

Genotypic and phenotypic consequences of domestication in dogs

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Abstract

Runs of homozygosity (ROH) are genomic regions that arise when two copies of identical haplotypes are inherited from a shared common ancestor. In this study, we leverage ROH to identify associations between genetic diversity and non-disease phenotypes in *Canis lupus familiaris* (dogs). We find significant association between the ROH inbreeding coefficient (F_{ROH}) and several phenotypic traits. These traits include height, weight, lifespan, muscled, white coloring of the head and chest, furnishings, and fur length. After correcting for population structure, we identified more than 45 genes across the examined quantitative traits that exceed the threshold for suggestive significance. We observe distinct distributions of inbreeding and elevated levels of long ROH in modern breed dogs compared to more ancient breeds, which aligns with breeding practices during Victorian era breed establishment. Our results highlight the impact of non-additive variation and of polygenicity on complex quantitative phenotypes in dogs due to domestication and the breed formation bottleneck.

Introduction

For over a century, scholars and dog-enthusiasts alike have sought to unravel the complex evolutionary history of man's best friend (Darwin, 1868). *Canis lupus familiaris* (dogs) have intrigued researchers, across scientific fields, due to their close knit ties to our species (Nagasawa et al., 2015) and unique genetic features (Boyko, 2011; Freedman et al., 2014; Perri et al., 2021). While the exact origins of domestication remain elusive, our growing understanding of this process offers new insight into the more recent evolutionary history of the species.

In the 19th century, Darwin suggested that the broad range of features exhibited in modern breeds is conducive to a descendancy from multiple canid species, including wolves and jackals. In his accounts on variation, he argues that a single ancestral origin from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) seems to contradict the historical and archeological evidence available. Given that many wild species of the genus *Canis* have the potential to interbreed, Darwin's proposal held fast for many years (Darwin, 1868). Advances in genome technology provided scientists with a new approach to studying dog ancestry, offering insights that complement and, in some cases, challenge the conclusions drawn from archaeological and historical evidence (Gray, 1972). One commonly used approach is mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis which allows researchers to trace maternal ancestry. Using samples collected from dogs, wolves, and several other wild canid species, researchers found the similarity between dogs and gray wolf to be significantly higher than that of dogs and any other wild canid species (Vilà et al., 1997; Wayne, 1993). In recent years, whole genome sequence (WGS) data has increasingly focused on the dog-wolf relationship, further supporting this finding and making it a primary area of investigation in contemporary studies (Freedman et al., 2014; Meadows et al., 2023; Ostrander et al., 2019).

While most agree that dogs were the first domesticated species, establishing their spatial and temporal roots has been a challenge (Larson & Bradley, 2014). The earliest depictions of human-canine ties come by means of cave paintings discovered in Saudi Arabia (Guagnin et al., 2018). This cooperative hunting scene is believed to be 8000 to 9000 years old, but evidence gathered from burial sites predicted an earlier origin of domestication (Morey, 2006). The first dates back approximately 12,000 years ago to the Natufian in Northern Israel, where they discovered three sets of dog remains buried with a human (Davis & Valla, 1978; Tchernov & Valla, 1997). Additionally, a dog-like mandible was recovered at a burial site in Bonn-Oberkassel, Germany.

This Northern European sample is believed to be about 14,000 years old (Benecke, 1987; Nobis, 1979), however genetic work has added an additional layer of evidence for an even older wolf-dog divergence.

Genomic work, based on mtDNA and WGS data, currently offers two potential explanations for the origins of domestication. The first is that early dogs were a result of a single domestication event from gray wolves in East Asia between 16,000 and 100,000 years ago. The hypothesis stems from the limited haplotypic diversity in dogs, which may suggest a genetic bottleneck where domesticated dogs originated from a small-closely-related population of gray wolves (Vilà et al., 1997). Additionally, high levels of genetic diversity from the region south of the Yangtze River, indicates an older divergence than other areas in Europe and Asia. (Pang et al., 2009; Savolainen et al., 2002; G.-D. Wang et al., 2016).

The second genomic narrative centers upon the theory that haplogroups entered the dog lineage at different times and places. Using nuclear genomic single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis, one study found evidence for allele sharing in Asian dog breeds and Asian wolves as well as European dog breeds and European wolves (vonHoldt et al., 2010). This work suggests that there were several founder events derived from separate wolf populations. Further WGS work has documented significant genetic differences in Eastern and Western Eurasian dog populations, providing further support for multiple domestication events (Bergström et al., 2022; Fan et al., 2016).

While the early evolution of dogs from wolves marked a significant shift between species, the more recent history of established dog breeds has shaped evolution within the species itself. During the Victorian era, the selective breeding of aesthetically desirable traits led to the emergence of

hundreds of new breeds. Breed establishment typically involved a limited number of founding members, resulting in high levels of inbreeding and dramatic loss of genetic diversity (Bannasch et al., 2021; Boyko, 2011; Cecchi et al., 2013; Mastrangelo et al., 2018; Vaysse et al., 2011; Yordy et al., 2020). Founder effects, such as this, restrict the gene pool and result in long stretches of DNA sharing between individuals. Shared segments derived from a single common ancestor are said to be identical-by-descent (IBD). Regions inherited IBD, commonly referred to as runs of homozygosity (ROH) when found within an individual, reflect a simplified trait architecture in dogs that facilitates the study of phenotypic associations between breeds (Boyko, 2011; Plassais et al., 2019; Sams & Boyko, 2019).

Studies of ROH in humans have revealed associations with numerous complex disease and non-disease phenotypes, which provide valuable insight on the impact of genetic diversity on health and evolutionary processes (Bacolod et al., 2008; Clark et al., 2019; Johnson et al., 2018; Keller et al., 2012; Moreno-Grau et al., 2021; Pemberton & Szpiech, 2018). Similar work has been done in dogs, providing evidence of a relationship between ROH and several disease phenotypes (Boyko, 2011; Mooney et al., 2021; Sams & Boyko, 2019). Additionally, previous studies have explored the influence of genetic variants on quantitative traits such as; leg length, wrinkled skin, coat color, hair length, and skeletal shape (Boyko et al., 2010; Cadieu et al., 2009; Candille et al., 2007; Parker et al., 2009; Sutter et al., 2007). Despite these advances, associations with complex non-disease phenotypes in dogs are relatively unexplored (Hayward et al., 2016).

In this study, we investigate the relationship between the genomic consequences of domestication and complex (non-disease) trait architecture by using the distribution of ROH to provide insights on complex phenotypic architecture. These associations highlight potential to discover non-additive variation and phenotypes. To examine the relationship between ROH and non-disease

phenotypes in dogs, we analyzed 556 canid whole-genome sequences and characterized the genomic distribution of ROH. After accounting for breed structure, we test for associations between the total ROH coverage of the genome (as measured by F_{ROH}) among 13 breed groups with 13 phenotypes. Finally, we perform an ROH-mapping genome-wide association study and identify multiple genetic variants associated with phenotype, namely height, weight, and lifespan.

Methods

Data filtering and categorizations

In this study, we utilized whole genome sequences from 722 canids, which included various wild species, dingoes, and domestic dogs (Plassais et al., 2019). This data can be accessed via NCBI accession number PRJNA448733. All filtering was accomplished using BCFtools (Danecek et al., 2021) where we retained only biallelic SNPs and sites of genotype quality score greater or equal to 20. Additionally, we removed any missing genotype rates above 10% and removed variants from sex chromosomes. Our filtered data consisted of 4,053,761 biallelic loci for all 38 pairs of autosomal chromosomes. Given the nature of our study, we removed all wild canids, mixed-breed individuals, and samples for which breed information was unavailable. Each remaining sample was categorized by common name or breed (Plassais et al., 2019). These classifications were informed by neighbor joining trees of domestic dogs (vonHoldt et al., 2010) and American Kennel Club (AKC) groupings (*Dog Breeds - Types Of Dogs*, n.d.). This resulted in 13 breed groups namely, Ancient Spitz (31 individuals and 11 breeds), Herding (76 individuals and 15 breeds), Mastiff-like (65 individuals and 15 breeds), Retrievers (50 individuals and 6 breeds), Scent Hound (23 individuals and 10 breeds), Small Terrier (102 individuals and 8 breeds), Terriers (16 individuals and 7 breeds), Spaniels (22 individuals and 8 breeds), Toy Dogs (18 individuals and 7

breeds), Working Dogs (44 individuals and 10 breeds), Sight Hound (21 individuals and 9 breeds), Village Dogs (75 individuals and 13 regions), and Chinese Indigenous dogs (15 individuals). Overall, our working dataset included 558 individuals and 106 different breeds (Table S1).

Calling Runs of Homozygosity

To call runs of homozygosity (ROH) we used a likelihood-based inference method called GARLIC v1.6.0a (Szpiech et al., 2017). This method uses a logarithm of odds (LOD) score measure of autozygosity, which is applied in a sliding window for the entire genome (Pemberton et al., 2012). GARLIC requires input data with genotype and sample information in the form of TPED and TFAM files, which were generated using PLINK 2.0 (C. C. Chang et al., 2015). We generated a TGLS file to obtain per-genotype likelihoods. We employed genotype likelihood data in the form of GQ to account for errors in phred-scaled probability. Next, a window size of 100 SNPs was chosen based on SNP density, with the window incrementally advancing by 10 SNPs at each step. GARLIC offers built-in ROH length classification, for which we defined 6 classes: <1 Mbp, 1-2 Mbp, 2-3 Mbp, 3-4 Mbp, 4-5 Mbp, and >5 Mbp. To account for sample size differences in allele frequency estimation, we set the number of resamples to 40. All other flags were set to default, and the following parameters were used: --auto-winsize --auto-overlap-frac --winsize 100 --centromere --size-bounds 1000000 2000000 3000000 4000000 5000000 --tped --tfam --tgls --gl-type GQ --resample 40 --out. To eliminate segments that were noisy, very short, and common, we filtered to retain ROH segments longer than 0.5 Mbp.

