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According to tradition, the twin brothers were abandoned as babies. They were rescued by a she-wolf, who nursed them through their infancy.

The idea for this story came from flipping the legend around: what if a human family had adopted some orphaned wolf cubs, thousands of years ago? And what if those wolf cubs were the ancestors of all our dogs today?

Scientists don't know when and where wolves were domesticated, but a common estimate is that it happened about 15,000 years ago. And once wolves were domesticated, their bodies started to change.

Russian researchers in Novosibirsk saw this when they tried to domesticate the silver fox, fifty years ago.

As successive generations of foxes became more tame, they became more and more dog-like. Some of them wagged their tails and licked the faces of the researchers. Others grew floppy ears and curly tails. This raises an interesting question: If dogs' and foxes' bodies and behaviours changed as they adjusted to human society, what about us? Could we ourselves be some sort of "domesticated" version of our long-ago ape-like ancestors?

