

A lot of people confuse the term “evolution” with “natural selection”. Do you know the difference between them? Let’s see . . .

Wild animals naturally have lots of variety in their genes. For example, in dogs there is variety with regard to how long their coat is, how big their ears are, how long their legs are, how big they grow, what colour their fur is, and so on. There is lots of variety. The variation in appearance resides in the dogs’ genes. The different characteristics that show up in a litter of puppies demonstrate the in-built variety.

People have been breeding dogs for thousands of years to select for particular traits, that is, particular genes. By continually breeding small dogs together, we can end up with small short-legged dogs like Jack Russells.



Jack Russell

Or, by continually breeding larger dogs together, people have ended up with bigger dogs like Labradors. The natural variety of the genes has been “selected” (by omitting those dogs for breeding purposes that do not have the characteristics

one wants) so that Labradors no longer have genes for growing short legs. And Jack Russells no longer have genes for long legs. Those genes have been “selected out” by careful breeding. Some of the natural variety has been *lost* from the dogs’ genes.

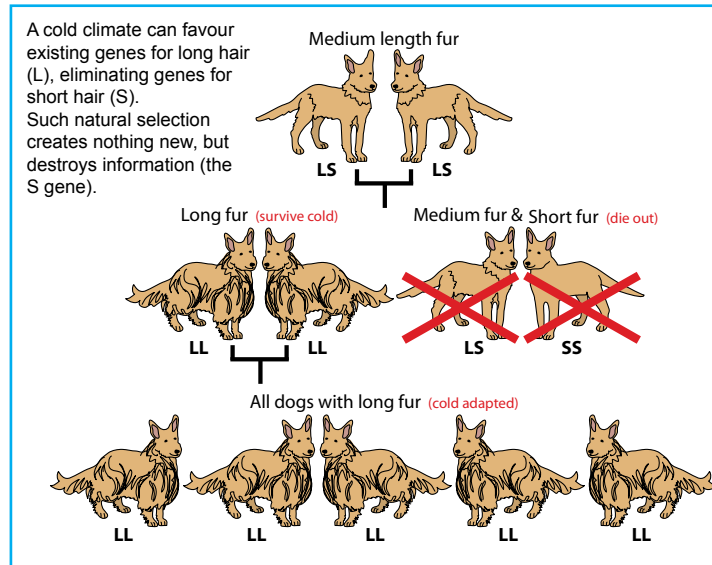
The modern Labrador probably arose in Canada about 200 years ago. Jack Russells were developed in the 1800s in England, by a man named John Russell, for fox hunting. In all cases of specialised breeds of dogs, the natural variety of their genes has been reduced. The genes have been “selected”, by

“selective breeding”. Selective breeding can also be reversed; for example, if we bred a Jack Russell and a Labrador together, we would get a dog that has lots more variety in its genes.



Labrador

Natural selection is the same as selective breeding, except that the selecting of genes is done by nature, rather than by people. For example, Arctic wolves live in the very cold climate beyond the Arctic circle. They have thick coats, small, round ears and short legs so they don’t lose body heat. The cold climate has “selected” the genes most suitable for dogs that live there. In hot Africa, African hunting dogs have large ears, and very light coats. An African hunting dog could not live near the Arctic—it would be too cold—the dogs would die out. In these examples the climate has “selected” from the natural variety of genes to produce dogs that can survive in very different types of climate. These are examples of **natural selection**.



Now let’s think about evolution. Imagine a dog that, in addition to having its four legs, also has a pair of wings coming out of its back. For that to happen, a whole **new** set of information would have to be added to the dog’s DNA—information about how to manufacture feathers, and how to make the special bones that support the feathers; also new information in the dog’s brain about what the wings are for and how to use them. **Adding** such **new information** to existing animals’ DNA has never been seen to occur naturally. Dogs always reproduce dogs, not flying dogs. Dogs don’t



Arctic wolf



African hunting dog

have wings because their DNA does not contain any information for making wings or using wings.

For the theory of evolution to work, such as in microbes evolving into humans (“goo-to-you” evolution), it requires massive amounts of **new information** to be added to the genes of the microbes. **The addition of new genetic information that specifies how to make some complex new feature has never been seen to occur naturally.** Evolutionary teaching asks us to believe that this is occurring all around us, but this is clearly false. Natural selection can only select from the **existing** genes that are already in the animals. We have never seen the natural **addition** of brand new functional genes to animals’ DNA.

So, can you tell the difference between evolution and natural selection?

Natural selection works on **existing** information already in the genes. Evolution from microbes to humans requires the addition of **new** information to the genes. When you see a report on TV about “evolution” having occurred, it will in fact not be evolution, because **no new genetic information has been added** to the animal’s DNA. Instead, what has happened is that natural selection has taken place on the genes that **already existed** in the animals’ DNA, or sometimes on defective genes that have lost information through copying mistakes (called mutations). Mutations don’t add information, even when they are beneficial—see:

creation.com/beetle

Next time you hear a report about “evolution” happening, ask this question: Have they actually demonstrated the addition of new information into the animals’ DNA? If not, then it is just natural selection being mistakenly called evolution.

So what's the point of all this?

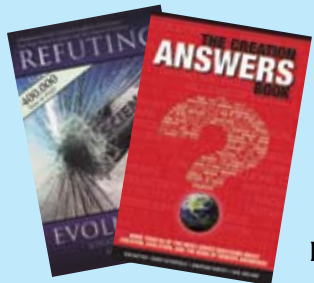
Natural selection is well proven. But evolution from microbes to humans simply cannot work. The acceptance of the theory of evolution is widespread because most scientists (like most people) want to explain everything without acknowledging that there is a Creator-God. If they want to believe that life came about only through natural processes, then they are *forced* to believe that evolution from microbes to humans *must* work, because there is no alternative. But, the actual scientific evidence goes against their beliefs.

God does exist. The Bible is reliable. The Bible tells us repeatedly that God is the Creator of the universe and of all living things, and that knowing Him is a matter of (eternal) life or death. For more information, see the website shown.

Find out more

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difference between
Evolution and
Natural Selection?