We conducted independent ROH calling for breeds with at least 10 individuals. Breeds consisting of fewer than 10 members were integrated into their respective breed groups (Table S2). Subsequently, ROH calls from all breeds, irrespective of individual numbers, were combined into

their respective breed groups for further analysis. For each individual, we examined: 1) the relationship between coverage and F_{ROH} (Figure S1) and 2) the relationship between the total number of runs of homozygosity (n_{ROH}) and total length of runs of homozygosity (s_{ROH}). For each individual and breed group, we calculated the arithmetic mean and range of both total n_{ROH} and total s_{ROH} , while binning them based on ROH size classification. The longest total s_{ROH} (2141.22 Mbp) and the highest total n_{ROH} (1039) were identified in two individuals - PER00747 and PER00393, respectively - from the small terrier Yorkshire breed. PER00747 was sequenced at a low depth ($\sim 2\times$), which inflated s_{ROH} . To mitigate the effects of low depth PER00747 and PER00393 were removed from downstream analysis.

Inbreeding coefficient

For each sample and breed group, we computed the inbreeding coefficient, F_{ROH} , defined as the fraction of autosomal genome in ROH regions (McQuillan, 2009):

$$F_{ROH} = \frac{S_{ROH}}{L_{Auto}}$$

Where s_{ROH} is the sum of lengths of runs of homozygosity in an individual's genome and L_{Auto} is the length of autosomal genome in base pairs. Autosomal genome length of 2,203,764,842 base pairs was used since variants were called with the CanFam3.1 (NCBI RefSeq assembly: GCF_000002285.3) reference genome.

ROH Sharing Matrix

We generated an ROH sharing matrix, a square matrix that quantifies the sum of ROH overlaps between two individuals. This allowed us to analyze shared ROH patterns among dog breeds. To

populate this matrix, we first generated individual ROH bed files for each sample. We then used BEDTools (Quinlan & Hall, 2010) to identify overlapping regions between pairs of ROH data. The following parameters were used: bedtools intersect -wao.

Phenotype data

We updated the phenotypic data (Plassais et al., 2019) for 13 traits: bulky, drop ears, furnish, hairless, height, large ears, length of fur, lifespan, long legs, muscled, weight, white chest, and white head. For the three continuous traits, namely height, weight, and lifespan, we used average values obtained from AKC (*Dog Breeds - Types Of Dogs*, n.d.) (Table S3). We chose to use breed average values because this was previously shown to be a reliable measure for association tests (Boyko et al., 2010; Hayward et al., 2016; Jones et al., 2008; Plassais et al., 2017, 2019; Rimbault et al., 2013). When sex-specific information was available, it was incorporated into the dataset; otherwise, we applied the same values for both males and females. We applied min-max scaling to normalize the three continuous traits and further categorized them into small and large groups based on the average weight (21.66kg) of all individuals (Table S4, Table S5, Table S6). For the remaining 10 traits, we averaged the values by the phenotypic data available for their respective breeds (Table S7). We used binary encoding to assign a value of 1 to individuals expressing the trait and 0 to those who did not.

Association tests

We computed the association between F_{ROH} and the 13 phenotypes using GMMAT, an R package that performs association tests with generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) (Chen et al., 2016). To fit the GLMM, we used the built-in function glmmkin, which allowed us to examine the

continuous traits (height, weight, and lifespan) as the quantitative phenotype traits. This also enabled us to include individual F_{ROH} as a covariate and use the ROH sharing matrix as a kinship matrix. We fit the model assuming a Gaussian distribution for the continuous phenotypes and used the identity link function. For associations between breed average height, weight, and lifespan with F_{ROH} , we used the updated average phenotypic values of the breed for all 466 individuals. Based on our association tests and previous studies (Fareed & Afzal, 2014; Kim et al., 2018), weight and F_{ROH} have been observed to have a significant association, thus we included them as covariates in our models. Weight and the interaction of weight and F_{ROH} were used as covariates across three data subsets (all individuals, small individuals, and large individuals) (Table S8). To fit the GLMM to the 10 binary traits, we specified the binomial distribution as the family and used the logit link function. Samples with no information available on the presence or absence of these phenotypes were removed from analysis. Due to lack of phenotype information, Chinese indigenous dogs and village dogs were excluded from the association tests.

ROH-mapping GWAS

To explore the biological mechanisms through which ROH-associated SNPs influence phenotypic traits, we conducted Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS). We generated a dataset that examined the occurrence of SNPs in ROH regions using BCFtools intersect and BCFtools subtract (Danecek et al., 2021). Any SNPs located outside of ROH regions were removed. Using GMMAT, we fit GLMM models assuming a recessive genetic model for quantitative traits (height, weight, and lifespan), incorporating ROH-associated SNPs as covariates, an ROH sharing matrix for kinship structure, and a Gaussian distribution with an identity link function (Chen et al., 2016). Additionally, given that breed structure has a particularly strong effect in dogs, we utilized a

kinship matrix quantified by pairwise ROH sharing between individuals when associating traits with F_{ROH} . This procedure follows from an approach from a study on disease traits (Mooney et al., 2021). Lastly, we fit GLMM models using weight and the product of weight and F_{ROH} as covariates for the three data subsets (all individuals, small individuals, and large individuals) (Table S9). To obtain the effective sample size, adjusted for auto correlations between sites, we used the option `effectiveSize` within the `coda` R package (Plummer et al., 2006). To calculate the number of independent tests we used p-values for every SNP as the input, thus incorporating autocorrelation caused by LD. This approach was previously shown to be effective for correcting for structure (Shriner et al., 2011). To obtain the Genome-Wide Significance (GWS) and Suggestive-Wide Significance (SWS) thresholds, we used the Bonferroni correction with respect to effective sample size (Li et al., 2012; W. Yang et al., 2014; Yuan et al., 2020):

$$\text{Genome-wide significance threshold} = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{0.05}{\text{Effective Sample Size}}\right)$$

$$\text{Suggestive-wide significance threshold} = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{0.1}{\text{Effective Sample Size}}\right)$$

To correct for population stratification, we calculated the genomic inflation factor, λ (Sofer et al., 2021; Van Den Berg et al., 2019). We corrected the log-scaled p-values by dividing them by the genomic inflation factor (Table S9). To visualize the GWAS summary statistics, we used an R package, `qqman` to create Q-Q and Manhattan plots (Turner, 2014).

Results

ROH distribution

240 We used GARLIC to call ROH per individual and divide ROH into our pre-specified length
 241 classes. This allowed us to explore the variance per-population within each class. ROH were
 242 categorized into 6 length classes: Class A (0.5 - 1 Mbp), Class B (1 - 2 Mbp), Class C (2 - 3 Mbp),
 243 Class D (3 - 4 Mbp), Class E (4 - 5 Mbp), and Class F (>5 Mbp). For our 556 samples, the mean
 244 number of ROH (n_{ROH}) was 37.06 and the mean length of ROH (s_{ROH}) was 94.17 Mbp. These
 245 parameters were also computed for each ROH length class: Class A ($n_{\text{ROH}} = 99.44$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 68.39$
 246 Mbp), Class B ($n_{\text{ROH}} = 50.29$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 70.36$ Mbp), Class C ($n_{\text{ROH}} = 21.60$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 52.81$ Mbp), Class
 247 D ($n_{\text{ROH}} = 13.07$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 45.23$ Mbp), Class E ($n_{\text{ROH}} = 9.21$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 41.15$ Mbp), and Class F (n_{ROH}
 248 $= 28.77$; $s_{\text{ROH}} = 287.05$ Mbp) (Table 1, Table 2).

TABLE 1. *n*ROH across all breed groups and ROH length classification. The table represents the range and mean \pm standard deviation of the number of runs of homozygosity for each breed group and ROH length classification.

Breed Group	Mean n_{ROH}	Range n_{ROH}	Mean n_{ROH} for Class A (0.5-1 Mbp)	Mean n_{ROH} for Class B (1 - 2 Mbp)	Mean n_{ROH} for Class C (2 - 3 Mbp)	Mean n_{ROH} for Class D (3 - 4 Mbp)	Mean n_{ROH} for Class E (4 - 5 Mbp)	Mean n_{ROH} for Class F (> 5 Mbp)
Ancient Spitz	47.10 \pm 58.20	3 - 338	133.42 \pm 85.63	65.13 \pm 40.00	24.71 \pm 11.23	13.90 \pm 4.31	9.87 \pm 3.97	35.58 \pm 18.29
Retrievers	38.83 \pm 34.58	0 - 138	106.42 \pm 13.75	53.96 \pm 9.05	23.98 \pm 6.39	13.1 \pm 4.31	9.94 \pm 3.32	26.3 \pm 11.77
Mastiff Like	38.37 \pm 26.65	0 - 117	78.6 \pm 14.12	54 \pm 17.53	27.46 \pm 11.19	16.91 \pm 7.55	12.18 \pm 6.53	41.08 \pm 19.83
Herding	37.88 \pm 33.97	0 - 257	97.76 \pm 32.29	48.47 \pm 10.17	21 \pm 7.22	13.91 \pm 5.79	10.8 \pm 5.51	35.32 \pm 19.08
Scent Hound	40.25 \pm 37.52	1 - 160	113.26 \pm 21.76	53.65 \pm 9.85	22.7 \pm 6.35	13.3 \pm 4.87	9.09 \pm 4.92	27.48 \pm 12.44
Small Terrier	40.93 \pm 41.19	0 - 277	113.58 \pm 39.05	60.27 \pm 17.74	24.08 \pm 9.18	14.31 \pm 6.32	8.98 \pm 4.61	24.38 \pm 16
Terriers	30.56 \pm 33.01	9 - 122	90.75 \pm 15.75	56.25 \pm 11.22	31.81 \pm 7.75	18.88 \pm 6.21	15.88 \pm 4.66	53.75 \pm 10.77
Spaniels	36.29 \pm 35.23	5 - 144	101.18 \pm 20.19	61 \pm 9.23	28.73 \pm 5.37	18.14 \pm 5.35	14 \pm 5.19	41.64 \pm 14.62
Sight Hound	45.29 \pm 48.55	0 - 192	138.67 \pm 31.05	63.33 \pm 20.63	21.67 \pm 8.98	13.86 \pm 7.57	8.19 \pm 4.76	26 \pm 15.86
Toy Dogs	41.19 \pm 40.77	1 - 187	114.56 \pm 31.06	56.17 \pm 25.99	24.06 \pm 13.48	14.78 \pm 9.78	9.44 \pm 6.46	28.11 \pm 15.34
Working Dogs	38.29 \pm 27.43	1 - 129	85.18 \pm 16.07	50.02 \pm 15.37	27.36 \pm 12.12	17 \pm 7.86	11.82 \pm 5.51	38.34 \pm 13.11
Village Dogs	20.5 \pm 31.83	0 - 261	80.12 \pm 33.69	23.79 \pm 13.69	6.33 \pm 5.77	3.51 \pm 4.76	2.09 \pm 2.64	7.15 \pm 11.03
Chinese Indigenous Dogs	14.36 \pm 22.91	0 - 103	61.53 \pm 16.63	14.67 \pm 5.79	4 \pm 3.31	1.27 \pm 1.29	1 \pm 1.32	3.67 \pm 5.37

