

Spread Story of Kangal (*Karabash*) Shepherd Dogs in the World

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ABSTRACT: Since 1960's Turkish Kangal (*Karabash*) Shepherd Dogs were taken to numerous countries in the world. Nowadays this dog is bred in five continents. First in 1960s this breed was taken to UK and later then it was taken to USA in 1980s. In this review story of spread of Turkish Kangal (*Karabash*) Shepherd Dogs was explained in the World.

Keywords: Shepherd Dog, *Karabash*, dog club, genetic resource.



Kangal (*Karabaş*) Çoban Köpeğinin Dünyaya Yayılış Öyküsü

ÖZET: Türk Kangal (*Karabaş*) Çoban Köpeği 1960'lı yıllardan beri dünyanın birçok ülkesine götürülmüştür. Bu köpek günümüzde 5 kıtada yetiştirilmektedir. İlk önce 1960'lı yıllarda İngiltere'ye götürülen bu ırk, daha sonra 1980'lerde ABD'ye götürülmüştür. Bu derlemede Türk Kangal (*Karabaş*) Çoban Köpeğinin dünyaya yayılış öyküsü incelenmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Çoban Köpeği, *Karabaş*, köpek kulübü, gen kaynağı.

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INTRODUCTION

Although among scientist there is no full agreement on where and when dogs (*Canis familiaris*) originated, the dog is the first domesticated animal in pre-historic times (Clutton and Brock, 1995). Savolainen et al. (2002) reported that a genetic evidence for East Asian origin of domestic dog was found in China approximately 15000 BP. Belli (2006), revealed that hunting seen with dog 15000 BP rock carving in village of Calli, county of Kagizman, province of Kars, Turkey. According to Belli (2006), the rock carving showed that dogs used to use to hunt deer and/or wild goats in ancient times. Pang et al. (2009) reported that mtDNA data indicated a single origin for dogs South of Yangtze River, less than 16300 BP.

In Canidae family there are five species of dog (*C. familiaris*), wolf (*C. lupus*), jackal (*C. aureus*), coyote (*C. latrans*) and dingo (*C. dingo*). Those species of Canidae family have 78 chromosomes. They can mate each other and give birth. In dog species (*C. familiaris*), guardian dogs are dogs bred to defend people and their possessions. Livestock guardian dogs and Guard dogs are two categories of guardian dogs (Yalçın, 1981).

Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) breeds have been used for centuries to protect livestock animals from predators in the World. Many also work as family and home guardians, and several are assistance dogs to their disabled owners. Under a right socialization process, training and physical environment, LGDs can be successful as family pets and home protectors. They are generally aloof toward strangers and only their size alone can be rather intimidating. In spite of their strength, independent-mind and protectiveness, they are normally gentle against children and livestock alike (Table 1). There is a common saying among LGD owners that is "LGDs are like potato chips - you can't have just one" (Clutton and Brock, 1995; Sims and Dawydiak, 1990; www.lgd.org 2011; Yılmaz, 2006).

The Kangal (Karabash) Dog is a protecting dog, it is not a herding dog. Job of Kangal dog is to protect the flock, its owner/shepherd and his property from predators and to avoid intruders. They do not attack any intruders unless they approach too close to the hut or flocks of his in charge. In Kangal dogs have a good body structure, dun or fawn coloured coat with muzzle, ears and eyes edged with a black mask, completely dropped ears close to the skull and tail hanging low with a slightly upward and forward curl. Kangal Shepherd Dog is a fiercely loyal dog that demonstrates a possessive attitude towards family, property, livestock,

and whatever he grows up around. He is suspicious of strangers and can be reserved. He is often assertive, demanding and determined. They like staying with a herd and are very sensitive to changes in normal herd behaviour or routine (Yılmaz, 2007^a).

The Kangal dog is not a dog which can be raised by everyone. They have intelligent and independent manner. That combination makes them a bit challenging to train, so obedience work during juvenile ages is a necessity. A Kangal dog likes to be top dog and dominate other animals especially other dogs. They require an owner who can be a strong, positive leader. If not socialized and obedience trained, a Kangal may become unmanageable with strangers and sometimes with his owner especially in urban living. They need to be familiar with the outside world. A proper introduction should be provided to other dogs, cats and farm animals which are critical to a positive relationship for them. The introduction period must be applied and it may take from several days to weeks (Yılmaz, 2007^b).

