



Canines in Rock Art

- Wolves
- Coyotes
- And Mostly Dogs



Two-Part Question:

- Did the first people have dogs?
- If so, when did they acquire them?



Canis lupus

Gray Wolf

- Today, using DNA, we know with certainty that dogs are descendant from the Gray wolf
- Most likely derived from an extinct Pleistocene sub-species of Gray wolf



Canis lupus familiaris

Domestic Dog

Altai Proto-Dog
33,000 YBP

Human Migration Routes
13,000 - 18,000 YBP

Haida Gwaii Dog
13,000 YBP

Koster/Stillwell II Dogs
10,000 YBP

YBP = Years Before Present



The archaeological evidence confirms
— the “first people” brought dogs with them
Approximately 18,000 – 20,000 YBP



Inuit Sled Dog – Ancient Arctic Breed





The Cast of Characters

- Coyote
- Wolf
- Dog
- Fox



The Droop-Tails The Coyotes

Canis latrans



The Straight-Tails

The Wolves

Canis lupus



The Curled-Tails The Dogs

Canis lupus familiaris





Fox Farm Experiment

Institute of Cytology & Genetics -- Siberia

Dmitry Belyaev & Lyudmila Trut

Experiment began in 1958 – and is still ongoing

- Silver foxes – bred solely for “tameness”
- Hugely successful – became world famous
 - offspring became “docile & eager to please”
 - stress hormones decreased
 - adrenal glands shrank with each generation
- But ... something else happened ...
- “novel traits” began to appear
 - tails that curl over the back
 - mottled coats
 - juvenile facial features
 - floppy ears



They had discovered “domestication syndrome”

Domestication Syndrome



- Created a new field of science
- Explains the curled-tail in dogs
- Occurs in other species: swine, cats, sheep & cattle