TABLE 2. *sROH across all breed groups and ROH length classification. The table represents the range and mean \pm standard deviation of the sum of runs of homozygosity for each breed group and ROH length classification.*

Breed Group	Mean s_{ROH} (Mbp)	Range s_{ROH} (Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class A (0.5-1 Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class B (1-2 Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class C (2-3 Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class D (3-4 Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class E (4-5 Mbp)	Mean s_{ROH} for Class F (> 5 Mbp)
Ancient Spitz	119.56 \pm 162.09	13.73 - 1113.00	92.29 \pm 59.41	90.67 \pm 54.30	60.33 \pm 27.20	48.30 \pm	44.14 \pm 17.51	381.60 \pm 255.7
Retrievers	89.28 \pm 86.63	0 - 598.02	72.96 \pm 9.44	75.50 \pm 13.25	57.37 \pm 16.00	45.22 \pm 15.07	44.47 \pm 14.90	240.17 \pm 125.98
Mastiff Like	126.47 \pm 176.91	0 - 1029.28	54.77 \pm 9.71	76.97 \pm 25.95	67.21 \pm 27.55	58.57 \pm 25.92	54.38 \pm 29.38	446.89 \pm 247.25
Herding	105.25 \pm 139.34	0 - 861.74	67.24 \pm 21.71	67.53 \pm 14.78	51.27 \pm 17.64	48.23 \pm 20.12	48.26 \pm 24.73	348.94 \pm 206.94
Scent Hound	99.19 \pm 113.14	4.59 - 946.54	77.78 \pm 14.73	74.84 \pm 15.22	55.26 \pm 15.67	45.90 \pm 16.82	40.62 \pm 21.78	300.75 \pm 159.58
Small Terrier	89.41 \pm 96.13	0 - 690.33	78.20 \pm 26.38	84.24 \pm 24.77	59.07 \pm 22.76	49.63 \pm 22.10	40.18 \pm 20.51	225.15 \pm 170.89
Terriers	75.86 \pm 116.57	28.77 - 951.29	63.93 \pm 10.90	79.69 \pm 16.00	77.98 \pm 19.72	65.84 \pm 21.84	71.06 \pm 20.79	541.71 \pm 161.42
Spaniels	94.03 \pm 127.54	23.23 - 856.91	70.13 \pm 12.83	85.21 \pm 12.79	70.39 \pm 13.56	62.52 \pm 18.65	62.55 \pm 23.16	427.24 \pm 190.19
Sight Hound	94.65 \pm 96.81	0 - 591.60	95.24 \pm 21.50	86.87 \pm 29.21	53.04 \pm 22.07	47.98 \pm 26.13	36.54 \pm 21.32	248.26 \pm 149.49
Toy Dogs	97.01 \pm 107.57	4.12 - 602.43	78.92 \pm 22.17	79.01 \pm 36.61	58.31 \pm 33.13	50.45 \pm 33.72	42.33 \pm 28.82	273.02 \pm 162.01
Working Dogs	112.89 \pm 130.13	4.74 - 658.42	58.67 \pm 11.14	70.67 \pm 22.08	66.54 \pm 29.19	58.83 \pm 27.51	52.76 \pm 24.70	369.85 \pm 139.08
Village Dogs	33.24 \pm 59.75	0 - 554.84	54.07 \pm 23.09	32.65 \pm 19.59	15.30 \pm 13.97	12.04 \pm 16.34	9.35 \pm 11.72	76.00 \pm 127.67
Chinese Indigenous Dogs	19.82 \pm 35.06	0 - 309.27	41.03 \pm 11.34	20.00 \pm 7.64	9.53 \pm 7.68	4.27 \pm 4.24	4.41 \pm 5.87	39.67 \pm 75.16

Domestic dog clades showed a distinct pattern of genetic diversity, with higher levels of long ROH (>5 Mbp) when compared with Chinese indigenous dogs (light green) and village dogs (royal blue) (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The highest total n_{ROH} (641) was observed in Dingo01 and the highest total s_{ROH} (1643.98 Mbp) was observed in NGSD2, both individuals were from the Ancient Spitz breed group (Table S10). Terriers had the smallest mean n_{ROH} and the smallest mean s_{ROH} when compared with the remaining 11 breed groups (Table 1, Table 2).

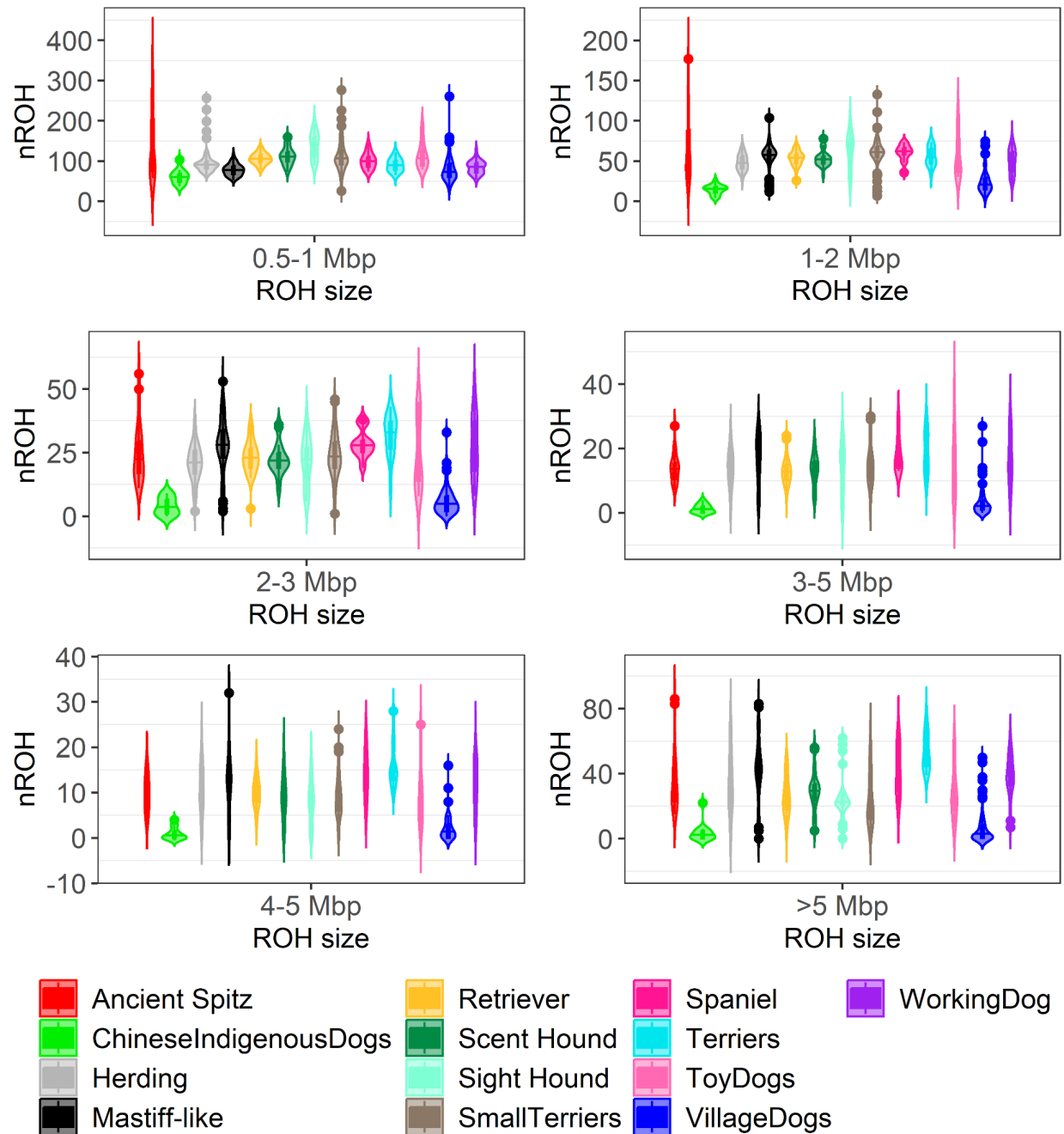


FIGURE 1. Relationship between number of runs of homozygosity (nROH) and ROH size class in Mbp for all breed groups. The x-axis represents the ROH size in Mbp. The y-axis represents the number of ROH. Each violin plot depicts the distribution of the total number of ROH within length ranges 0.5-1 Mbp, 1-2 Mbp, 2-3 Mbp, 3-4 Mbp, 4-5 Mbp and >5 Mbp for each breed group.