Ownership of a Kangal dog requires a great responsibility. An owner of a Kangal Dog who lives in an urban area requires less responsibility, but living in cities and having close neighbours who will not tolerate loud barking, this may be a major problem for the owner. Anatolians are not proper for urban living and good off leash dogs. This is not the dog for the person who wants to leave the dog chained up until the owner has the time for them (Yılmaz, 2007^b).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first Kangal Dogs were taken to UK by Mrs Charmian Biernoff (later Dr Charmian Steele and Dr Charmian Hussey) from two villages of Konya province in 1965. Charmian took the puppies which name were Gazi from Bakirtolu village and Sabahat from Hayiroglu village, both circa 30-35 km east of Konya on the way of Karapinar County, and brought to UK. Later then Kangal dogs became quite popular in UK and either Kangal dogs were bred in UK or more dogs were imported from Turkey to UK. The Anatolian Karabash Dog Club (AKDC) was founded in 1968. Nowadays in UK AKDC have more than 1.000 registered Kangal/Karabash dogs which are just as the same dog have been preserved under the name Kangal (Karabash) in Turkey (Reed, 2003; Mellor, 2007).

David and Judith Nelson were American citizens who studied the dogs while resident in Turkey. They first reported the Kangal Dog in North American canine

Table 1. Summary of survey characterizing livestock guarding dogs in USA farms (Green and Woodruff, 1990)

Breed	Great Pyrene	Komondor	Akbash	Ana. Shepherd	Maremma	Shar	Planina	Kuvasz	Hybrid	Other	TOTAL
Number of Dogs	437	38	2	56	20	11	7	23	9	763	
Effectiveness (%)	Very	71	69	69	77	70	40	57	87	43	71
	Some	22	19	22	13	20	30	29	4	29	21
	Not	7	12	9	10	10	30	14	9	28	8
Economics (%)	Asset	83	82	76	82	84	50	80	84	20	82
	Breakeven	11	8	12	8	5	0	0	5	20	9
	Liability	6	10	12	10	11	50	20	11	60	9
Stays with sheep (%)	Mostly	53	50	71	69	79	30	33	70	33	56
	Usually	24	23	12	16	16	20	33	13	17	22
	Rarely	23	27	17	15	5	50	34	17	50	22
Aggressive to... (%)	Predators	95	94	100	69	94	88	100	95	83	95
	Dogs	67	77	92	86	94	89	67	85	100	74
Dog injures ... (%)	Sheep	7	24	20	14	20	33	40	18	43	14
	People	4	17	6	9	5	25	0	0	29	7
Problems (%)	None	42	38	36	42	58	40	0	43	17	41
	Major	47	48	19	48	24	40	86	38	50	46
	Minor	11	14	15	10	18	20	14	19	33	13

NB. On the table all numbers are in ratio except "Number of Dogs" line.

literature. The Nelsons imported their first Kangal Dog to the United States in 1985. A navy commander Robert Ballard also imported some puppies from UK to USA. Those dogs, and subsequent imports, provided the foundation for the Kangal Dog in the United States. Later then the Kangal Dog Club of America was founded the Kangal Dog was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1998 (www.didimdogshelter.com, 2011; www.ukcdogs.com, 2011). In 1990s The Kangal dogs were known in Australia and imported some dogs from UK

and Turkey. The Kangal Dog Association was found in December.1996 and recognized by Australia National Kennel Council in 1.July.1998 (Nippers, 2011). In the Netherlands the first written article on Turkish Kangal (Karabash) Shepherd Dog was shown in magazine of Onze Hond (Our Dog) in the December.1986 issue. After three years the first Kangal Dog was imported from Turkey to the Netherland by Mr Goezinnen in 1989. At present time there is no official Kangal club in the Netherlands and are about 300 Kangal Dogs (Vink, 2007).

In Germany there are lots of dogs and several clubs. Akbash-Karabash Club, Anatolian Shepherd Dog Association (ASDA), Friends of the Turkish Dog Society and Kangal Club. The most active club is the ASDA which was founded in 1991 (Borg, 2007). In France Kangal Dogs have been since 1970s and the first registered litter was born in 1987. First more than 500 dogs were registered under the Club of Berger d'Anatolia. This club disappeared and new club of Association Française du Berger d'Anatolia (AFBA) was founded. In 2000s The Kangal Club of France was founded by Anne Voiry and it is still active. Apart from those countries in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and (Former) Yugoslavia (Croatia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Slovenia) there are also Kangal Dogs but not so many (Borg, 2007).

CONCLUSION

The Kangal (Karbash) dog is one of the most remarkable protection dog in livestock guardian breeds from various countries in the World. The dog is not only considered an important part of culture and history in Turkey, but also in other countries raised. Hence this breed should be protected and conserved the genetic purity of the Kangal (Karbash) Dog by the government of Turkey.

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