Domestication Syndrome



Domestication Pathways

- Habituation - Adopt a Pup
- Commensal – Self Domestication



The Curled-Tails The Dogs

Canis lupus familiaris



The Curled-Tails The Dogs

Canis lupus familiaris

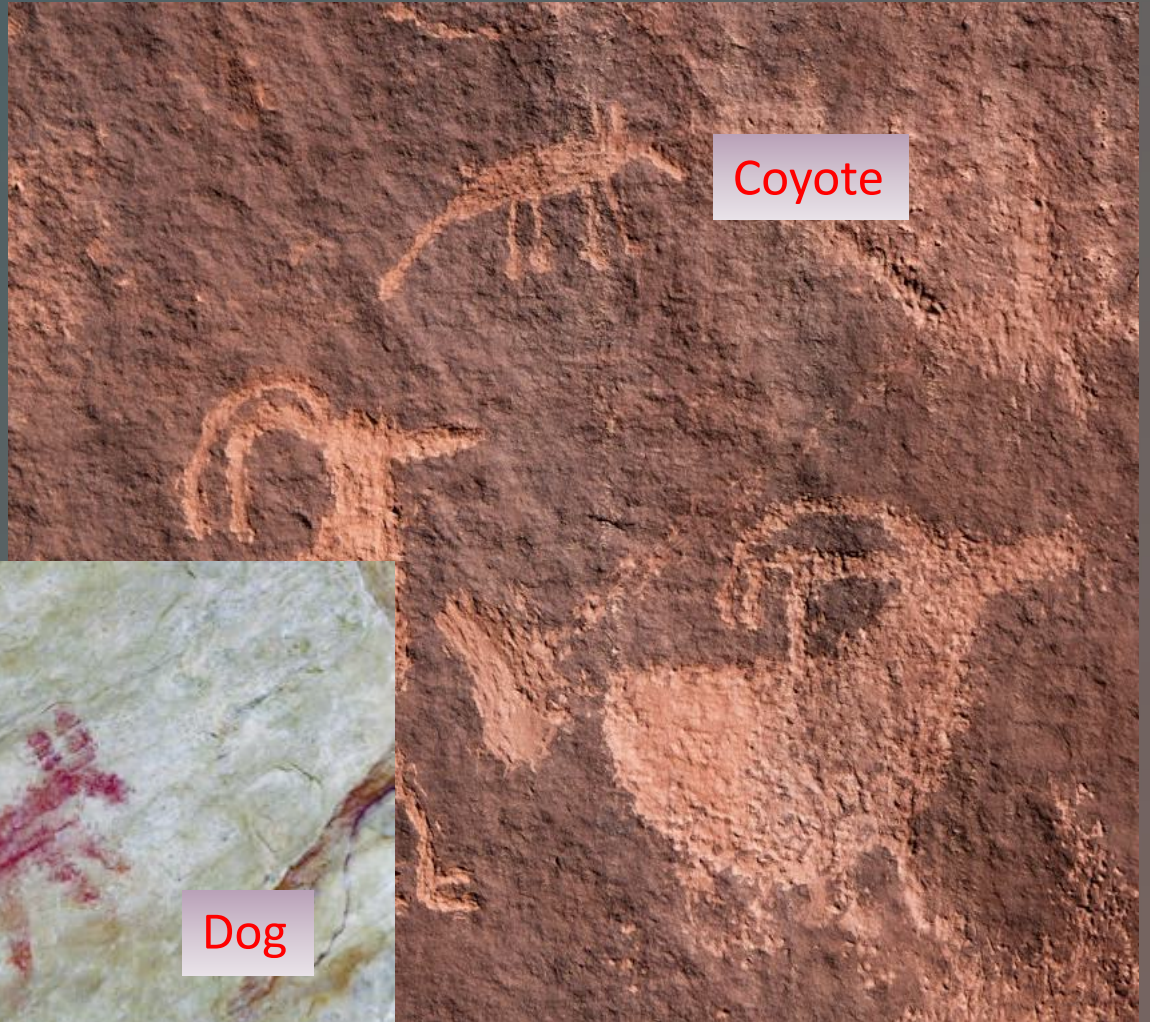


