois !! Et de prendre beaucoup de résolutions ! Et surtout de les tenir. Encore une belle année en votre compagnie... A bientôt pour de nouvelles aventures,

ACROSS

- 1 in essence, fundamentally
- 3 overcome wildness
- 4 willing to be taught, led or supervised
- 5 decrease in size
- 7 forming a close relationship
- 9 fell loosely (usually down)
- 12 an important arrival or beginning
- 13 feed on dead animals
- 15 keeping company with

DOWN

- 2 scientists who study the origins of human societies
- 3 relying upon or needing support
- 6 dead bodies of animals
- 8 deciding
- 10 a positive feeling of liking
- 11 able to achieve a purpose
- 14 highly unusual or rare ([print version here](#))

Play A Game!





From Sri Lanka's Summer to Ehime's Winter

From S(a)3's Taro

If you read Crossroads' newsletter in July, you will know I went to Sri Lanka this summer on a business trip for Ehime Prefecture International Center (EPIC). In Sri Lanka, most people could speak English fluently. Perhaps this was because their country was colonized by England in the past. It was a good practical opportunity for me to communicate in English.

From December 3rd to the 10th last year, I had another great chance to talk with Sri Lankans in English. As a matter of fact, Sri Lankan government staff came to Japan and I was appointed to take care of them. They stayed in Ehime for a week in order to study how to cultivate *mikan* (mandarins). So, they visited many orchards and markets in Ehime. While they were here, I worked as a chauffeur, a photographer and an interpreter.



During my trip to Sri Lanka last year

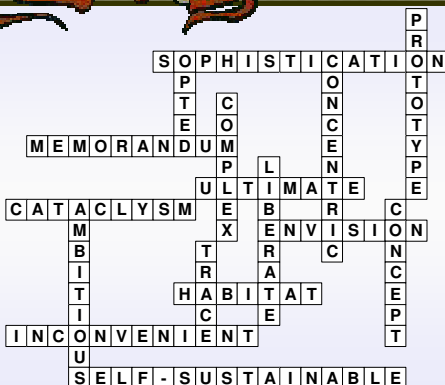
When I escorted them to Yawatahama City in the southern area of Ehime, it was snowing. At first, they looked excited. They said that their country is a tropical island and they shivered. On our way to their hotel, I had to maximize the heater in my car in response to their request.

At a fruit market in Uwajima City, the Sri Lankan officials showed an interest in some produce such as *kaki* (persimmons) or *sake* (Japanese wine). When they asked us what they were, my boss tried to look up the names in his English dictionary. However, thanks to our teacher Joshua, I knew "*kaki*" and "*sake*" can be used in English. In fact, the Sri Lankans understood those words correctly. My boss was surprised to know that "*kaki*" and "*sake*" were international words. I remembered that my classmates and I at Crossroads had the same reaction when Joshua taught us that English is a very versatile language.

To tell the truth, I was a little nervous about working with foreigners at first. But fear is often greater than danger. Thanks to communicating in English with Joshua and my friends every week, I was able to have a smooth conversation with them. Thank you!



And, Happy New Year!



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 2 refined, complex and worldly
- 6 written proposal
- 8 furthest or highest in degree
- 9 a sudden and violent event
- 12 imagine, picture to oneself
- 14 an environment that supports life
- 15 discomfort or not convenient
- 16 needing no outside support

DOWN

- 1 a full-scale working model
- 3 selected as an alternative
- 4 having a common center
- 5 complicated in structure
- 7 make free
- 10 a strong desire for success
- 11 a general idea
- 13 an indication that something once existed



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.