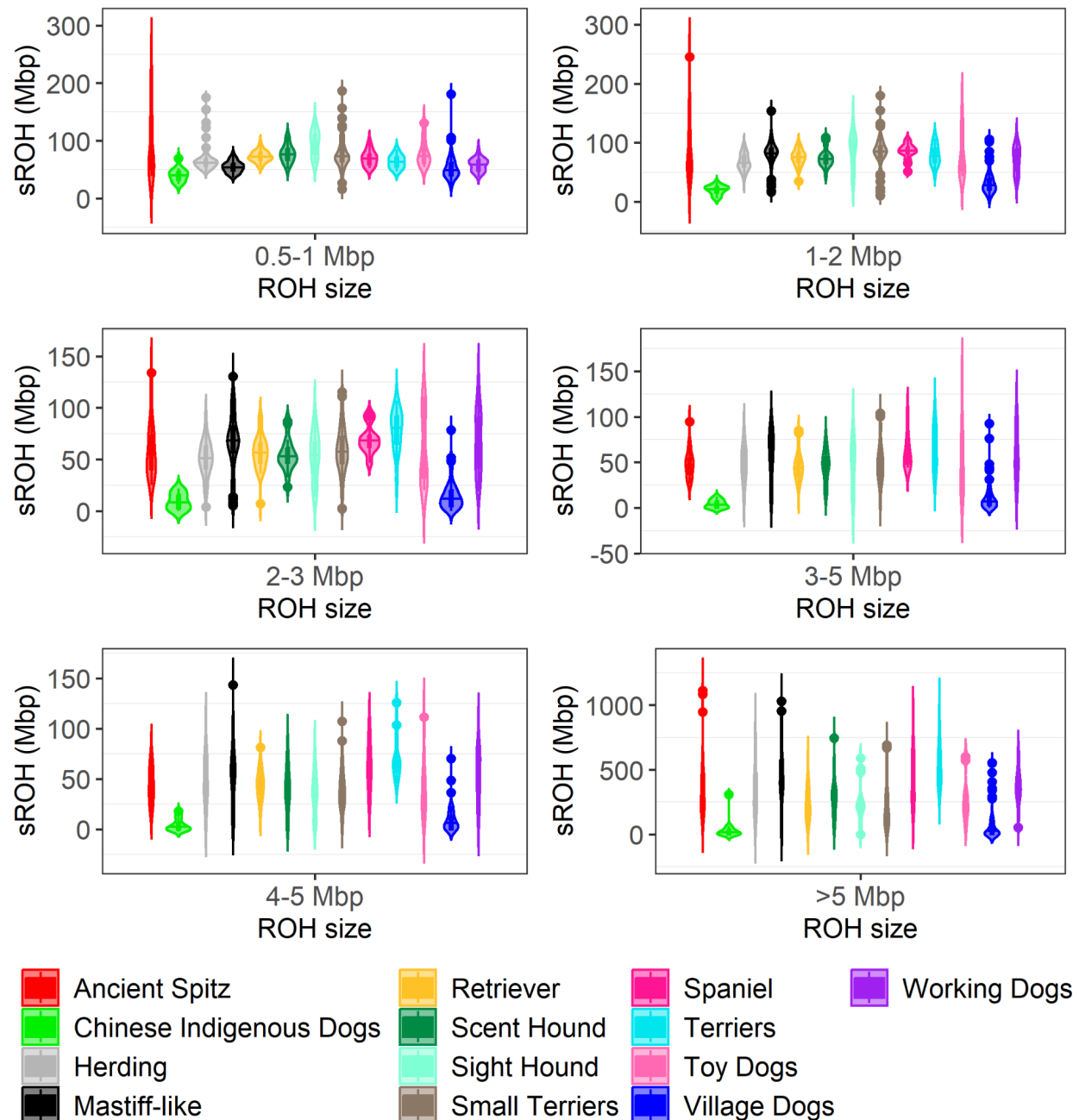


FIGURE 2. Relationship between sum of runs of homozygosity (sROH) and ROH size class in Mbp. The x-axis represents the ROH size in Mbp. The y-axis represents the sum of runs of homozygosity. Each violin plot depicts the distribution of the sum of ROH within length ranges 0.5-1 Mbp, 1-2 Mbp, 2-3 Mbp, 3-4 Mbp, 4-5 Mbp and >5 Mbp for each breed group.

Next, we explored the relationship between the total number of ROH (n_{ROH}) and the total lengths of ROH (s_{ROH}) (Figure 3). We observed significantly higher mean values of both n_{ROH} and s_{ROH} for the domesticated breed dogs relative to the Chinese indigenous dogs and village dogs.

Breed dogs also tended to fall off of the $y=x$ line when n_{ROH} was compared to s_{ROH} . The accumulation of long ROH within breed dogs in the recent time was most drastic in the Terrier clade, where we also observed the largest F_{ROH} (Table 3). We saw the largest variance in n_{ROH} in the Small Terriers, which include breeds such as the Australian Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier, Norwich Terrier, Scottish Terrier, Tibetan Terrier, West Highland, White Terrier, and Yorkshire Terrier. We also observed larger variance in n_{ROH} within the Ancient Spitz, Village dogs, Herding, Mastiff-like, and Toy dogs. Conversely, Chinese Indigenous dogs, Terriers, Spaniels, Retrievers, and Scent Hound clustered together quite tightly. The Spaniels fall somewhere between the other clades.

Given the large variance in n_{ROH} we wondered whether we might be able to identify ROH hotspots that were shared across clades or between domesticated and non-domesticated species. We examined ROH coverage per site for each chromosome and focused on sites where more than 50% of individuals within a clade had a ROH (Figures S2-S17). There were clear hotspots within clades on every chromosome. Some of these hotspots corresponded with recombination rate, such as on chromosome 22, where we observed a low recombination rate in regions where there were shared ROH hotspots among all individuals. Conversely, on chromosome 12 we observed a high recombination rate, and very few shared ROH hotspots among individuals. Interestingly, we observed very few shared ROH hotspots across different clades. One stand out chromosome was 28, where we observed a shared ROH hotspot among Ancient Spitz, Mastiff Like, Retrievers and Terriers (Figure S14). Likewise on chromosome 32, we observed a shared ROH hotspot among Mastiff-Like, Scent Hound, Terriers and Toy Dogs (Figure S15). The majority of hotspots were shared within a clade. This was best shown on chromosome 17, where we found multiple clade-specific ROH hotspots (Figure S10). The same pattern was seen on chromosomes 31 through 38,

301 alongside a few instances of sharing between Mastiff-like breeds and Terriers (Figures S14 - S17).

302 Lastly, we rarely observed any shared peaks with village dogs and Chinese Indigenous dogs, which

303 had relative few peaks in comparison to clades composed of breed dogs (Figures S4 - S17).

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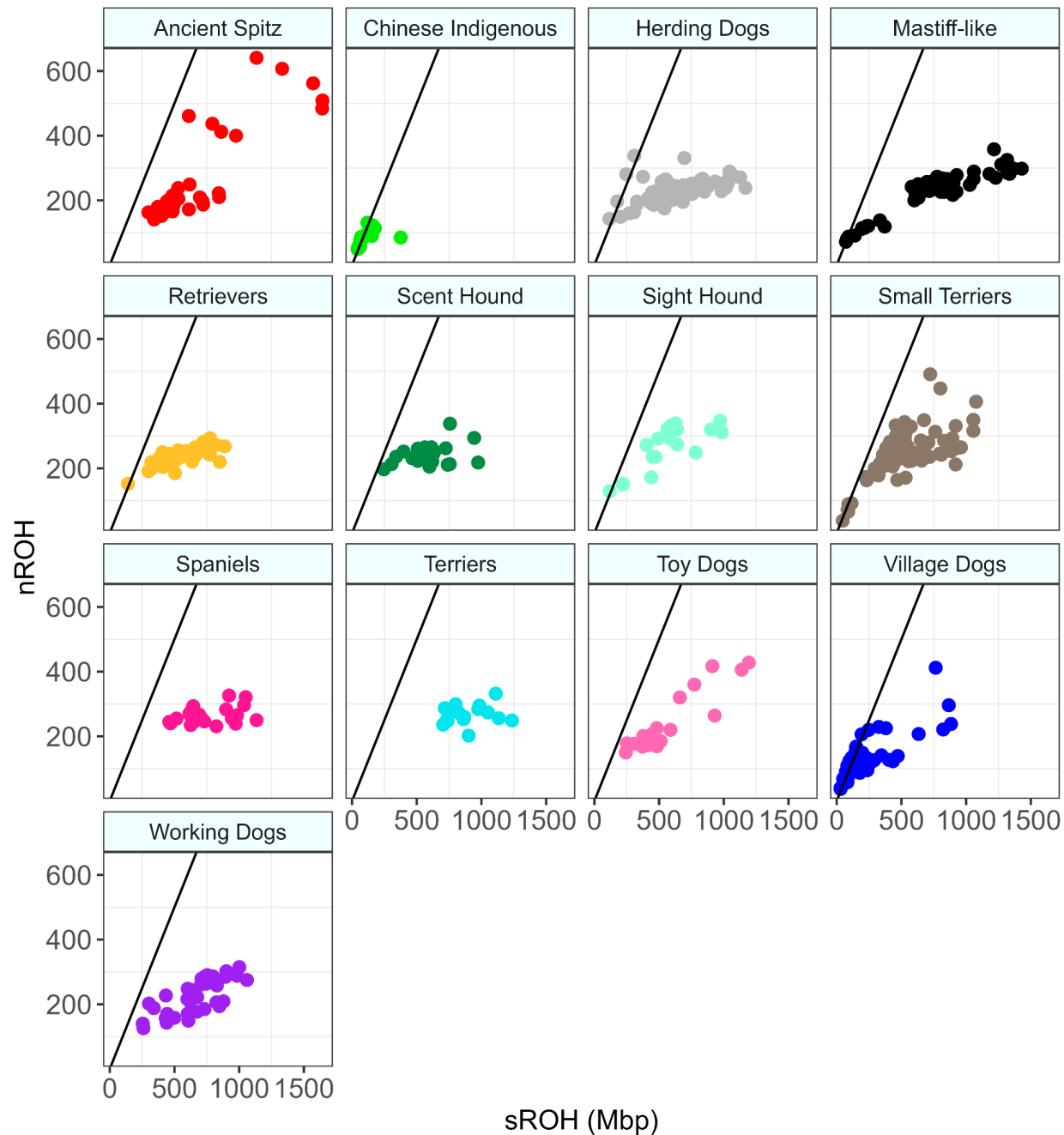


FIGURE 3. Relationship between sum of runs of homozygosity (sROH) and number of runs of homozygosity (nROH) for each breed group. The x-axis and the y-axis represents the sROH and nROH, respectively. The black line is $y=x$.