Canines in Rock Art

A brief study guide



Wolf



Coyote



Dog

Photo Credit: Quent Baker





Coyote



Wolf



Dog

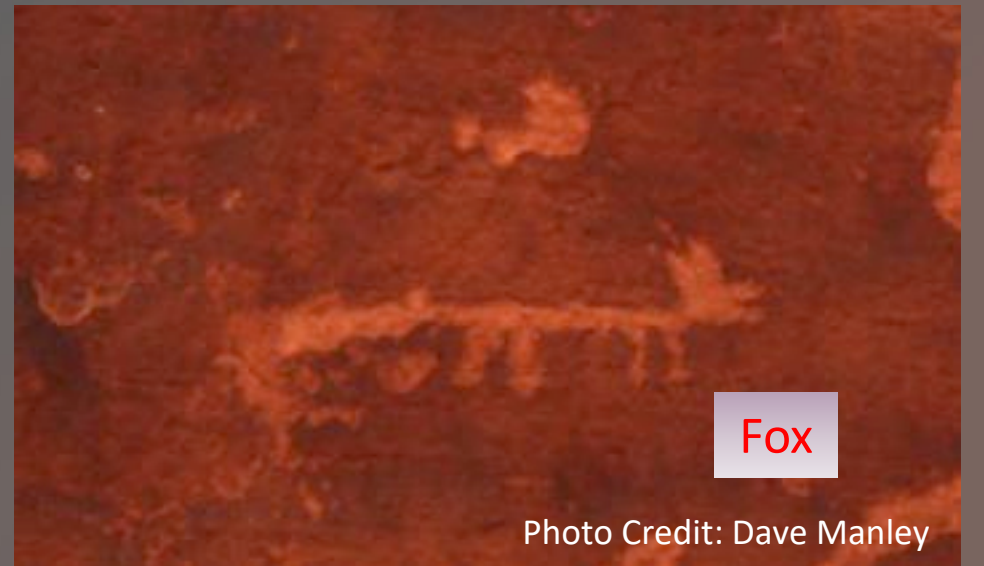
Photo Credit: Glenn Stone



Dog

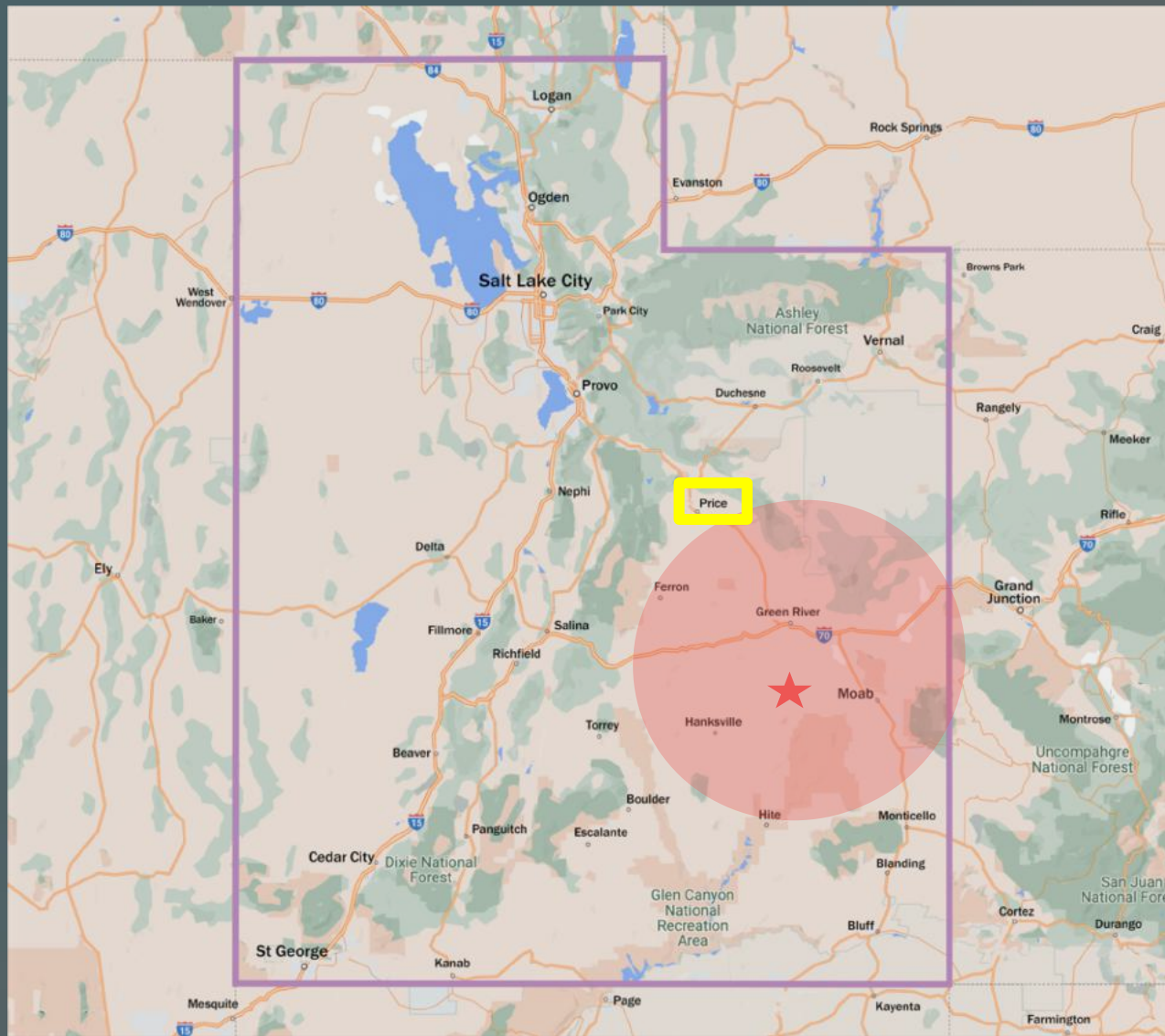


Wolf



Fox

Photo Credit: Dave Manley



Dogs of the Barrier Canyon Style (BCS)

★ = Great Gallery



Canyonlands BCS



BCS Dogs

- Dogs are special in BCS rock art
- We do not understand their role
- Perhaps they serve as:
 - Storytellers?
 - Creator Dogs?
 - Guardians?
 - Afterlife Companions?



