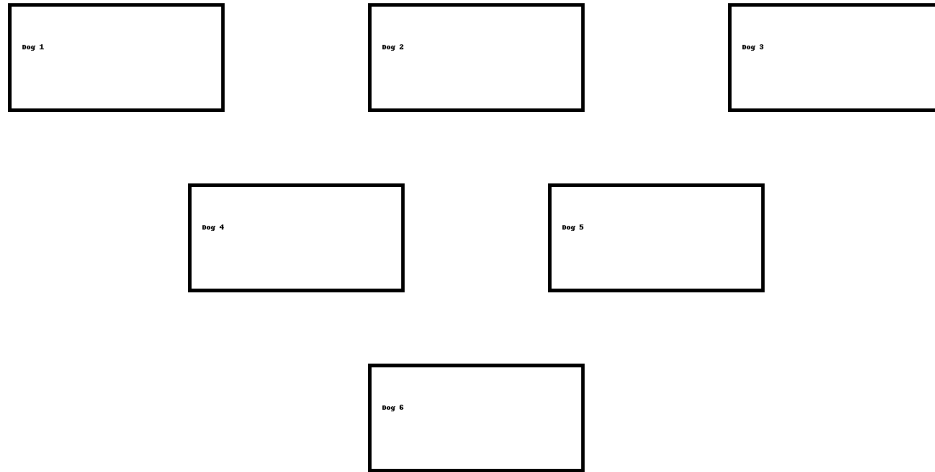


There Are Pedigrees... and Pedigrees: A Scientific Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

In modern cynology and applied canine genetics, the pedigree represents a fundamental scientific tool for understanding the genetic structure of a dog. It is not merely an administrative certificate, but a technical document that reveals genealogy, bloodline coherence, hereditary health, temperament, and overall breeding quality.

However, not all pedigrees carry the same scientific value. Some are built with decades of selective rigor, while others, although formally valid, contain no meaningful genetic information. Hence the technically accurate expression:

“There are pedigrees... and pedigrees.”

1. THE SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF THE PEDIGREE

A pedigree is not a cosmetic detail nor a commercial accessory: it is a genetic map. Across four generations, it allows experts to reconstruct:

- the family structure of the dog;
- the quality of the breeding stock;
- the presence or absence of hip and elbow dysplasia;
- behavioural and temperament stability within its lineage;

- functional homogeneity or genetic incompatibility between bloodlines;
- the recurrence of selected subjects or, conversely, untested individuals.

The pedigree also enables calculation of key scientific indicators such as:

- COI (Coefficient of Inbreeding),
- AVK (Ancestor Loss Coefficient),
- Ancestor Loss Percentage,
- overall genetic homogeneity.

A high-quality pedigree therefore allows accurate genetic forecasting and scientifically grounded selection.

2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HIGH-VALUE PEDIGREE AND A GENERIC ONE

The standard ENCI pedigree is not inherently good or bad: it is a document that records genealogy. Its value depends entirely on the dogs that appear within its structure.

A pedigree can be exceptionally strong if it includes:

- officially dysplasia-free dogs,
- subjects tested in work and character trials,
- stable, strong-nerved individuals,
- homogeneous and historically strong working lines,
- bloodlines of proven genetic consistency, such as the well-regarded Murni lines.

Such a pedigree represents an extremely valuable genetic document.

Conversely, a pedigree can be formally perfect yet genetically meaningless if it contains:

- untested dogs,
- subjects with hereditary diseases in the lineage,
- ancestors without any work or temperament evaluation,
- mixed and incoherent bloodlines,
- pairings made without any genetic or functional rationale.

This type of pedigree, although “official,” has no scientific value.

3. BLOODLINES AS THE GENETIC CORE OF THE PEDIGREE

Bloodlines are the true identity of a pedigree. A pedigree should never be read as a simple list of names: it must be interpreted as a structured genetic architecture.

For example, a dam from important working kennels—such as a Cisa female—placed in a pedigree composed entirely of healthy, tested, and selected subjects produces a strong genetic heritage.

The same dam placed within an incoherent or unselected genealogy generates a pedigree that is formally valid but functionally meaningless.

4. THE MODERN ISSUE: CONTAMINATION OF WORKING LINES

A major contemporary problem is the tendency of show-line breeders to introduce working-line blood in an attempt to recover temperament, stability, and strength. This occurs because modern show lines often present well-documented issues:

- decreased working drives,
- emotional instability,
- poor stress resistance,
- high rates of dysplasia,
- increased genetic pathologies.

The attempt to “improve” show-line dogs by adding working-line blood typically produces the opposite effect:

it contaminates working-line populations and introduces structural and behavioural weaknesses typical of morphed show lines.

Working lines are not improved through show-line infusion—they are weakened.

5. CONCLUSION

The pedigree is an indispensable scientific tool, but its value depends entirely on the quality of the dogs that compose it.

A pedigree built on coherent, healthy, tested, and functionally selected bloodlines is an extraordinary genetic document.

A chaotic pedigree of untested dogs is nothing more than a decorative sheet of paper.

The scientific truth is simple:

A pedigree is worth only as much as the bloodlines it contains.

This is why experts accurately affirm:

There are pedigrees... and pedigrees.