Next, we examined the level of inbreeding within clades by computing the inbreeding coefficient, F_{ROH} , for each individual and each breed group (Table 3, Table S11). To account for the distribution of F_{ROH} across all breed groups, we computed mean F_{ROH} (Table 3). High levels

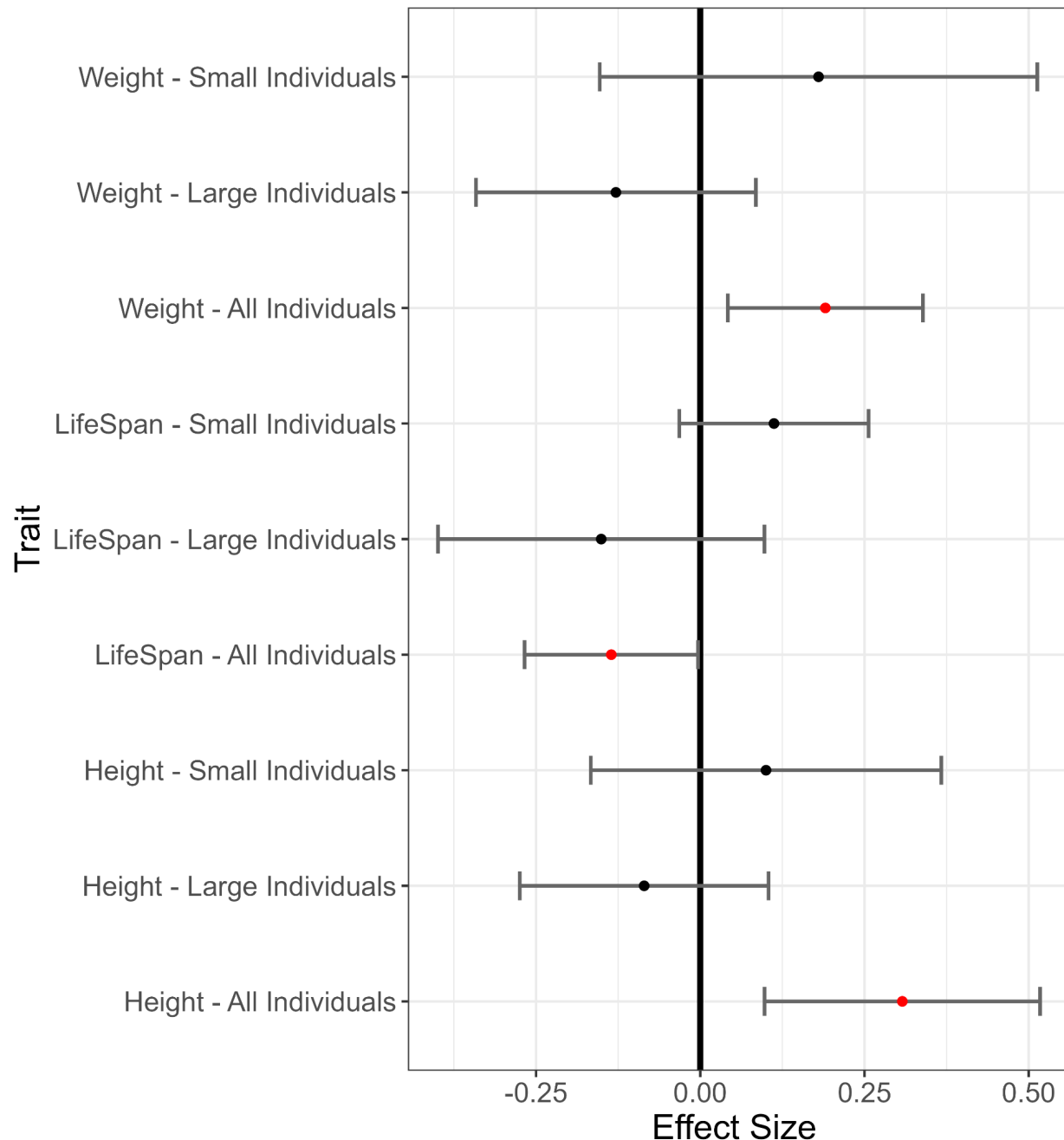
of mean F_{ROH} were observed in most breed dogs clades. The mean F_{ROH} values in breed dogs ranged from 0.24 ± 0.07 in Retrievers to 0.41 ± 0.07 in Terriers. The largest amounts of variance were observed in the Mastiff-like and Ancient Spitz clades, which contain some of the earliest breeds dog, such as the Tibetan Mastiff, Basenji and Shar-pei. The lowest mean values were observed in non-breed dogs, namely Chinese Indigenous Dogs (0.05 ± 0.04) and Village Dogs (0.09 ± 0.08).

TABLE 3. F_{ROH} across all breed groups. The table represents the mean \pm standard deviation of F_{ROH} for each breed group

Breed Group	Mean F_{ROH}
Terriers	0.41 ± 0.07
Spaniels	0.35 ± 0.09
Mastiff-Like	0.34 ± 0.15
Ancient Spitz	0.33 ± 0.17
Working Dog	0.31 ± 0.09
Herding	0.29 ± 0.11
Scent Hound	0.27 ± 0.08
Toy Dogs	0.26 ± 0.13
Sight Hound	0.26 ± 0.10
Small Terrier	0.24 ± 0.10
Retriever	0.24 ± 0.07
Village Dogs	0.09 ± 0.08
Chinese Indigenous Dogs	0.05 ± 0.04

Association between F_{ROH} and phenotypic traits

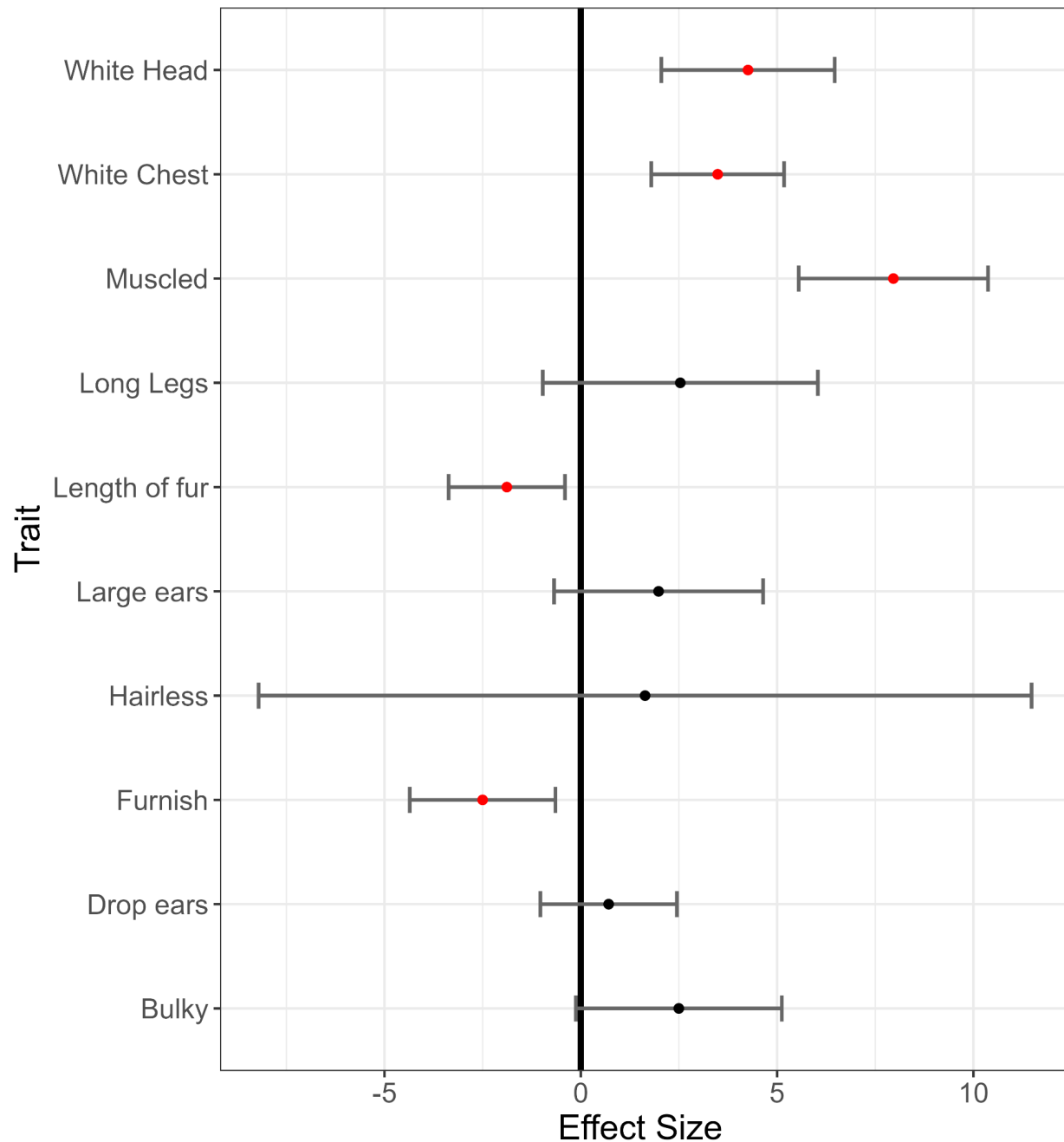
We were also interested in testing whether ROH could be used to detect non-additivity in quantitative (non-disease) phenotypes in dogs. Following an approach that was recently used in disease phenotypes in dogs (Mooney et al., 2021) and quantitative and disease phenotypes in humans (Clark et al., 2019; Malawsky et al., 2023), we searched for non-additive effects by correlating F_{ROH} and 13 breed averaged phenotypes (bulky, drop ears, furnish, hairless, height, large ears, length of fur, lifespan, long legs, muscled, weight, white chest, and white head). Three breed averaged quantitative phenotypes had significant associations with F_{ROH} : height ($\beta = 0.31$ and $p = 4.05 \times 10^{-3}$), weight ($\beta = 0.19$, $p = 1.19 \times 10^{-2}$), and lifespan ($\beta = -0.14$ and $p = 4.44 \times 10^{-2}$) (Figure 4). We found that as F_{ROH} increased by 1%; breed average height increased by 0.192 cm, breed average weight increased by 0.14 kg, and breed average lifespan decreased by 0.014 years. The statistical analysis, including normalized coefficient effect size (either β or log odds), p-values, and confidence intervals for quantitative traits (breed average height, breed average weight, and breed average lifespan) are shown in Table S8. Significant associations with F_{ROH} were present in 5 out of the 10 remaining qualitative phenotypes: muscled ($\beta = 7.96$ and $p = 9.68 \times 10^{-11}$), White chest ($\beta = 3.49$ and $p = 5.36 \times 10^{-5}$), White head ($\beta = 4.26$ and $p = 1.55 \times 10^{-4}$), length of fur ($\beta = -1.88$ and $p = 1.27 \times 10^{-2}$), and furnish ($\beta = -2.50$ and $p = 8.24 \times 10^{-3}$) (Figure 5, Table S12). Across all breed groups, as F_{ROH} increased, white chest, white head and muscled phenotypes also increased, whereas length of fur and furnish phenotypes decreased.