BCS Dogs

- They provide intriguing clues but little more
- Note the “powerline” connecting the dog’s tail to the main anthro figure
- Note the supplicants on the right of the anthro



BCS Dogs

- Ceremonial witness?
- Supplicants paying homage?

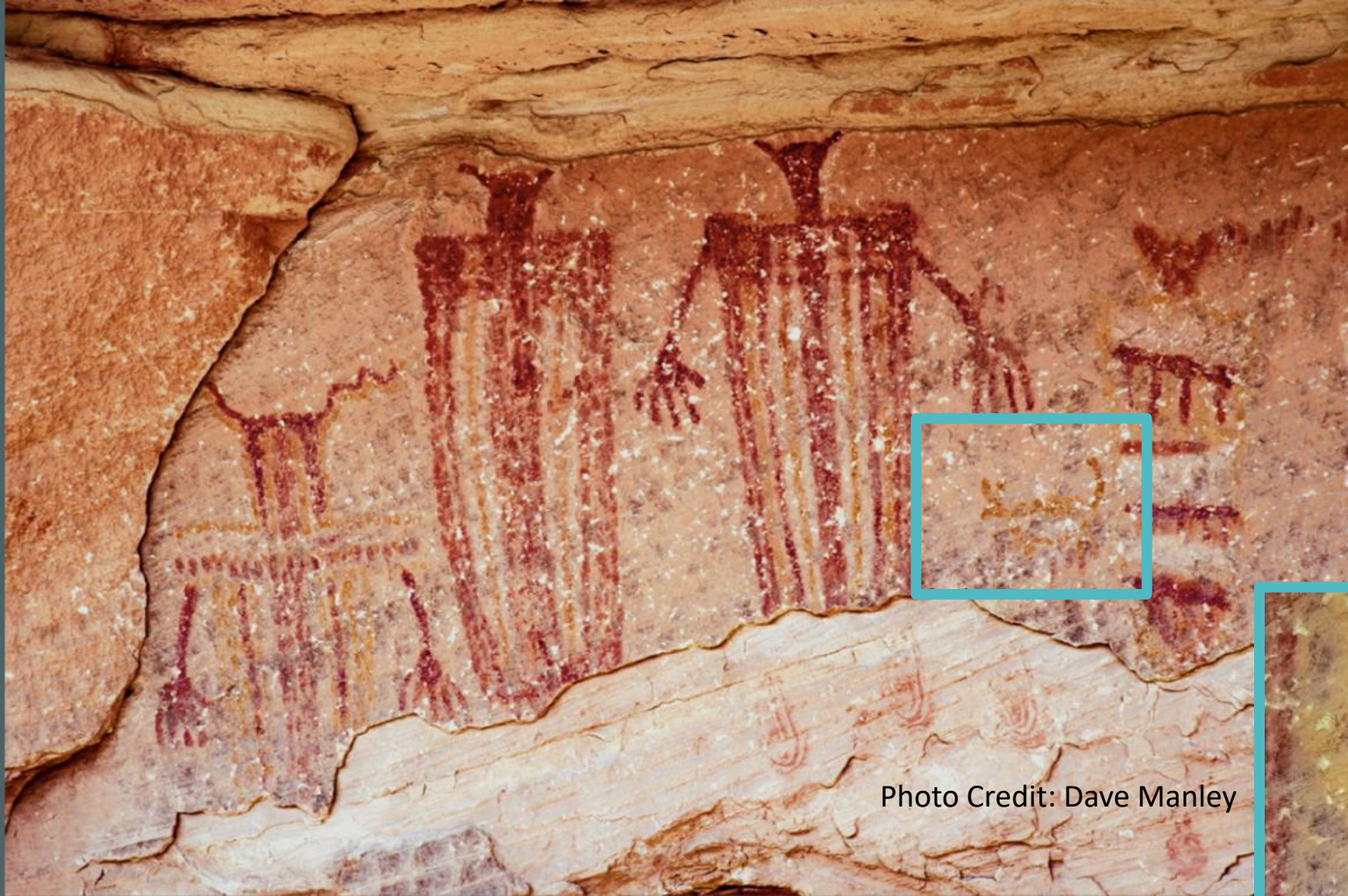
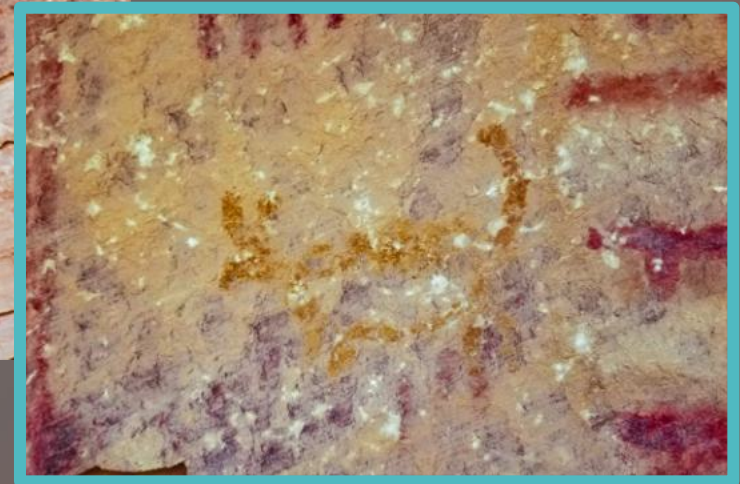


