

## A summary of Jomon Shiba dogs JSRC

Yasuyoshi Gomi

In history, the Jomon Shiba really was part of ancient Japanese culture. In the Jomon period of about 10,000 years ago, it played the role of not just a domestic animal but a member or a partner of a family, and it probably lived and moved together with a family from one place to the next. When it died, it was buried as a member of the family. It also had such a deep relationship with its master that they sometimes were buried together in the same grave.

Through a long history of its co-existence with the Japanese race, even today the Jomon Shiba has not lost its ingenuous and sharp wild traits as a pure original species.

For example, the ingenuous part of its traits come with obedience and patience to its master as well as cheerfulness and naivety when a close relationship is once achieved in spite of its very cautious disposition.

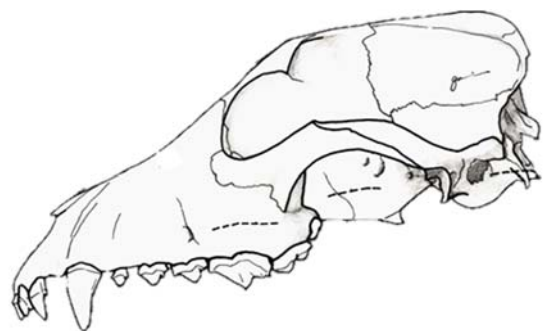
Wild nature of the Jomon Shiba includes firm muscles and an elastic body, as well as a quick, nimble movement and intrepidity.

This species is few in Japan without much of artificial crossbreeding and is the only existing kind in Japan that bears a close resemblance to the one that lived in the Jomon period. So, it is important to consider this dog as a rare species that has lived since that old time in Japan.

Anthropologist Dr. Hasebe, who had studied the characteristics of the Jomon Shiba, published an analysis in 1925 that “its forehead is flat and its stop doesn’t exist or is shallow.” Regarding its overall appearance, its forehead is broad and flat and its stop is shallow. It has bright eyes that sometimes give a penetrating glance and a firm mouth in beautiful, triangular shape, all well-balanced, with its feral looks furnished with natural dignity.

Sharing life nicely with a Jomon Shiba dog calls for a firm relationship with it and consolidated management of its socialization, which is closely connected with an understanding of its real nature.

It is said that there are more than 500 species of dogs world-wide that are under research today. As this dog keeps its primitive features as the one that has lasted for about 10,000 years, it is a very precious species. I call this type of dog in general “Jomon Shiba,” and it is a priceless legacy of Japan. I appeal to the world for the importance of preserving this species and making a further research into it.



## Sources

1. Kotondo Hasebe, Domestic Dogs in the Stone Age (Anthropological Journal, 1925), Vol. 40(1)
2. Hiromasa Kaneko, Archaeology Series 10, Knowledge about Animal Bones in a Shell Mound. A Relationship between Humans and Animals (Tokyo Bijutsu, Tokyo, 1984)
3. Nobuo Mohara & Satoru Onodera, Dog Bones Unearthed from the Tagara Shell Mound, (Anthropological Journal, Tokyo, 1984), Vol. 92(3) pp. 187-210
4. Nobuo Mohara, Japanese Dogs in the Stone Age, Kotondo Hasebe (Archaeology on Animals Vol.26, Chiba, 2009), p. 26
5. Yasuyoshi Gomi, Standards for Photographing Dog Skulls (Archaeology on Animals, Vol.29 Chiba), p. 29
6. Yasuyoshi Gomi, Note on Jomon Shiba Dogs (Seikodo Shuppan, Akita, 2012)
7. Yasuyoshi Gomi, Measurement of Dog skull & Bones of four Paws (Archaeology on Animals Vol.30 Chiba) PP.197-220