Dogs in Ancient Egypt

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Dogs played an important role in the Egyptians lives in both religious and non-religious contexts

**Religious**
Dogs achieved high social value from their association with the gods Anubis, Isis, and Osiris.
1. Dogs were associated with Anubis because he is depicted with a jackal/dog hybrid head. **Anubis was known as the ‘dog that swallows millions.’**
2. Served as guardians and guides in the afterlife.
3. Sacred dogs were kept in temples and mummified like divinity.
4. Votive dog mummies were a way for pilgrims to give offerings and pray to their god of choice.

**Non-religious**
1. Dogs were kept as pets and used in the military and as hunting, policing or guard dogs.
2. The death of a family dog would be treated the same as a human with a mourning period and proper burial rites.
3. Up until the 26th Dynasty, dogs were almost always named. Some notable examples include Cookpot and Useless.

**Dogs in Ancient Egypt were just as important as cats.**

Anubis performing the Opening of the Mouth Ceremony

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_funerary_practices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_funerary_practices)

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**Dogs in Egyptian Art**
Dogs depicted in art usually were in religious contexts, especially in funerary art on the walls of tombs. Common motifs included Anubis and hunting scenes. Other art forms with dogs included figurines and pottery.

Figurines, statues, and statuettes were relatively primitive in design and quality, like pictured above, until around the 18th Dynasty. Source: *Egypt and the Levant*, Vol 7 (1998) Austrian Academy of Sciences Press


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