Photo Credit: Dave Manley

BCS Dogs

- Yellow pigmented dog
- Prominent role



BCS Dogs

- Tails are detailed and intentional
- Mirror images – both panels are in the San Rafael desert





BCS Dogs

- Is the dog a required element?
- Why 20 anthros & 1 dog?



BCS Dogs

- Sometimes small action figures
- A warning to visitors?
- A message to the ancestors?

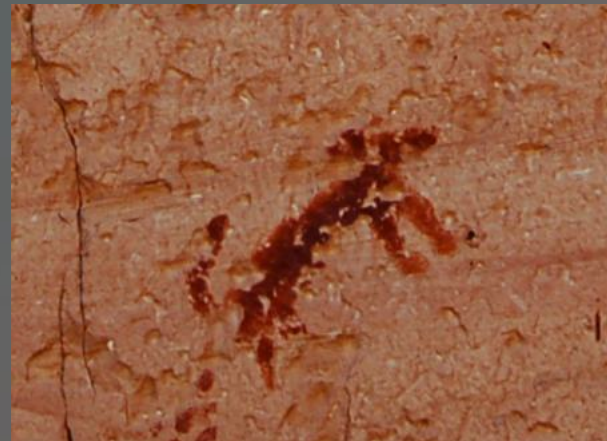


Photo Credit: Richard Jenkinson



BCS Dogs

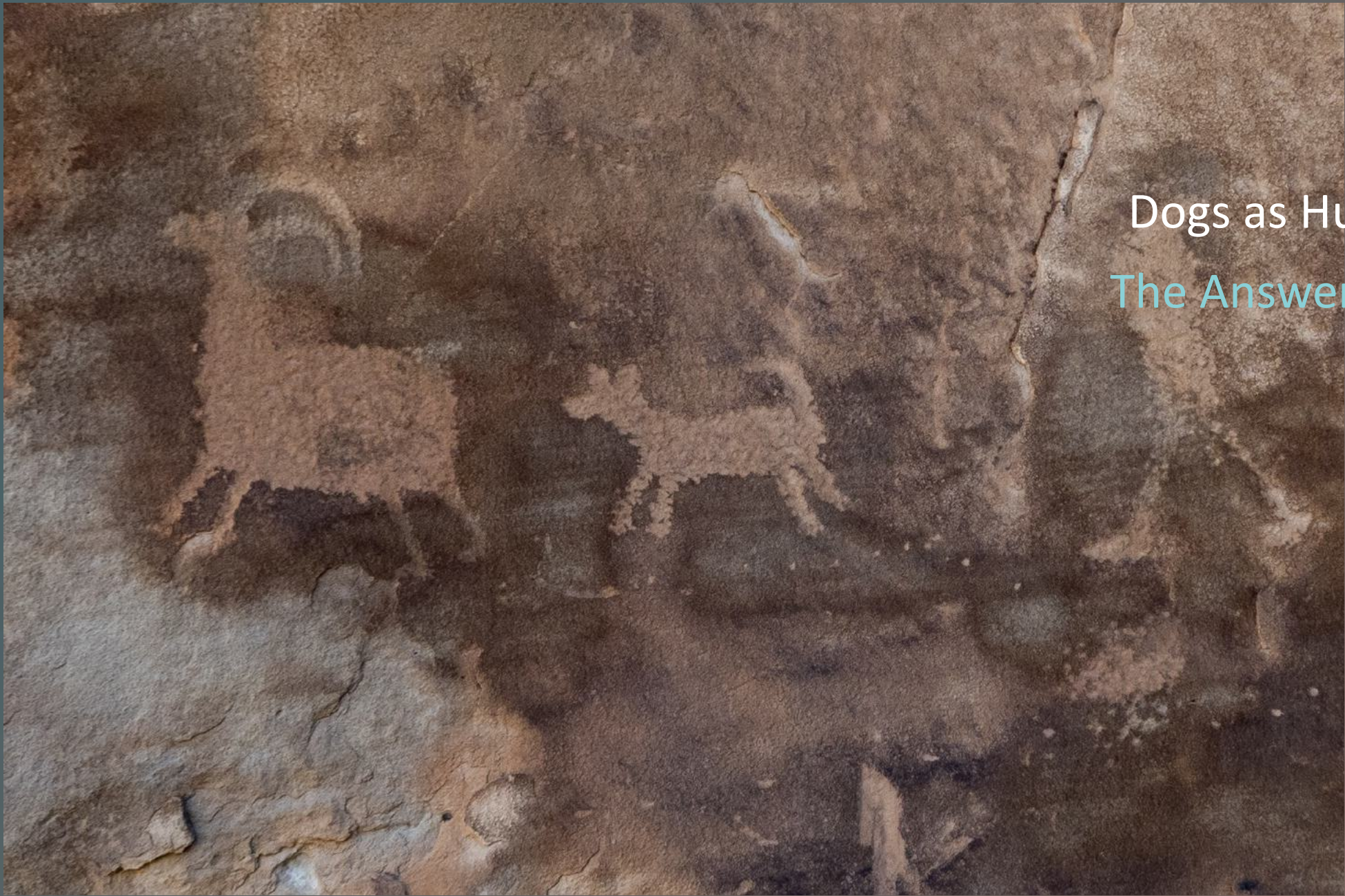
- There are 10 BCS dogs along the trail or at the Great Gallery



