



Paw Prints

Jodi Schneider
Columnist

Your pet's DNA

Doggie looks can be deceiving. More and more people are turning to DNA tests to learn more about the breed, behavior, and health of their dogs and cats. If your furry friend's parentage is perplexing, a dog DNA test could reveal its ancestry.

DNA testing or profiling came to fame in the 1980s when it was first used to help solve crimes.

While DNA testing as we know it was refined between the 1950s and 1980s, there were forms of genetic testing done as early as 1886. As recently as 2017, there was a boom in personalized DNA testing, where it has been used to uncover the ancestry of humans, dogs, and cats.

Nine years ago I adopted a 9-month-old white-and-tan puppy, Ollie, from

Brightside Animal Center and when I take him out walking or for a visit to Sisters Feed, some people would say he looked like a Jack Russell or maybe he was part bulldog, or he looked like a large Chihuahua.

I decided to try to find out more about Ollie's ancestry. I went online, ordered a DNA kit, swabbed his mouth for saliva, put it in a tube, and mailed it off. A couple of weeks later I received the results. I found out that Ollie is 50 percent rat terrier and that on one side of his family were pure rat terriers and the other side was 25 percent Chihuahua mixed in with another type of large water dog.

It all made perfect sense — why he had that “terrier” personality and why he was always chasing the squirrels off the property!

If you're one of the millions of Americans who owns a rescue dog, you may be curious about what breed your best furry friend is. Pet parents across the nation are buying DNA-testing kits to try to figure out their dog's ancestry.

The appeal of these tests is finding out more about the breed that could give owners insights into how to handle their dog's quirks. It's about understanding your dog's behavior: “What makes them tick? Why do they look the way they do? Why do

they act the way they do?”

The Wisdom Panel, the DNA test made by Mars Petcare, tests for over 350 breeds going back to the great-grandparent level. It examines the DNA from the dog's cells for thousands of genetic markers and compares it to the company's large breed database to calculate the “best match” in terms of breed.

The test can analyze over 20 genetic traits, and as evidence of its accuracy it can often precisely predict coat color patterns and body traits like ear erectness, leg length and weight. Though it makes a great conversation-starter in the dog park, some experts warn these tests should be taken with a grain of salt, because it's hard to know how accurate they are.

However, the Wisdom Panel claims a 93 percent accuracy rate. They also test for 152 different genetic diseases.

Just like with DNA tests for people, you can learn from what region of the world your pet's ancestors evolved. Many of the DNA tests offer to provide information about genetic risks for potential health problems. This could be helpful for dog owners because some breeds are more susceptible to certain conditions. They might have an increased risk of a bleeding disorder, hip dysplasia, a heart condition or cancer.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

The origins of Ollie's traits became clearer when his DNA was tested.




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PUBLIC NOTICE

Sisters Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report

The Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 for the Sisters Urban Renewal Agency has been prepared and is on file at Sisters City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Avenue and is summarized here. In FY 2019-20 Sisters URA received \$307,906 in revenue, spent \$17,726 on projects and administration, and paid \$157,967 in principal and interest. Estimated tax revenues and interest for FY 2020-21: \$287,000. Budgeted expenditures for FY 2020-21: \$28,200 (Capital Projects Fund) and \$142,061 (Debt Service Fund). Interested persons may obtain a copy by contacting Finance Officer, Joseph O'Neill at 541-323-5222 or joneill@ci.sisters.or.us. A copy is also available on the City's website, www.ci.sisters.or.us.

An analysis of the tax collection impact on the permanent rate of other tax districts is shown in the table below.

Taxing District	FY 2019/20 Forgone Revenue	FY 2019/20 Permanent Rate Levy	% of Permanent Rate Levy
Deschutes County	25,325	31,484,039	0.08%
County Library	11,413	14,051,486	0.08%
Countywide Law Enforcement	22,448	27,591,516	0.08%
County Extension/4H	424	574,326	0.07%
9-1-1	7,498	9,244,903	0.08%
City of Sisters	54,942	1,190,976	4.61%
Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire District	53,513	2,619,224	2.04%
Sisters Park & Recreation District	4,575	324,976	1.41%
School District #6	85,266	8,960,041	0.95%
School #6 Bond 2001	20,656	2,174,204	0.95%
High Desert ESD	1,981	2,448,188	0.08%
C.O.C.C.	12,875	15,753,035	0.08%
Total	300,915	116,416,914	0.26%

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S NUGGET INSERT!

Ray's Food Place

- Frozen Turkey Breast \$1.99 per lb.
- Fresh-Baked Croissants \$2.69, 4 ct.
- Franz Hawaiian or Classic Dinner Rolls \$2.99, 12 ct.
- Baking Potatoes 59¢ per lb.

PARTY TRAYS

- Party Wing Tray \$18.99
- 12-inch Spinach Dip Tray \$14.99

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