344

345 **FIGURE 4.** Relationship between effect size and quantitative phenotypic traits. The y-axis
346 represents the phenotypes for which the associations were tested. The x-axis represents the
347 normalized beta coefficients (β) for their respective traits. A significant effect of F_{ROH} on a
348 phenotype (nominal $p < 0.05$) is indicated with a red point. An effect size of greater than 0
349 indicates an increase of that trait with respect to F_{ROH} , and less than 0 represents the converse.

350



351

352 **FIGURE 5.** Relationship between effect size and categorical phenotypic traits. The y-axis
353 represents the phenotypes for which the associations were tested. The x-axis represents the log
354 odds for their respective traits. A significant effect of F_{ROH} on a phenotype (nominal $p < 0.05$) is
355 indicated with a red point. An effect size of greater than 0 indicates an increase of that trait with
356 respect to F_{ROH} , and less than 0 represents the converse.

357

ROH-mapping GWAS

To identify the ROH-associated genomic regions that influence our quantitative traits of interest (weight, lifespan, or height) we performed a GLMM-based GWAS (Figure 6, Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure S18-S26) using the presence or absence of ROH across individuals as the phenotype predictor for each locus. For exact significant threshold values, see Tables S8 - S9.

For breed average height, we found 27 SNPs above the Suggestive-Wide Significance (SWS) threshold and 18 SNPs above the Genome-Wide Significance (GWS) threshold when testing for all individuals in our sample (Figure 6A). Notably, a single SNP on chromosome 24 (position 22647289) had the strongest associated genomic signal with height ($p = 3.46 \times 10^{-6}$). This region corresponds with the gene *SNTA1*. Additionally, genes *CERS3* (7 SNPs) on chromosome 3, *CBFA2T2* (16 SNPs) on chromosome 24, and *SNTA1* (4 SNPs) on chromosome 24 were observed to be above the SWS threshold and contained multiple SNPs within their transcription regions (Table S13). SNPs linked to these three genes were also above the GWS threshold.

For small individuals, 34 SNPs were observed to be above the SWS threshold and 17 SNPs were observed to be above the GWS threshold when tested for association with height (Figure 6B). A single SNP on chromosome 9 (position 45711401) had the strongest associated genomic signal ($p = 1.44 \times 10^{-6}$), which corresponds with the gene *PITPNA*. Across our small subgroup we identified additional genomic variants above the SWS threshold for weight: on chromosome 3, *CERS3* (3 SNPs), *IGF1R* (1 SNP), *LRRC28* (1 SNP), and *TTC23* (3 SNPs); on chromosome 9, *PITPNA* (4 SNPs), *SLC43A2* (2 SNPs), *VPS53* (2 SNPs), and *RPH3AL* (4 SNPs); on chromosome 18, *HGF* (2 SNPs); on chromosome 22, *COMMD6* (1 SNP); on chromosome 24, *CBFA2T2* (7 SNPs) and *SNTA1* (4 SNPs) (Table S13). Only SNPs associated with *TTC23*,

PITPNA, *SLC43A2*, *RPH3AL*, *CBFA2T2*, and *SNTA1* were above the GWS threshold. For large individuals, a single SNP on chromosome 11 (position 9943557), which is linked to *PRR16*, was observed to be above the SWS threshold for height (Figure 6C). For an extended table containing all of the observed genes associated with height refer to Table S13.

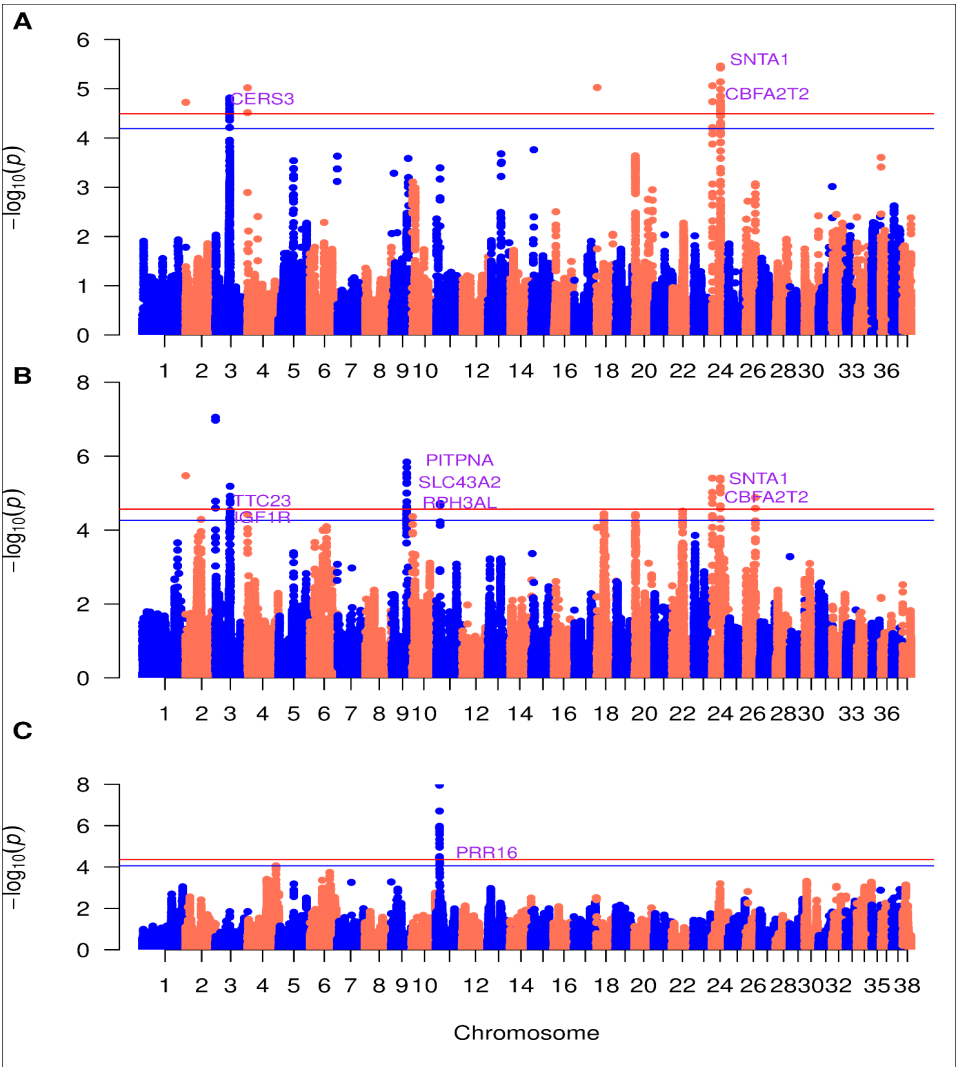


FIGURE 6. Manhattan plots for GLMM-based GWAS using presence/absence of ROH for body height. A. All individuals B. Small Individuals C. Large Individuals. The x-axis represents the genomic position. The y-axis represents the log10 base transformed p-values. Single nucleotide polymorphisms are represented by a single point. The red horizontal line indicates the genome wide significance (GWS) threshold and the blue horizontal line indicates the suggestive wide significance (SWS) threshold. Only genes above the GWS threshold are labeled, with the exception of IGF1R. Marked genes are not drawn to scale.

For breed average weight, 66 SNPs were observed above the SWS threshold and 45 SNPs above the GWS threshold, when including all individuals in our sample (Figure 7A). Nearly half of the SNPs above the SWS threshold (30 SNPs) were found within genes on chromosome 24. A single SNP, on chromosome 32 (position 11413601) had the strongest association with weight ($p = 3.24 \times 10^{-7}$). This was observed within *PKD2*, a gene that encodes for protein kinase D2. Across all samples we identified several other SNPs to be above the SWS threshold for weight: on chromosome 3, *CERS3* (7 SNPs); on chromosome 20, *ZXDC* (3 SNPs) and *TXNRD3* (1 SNP); on chromosome 24, *SNTA1* (5 SNPs), *CBFA2T2* (19 SNPs), *ZNF341* (2 SNPs), and *CHMP4B* (4 SNPs); on chromosome 32, *SEPT11* (1 SNP), *CCNI* (1 SNP), *PKD2* (11 SNPs), *SGMS2* (4 SNPs) and *CYP2U1* (3 SNPs); on chromosome 35, *SPIDR* (5 SNPs) (Table S14). The genes on chromosome 3, 20, 24, and 35 all had SNPs above the GWS threshold. The only gene from chromosome 32 with SNPs above the GWS threshold was *PKD2*.

