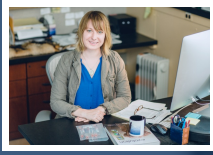


# From Wolves to Dogs



**Bridgett vonHoldt**  
Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### An Evolutionary Exploration

Dr. Bridgett vonHoldt, of Princeton University, investigates the molecular changes that occurred during the domestication of wolves into dogs, and uncovers the evolutionary history of North America's canine species. This research has applications in biodiversity preservation and endangered species policy, and could shed light on the extent to which humanity can change the environment and the species they come into contact with. Dr. vonHoldt is looking to expand her team to support a total of seven research projects that focus on different aspects of canine evolution.

From an evolutionary standpoint, dogs are descendants of a wolf ancestor. Overtime, the genetic sequence of some individuals has changed and allowed them to be domesticated. The extent of these changes and how they affect both dogs and wolves in modern times is still being explored. Given the impact to conservation of endangered species and the future of man's best friend, Dr. Bridgett vonHoldt thinks it's worth exploring.

The evolutionary changes that occurred in the domestic dog lineage that made them lovable pets were extensive, and affect everything from the way they look to the way they fight disease. While observation has yielded a wealth of information, even more can be found at the molecular level. This is where vonHoldt, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, comes in. Her research goal is to unravel genotype-phenotype evolution in both a naturally and artificially evolving species.

Dr. vonHoldt works to solve conservation-based challenges with her research by contributing to a multitude of conservation projects around the world. Together with her research group, which...

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## AFFILIATION

 Princeton University

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology , University of California, Los Angeles

## RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science

## FUNDING REQUEST

Dr. vonHoldt is looking to hire two more post-Ph.D. researchers for 2-3 years. Additional costs are attributed to DNA sequencing. For research like vonHoldt's, DNA sequencing can cost \$500 for a single sample. If the team achieves their \$900,000 fundraising goal, they will be able to cover the cost of personnel, fund sequencing for 1040 canines, and support seven research projects.

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