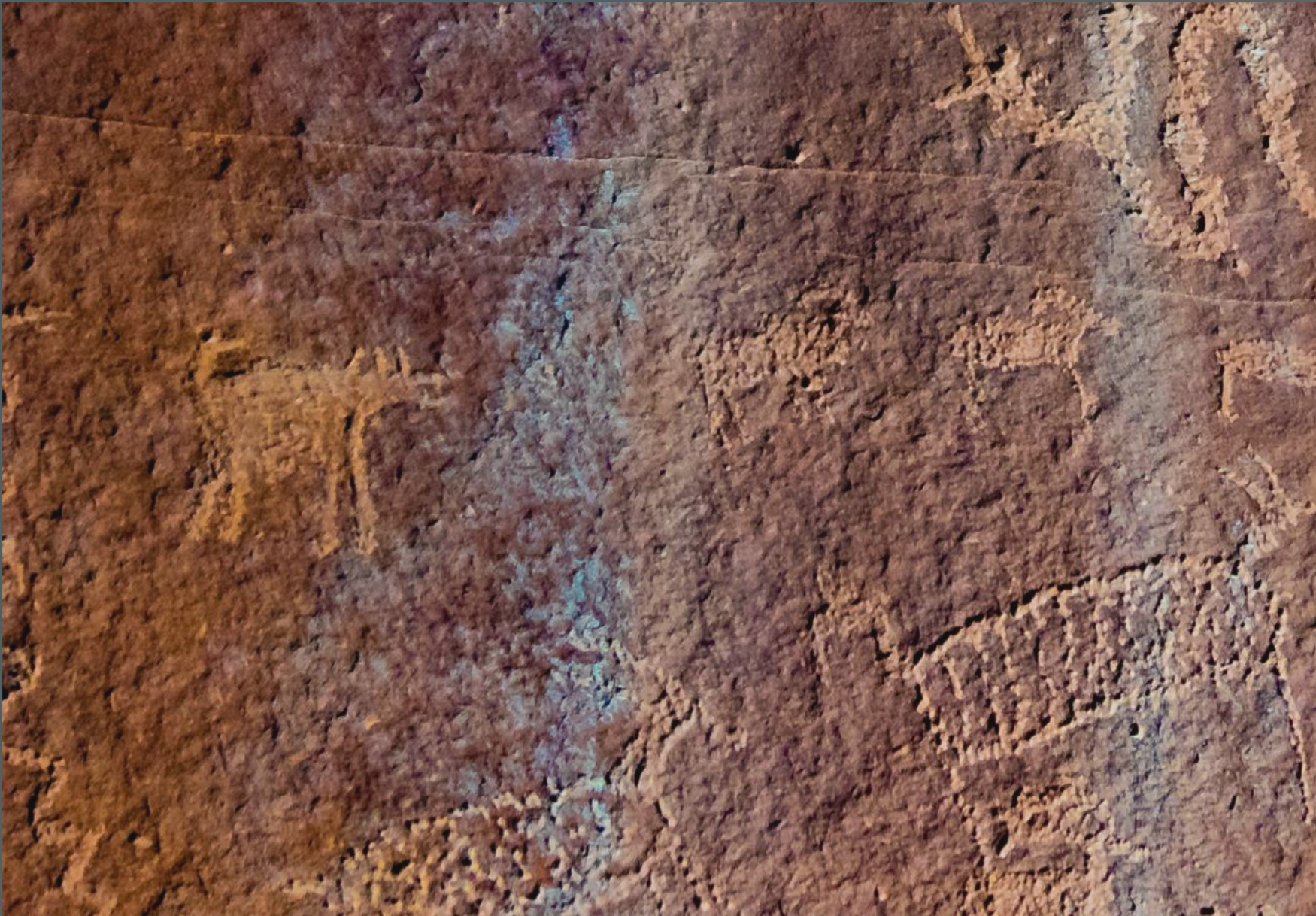
Dogs as Hunters

The Oldest Question: Why Sheep?





Dogs as Hunters
The Answer: Dogs!



Dogs as Hunters

- In Hot Pursuit



Dogs as Hunters

At Least Two Dogs

Humans + Dogs as a Team

Perhaps a spiritual “super-duality”



40 archaic sheep and 1 Dog on this split boulder



Curled & Curled

- Was the dog divined to hunt sheep?



Dogs in Antiquity

Old World Images



- Libya – 6,000 YBP

- Saudi Arabia – 8,000 YBP





- Iraq – 3,000 YBP



From the Gallery

More Rock Art Images



Photo Credit: Roger Cook









Photo Credit: Nina Bowen







Photo Credit: Bob Crifasi



Photo Credit: Ben Everitt



Photo Credit: Randy Langstraat





The End