For small individuals, 31 SNPs were observed above the SWS threshold and 19 SNPs above the GWS threshold (Figure 7B). Nearly a third of those above the SWS threshold (i.e. 20 SNPs) belong to chromosome 24. A single SNP on chromosome 24 (position 22660667) had the strongest association with weight ($p = 5.88 \times 10^{-7}$) and is linked to the protein-coding gene *SNTA1* (Figure 7B). For our subgroup of small individuals, we found SNPs above the SWS threshold for weight to be linked to the following genes: on chromosome 3, *CERS3* (1 SNP); on chromosome 9, *RPH3AL* (4 SNPs), *PITPNA* (4 SNPs), and *SLC43A2* (2 SNPs); on chromosome 24, *ADAM33* (2 SNPs), *SIGLEC1* (2 SNPs), *HSPA12B* (1 SNP), *SNTA1* (4 SNPs), *CBFA2T2* (9 SNPs), *ZNF341* (1 SNP) and *CHMP4B* (1 SNP) (Table S14). SNPs on genes *PITPNA*, *SLC43A2*, *SNTA1*, *CBFA2T2*, and *ZNF341* were above the GWS threshold. In contrast, for the subgroup of large individuals, 10 SNPs were above the SWS threshold and 5 SNPs were above

415 the GWS threshold (Figure 7C). Only two genes reached significance in large individuals: on
 416 chromosome 32, *PKD2* (4 SNPs) and on chromosome 35, *SPIDR* (6 SNPs). All the SNPs linked
 417 to these two genes were above the SWS threshold for weight (Table S14). SNPs on both of these
 418 genes were also above the GWS threshold. For an extended table containing all of the observed
 419 genes associated with weight refer to Table S14.

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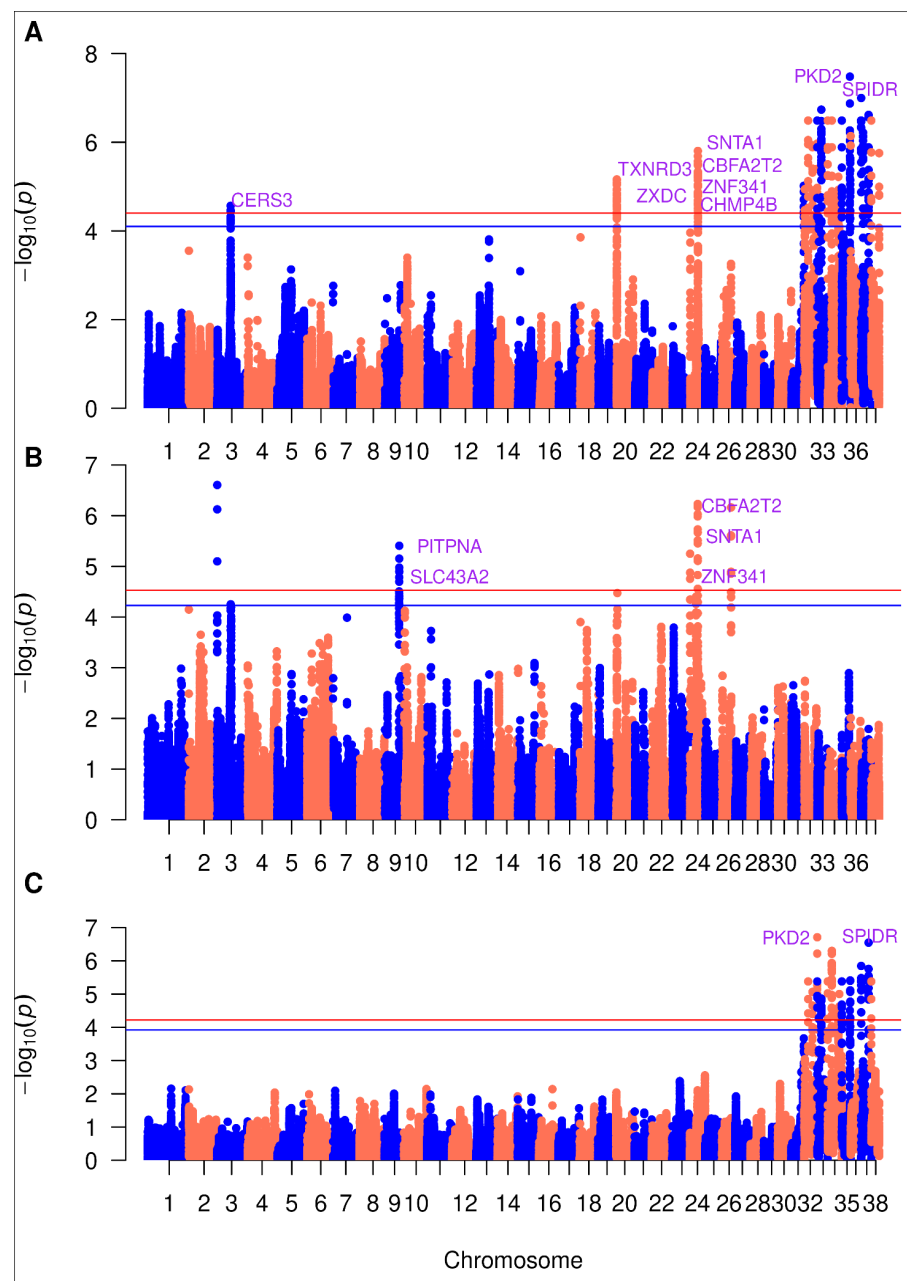


FIGURE 7. Manhattan plots for GLMM-based GWAS using presence/absence of ROH for body weight. A. All individuals B. Small Individuals C. Large Individuals. The x-axis represents the genomic position. The y-axis represents the log10 base transformed p-values. Single nucleotide polymorphisms are represented by a single point. The red horizontal line indicates the genome wide significance (GWS) threshold and the blue horizontal line indicates the suggestive wide significance (SWS) threshold. Only genes above the GWS threshold are labeled. Marked genes are not drawn to scale.

For breed average lifespan, 10 SNPs were observed above the SWS threshold and only 4 SNPs were above the GWS threshold when tested across all individuals (Figure 8A). The strongest associated SNP ($p = 2.21 \times 10^{-5}$) was located on chromosome 20 (position 789204) within the gene *TXNRD3*. Across all samples we identified several other SNPs to be above the SWS threshold for lifespan: on chromosome 20, *ZXDC* (2 SNPs) and *TXNRD3* (1 SNP) ; on chromosome 32, *SEPT11* (1 SNP); on chromosome 33, *DRD3* (5 SNPs) and *TIGIT* (1 SNP) (Table S15). All, but *SEPT11*, had a SNP above the GWS threshold. For our subgroup of small individuals we only found a gene on chromosome 12 *RUNX2* (4 SNPs), to be above the SWS threshold. (Figure 8B and Table S15). For our subgroup of large individuals, we found 9 SNPs to be above the SWS threshold, all of which were also above the GWG threshold (Figure 8C). The strongest associated SNP ($p = 1.17 \times 10^{-8}$) was located on chromosome 20 (position 789204) within the gene *TXNRD3*. All genes with SNPs above the significance thresholds (*TXNRD3* (1 SNP), *ZXDC* (3 SNPs), *CFAP100* (4 SNPs), and *SLC41A3* (1 SNP)) were located on chromosome 20 (Table S15). For an extended table containing all of the observed genes associated with lifespan refer to Table S14.

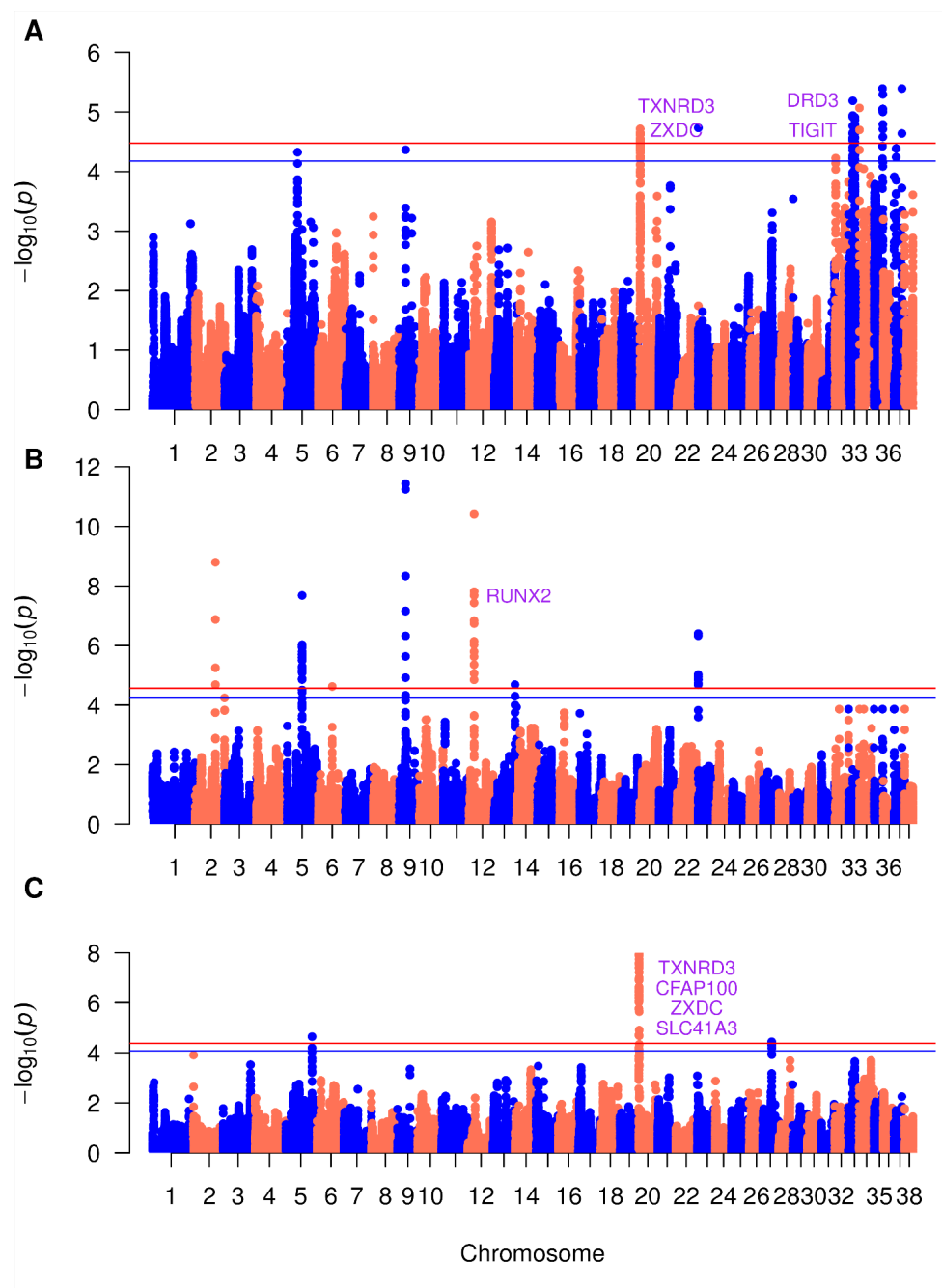


FIGURE 8. Manhattan plots for GLMM-based GWAS using presence/absence of ROH for lifespan. A. All individuals B. Small Individuals C. Large Individuals. The x-axis represents the genomic position. The y-axis represents the log10 base transformed p-values. Single nucleotide polymorphisms are represented by a single point. The red horizontal line indicates the genome wide significance (GWS) threshold and the blue horizontal line indicates the suggestive wide significance (SWS) threshold. Only genes above the GWS threshold are labeled. Marked genes are not drawn to scale.

