

# Puppy Love

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## *Without a Trace*

Archaeological evidence confirms that dogs arrived in North America at least 10,000 years ago, humans showed up about 15,000 years ago. Although the evidence supports these findings, it is still unknown why there is a 5,000 year gap between the two arrivals. In theory, it is possible the evidence to answer this question remains hidden under the earth yet to be discovered. Archaeologists firmly believe America's first canines migrated across the continent as domesticated dogs accompanying their human pack. But, the most recent tantalizing genetic discovery confirms that America's first dogs do not share their family tree with indigenous wolves found on the continent. Researchers were very surprised to find that "native" or "pre-contact" dogs (dogs prior to the arrival of Europeans) left no genetic trace of their existence with the modern dog population. Recent genetic analysis shows that America's first dogs were closely related to Arctic dogs, such as; the Alaskan malamute, Greenland dog and Siberian huskies

While There Are Many  
Different Roads  
That We Take In Life,  
It is



Those Who  
Walk With US  
That Make The

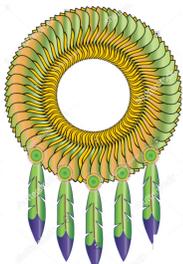


Journey Worth While.



## Meet the Kosters

If you think Koster, Illinois is just a place where cornfields grow, you would be wrong. An archeological dig in an Illinois cornfield uncovered one of the most significant and fascinating archeological sites to be discovered in North America. This discovery unearthed important and fascinating bones and artifacts, but that is not all they discovered. It is home to the *Koster dogs*. These celebrated canines are the earliest documented dogs in the world to warrant their own separate burials. The dogs were purposely buried with respect, laying their bodies in a peaceful sleeping position, their skeletons had no abrasions and further research indicated their owners fed them a lot of fish. It has always been assumed that American dogs were wolves, but the *Koster dogs* were not wolves. Dr. Angela Perri, of Durham University, said, "The dogs are significantly smaller than what we would expect to see in a wolf and have certain characteristics, like smaller teeth and shorter stature, that is typical of domesticated dogs." Carbon dating indicates the *Koster dogs* lived 10,000 years ago.



## When They Arrived...?

The arrival of the first Europeans in North America in the 15<sup>th</sup> century didn't just affect the lives of the native people already living there, it also took a devastating toll on their pets. The lineage of dogs that thrived alongside Native Americans for thousands of years was essentially wiped out with the arrival of canines from Europe. The American dogs could have died from new diseases carried in by the European canines or were slaughtered because they were considered an inferior species. Europeans prohibited interbreeding of their "superior" dogs with native canines.