Discussion

Our work provides an in-depth analysis of patterns of runs of homozygosity (ROH) in domesticated and non-domesticated dogs, highlighting how domestication and breed formation has shaped genetic diversity in these animals. We also explore how ROH, quantified as the total fraction of the genome within a run of homozygosity, F_{ROH} , can be used to uncover traits that are not fully additive. We focus on ROH because these genomic segments reflect recent demography, shared common ancestry due to domestication and breed formation, and can capture the effects of recessive variation on complex traits (Mooney et al., 2021; Clark et al., 2019; Malawsky et al., 2023; Purfield et al., 2017; Thompson, 2013).

For breed dogs, there is a large fraction of the genome within long ROH. Long ROH are a result of very recent parental relatedness and are inextricably linked to this species' complex evolutionary and domestication history. Previous research has shown that dogs originated from an isolated wolf population(s), followed by recent strong artificial selection that drove breed emergence (Boyko, 2011; Freedman & Wayne, 2017). The recent strong artificial selection during breed formation resulted in low genetic diversity and high homozygosity within breeds, alongside high phenotypic variance between breeds (Boyko et al., 2010). Artificial selection, in the case of dogs, was achieved through inbreeding, and also led to the significant sharing of common genetic variants (Gregory, 2009). Artificial selection for specific phenotypic characteristics during breed establishment and subsequent breed standardization have resulted in homogeneity of both the phenotypic and genotypic variation within a breed. Further, when looking between breeds, previous work has shown that occasionally a dog with a desirable trait in one breed is also used to introduce the same phenotype in another breed, which creates a network of genetic relatedness

through shared common haplotypes between breeds (Parker et al., 2017). In sum, because artificial selection was often achieved through inbreeding during the domestication process, and breed standards have reduced the effective population size of each breed, these two phenomena are both reflected through shared haplotypic information between breeds and distinct patterns of homozygosity within breeds.

In this work, we showed that domesticated breed dogs have unique patterns of ROH in their genome, and on average carry more of their genome within long ROH than non-domesticated village and Chinese indigenous dogs (Table 2). Conversely, the non-domesticated village dogs and Chinese indigenous dogs have the lowest values for mean ROH distribution. Higher n_{ROH} is indicative of a small population size and higher numbers of shorter n_{ROH} (i.e. class A) coincide with bottlenecks (Ceballos et al., 2018). Taken together our results correspond with the higher degree of relatedness among all domestic breed group individuals, and is expected given the known high levels of inbreeding during breed establishment. Our results also highlight Chinese indigenous dogs and village dogs as more outbred populations relative to breed dogs. Specifically, we observed lower levels of mean n_{ROH} and mean s_{ROH} in Chinese indigenous dogs. Lower n_{ROH} and mean s_{ROH} are indicative of a larger population size (Ceballos et al., 2018), which is in line with the origins of the Chinese indigenous dogs. Previous work also highlighted relaxed trait selection during establishment of the Chinese indigenous dog population (Q. Yang et al., 2019), potentially this relaxed selection has resulted in overall higher levels of genetic diversity. Moreover, the domesticated village dogs, which represented 13 different regions around the world, had lower values for mean n_{ROH} and mean s_{ROH} (Table 1 and Table 2) relative to breed dogs. This was expected since village dogs did not experience the additional bottleneck during breed formation.

Turning to hotspots, we observed that there was some relationship with recombination rate per chromosome and the density of ROH hotspots, however recombination does not fully explain all of the patterns that we found (Figure S2, S3). For example, on many chromosomes, we observed at least one ROH hotspot (across breed dogs and village dogs) in a region where recombination rates peaks. This is also consistent with the conclusions from previous studies where researchers suggest that recombination rates are not the only factor leading to ROH hotspots or cold spots (Mooney et al., 2021; Pemberton & Szpiech, 2018). Our results suggest that the ROH patterns we observe are instead largely driven by demography (domestication), artificial selection (breed formation), and inbreeding. These more recent processes have resulted in unique ROH patterns within breeds, sharing across breeds, and very little ROH sharing between breed dogs and village dogs.

We also examined the relationship between ROH and complex traits, to identify traits that may not be entirely additive. We observed that the relationship between breed average height and F_{ROH} is positive when using all breed dogs (Figure 4). This positive effect size opposes recently published work in human populations (Joshi et al., 2015; McQuillan et al., 2012; Swinford et al., 2023), and may be a result of combining the effect sizes from multiple sizes of dogs (i.e. large and small dogs). When we partition by weight, our results correspond to previous studies on height in breed dogs (Hoopes et al., 2012). As expected, we found a positive β when testing for the relationship between F_{ROH} and weight. Lastly, we observed a negative β with respect to the relationship between F_{ROH} and lifespan, indicating an association with inbreeding due to demography and survival to old age. This result is consistent with the findings in dogs where an association with disease phenotypes was observed (Mooney et al., 2021). Further, we also partitioned dogs by weight (Urfer et al., 2019) and observed a trend where large dog breeds have

a shorter lifespan ($\beta = -0.15$) and small dogs have a longer lifespan ($\beta = 0.11$), though our results were not significant (Table S8). Previous studies have linked size with longevity; this remains an interesting area for future work (Galis et al., 2007). Indeed, when we included lifespan as a covariate when associating F_{ROH} and breed average height in all individuals we still observed a nominally significant, but larger p-value, of 0.034. Further, the effect size of F_{ROH} on height decreased from $\beta \sim 0.31$ to $\beta \sim 0.19$. We also observed a negative ($\beta \sim -0.83$) and significant relationship between height and lifespan ($p = 6.41 \times 10^{-41}$) that we expected to see.

Our GWAS using ROH revealed several significant associations between SNPs and the breed average quantitative traits: height, weight, and lifespan (Table S13, Table S14, and Table S15). When utilizing data for all individuals, we found three hits within *CERS3* (chromosome 3), *CBFA2T2* (chromosome 24) and *SNTA1* (chromosome 24) to be above the Genome Wide Significance (GWS) threshold for height. In previous studies, these three genes were found to harbor genetic variants associated with human height (Kichaev et al., 2019; Yengo et al., 2022). Additionally, human genetics studies have found *CERS3* to be linked with Body-Mass Index (BMI) (Costa-Urrutia et al., 2019). We observed that many of the significant genic hits within our subgroup of small individuals (*PITPNA*, *LRRC28*, *TTC23*, *HGF*, *SLC43A2*, and *VPS53*) were also previously identified to be associated with human height (Guo et al., 2018; Yengo et al., 2022). We also observed a relationship between *RPH3AL* and height. Though there is limited research on *RPH3AL*, its role in exocytosis and the secretion of growth hormones in humans has been noted (*RPH3AL Gene Information - The Human Protein Atlas*, n.d.). Importantly, the signal within *IGF1R* replicated, and was above the SWS threshold. A mutation in *IGF1R* was linked with height in small dog breeds, like Chihuahuas (Hoopes et al., 2012). Lastly for small individuals, *COMMD6*, which was also identified in our GWAS, has primarily

been studied in relation to immune function, but, to our knowledge, no studies to date have reported any associations between this gene and height (*COMMD6 Gene Information - The Human Protein Atlas*, n.d.). In the subgroup of large individuals, the only gene above the SWS threshold was *PRR16* (chromosome 11); it has been previously associated with human height (Yengo et al., 2022).

Across all of our samples, our GWAS results pinpoint *PKD2* (chromosome 32) to be the most strongly associated with weight. Mouse models have shown the presence of *PKD2* has been linked to an increase in fat absorption, potentially promoting obesity (Trujillo-Viera et al., 2021). Several other genes, with significant associations in our study, have been linked to weight in other species. *SNTA1* was found to be closely associated with the Live Body Weight (LBW) of goats, which is a factor often used to assess livestock health (Selionova et al., 2022). Another gene, *CBFA2T2*, was found to regulate adipogenesis in both humans and mice, which can affect obesity when its expression is altered (Ali et al., 2013; Luo et al., 2020; Matulewicz et al., 2017). *TXNRD3* influences adipocyte differentiation through its involvement in the Wnt signaling pathway, a key process in the regulation of body fat and energy storage (S. Kang et al., 2007; Kipp et al., 2012; Martínez-Montes et al., 2017). *CERS3*, whose association was also noted in dog height, has been linked with Body Mass Index (BMI) in humans (Costa-Urrutia et al., 2019). Additionally, the genes *SPIDR*, and *ZNF341* have been linked to total body fat and bone mineral content, respectively (Blake et al., 2021; Shapses & Sukumar, 2012; Tachmazidou et al., 2017). While *CHMP4B* has been linked to the human birth weight, no studies have directly linked it to obesity and/or body mass. (*CHMP4B Gene Information - The Human Protein Atlas*, n.d.; Warrington et al., 2019). Similarly, *ZXDC* has primarily been investigated in the context of immune system regulation and cancer biology. To our knowledge, this is the first association

with weight thus far, which provides an additional avenue for future researchers to explore.

In our subgroup of small individuals, we identified similar associations between weight and the genes *SNTA1*, *ZNF341*, and *CBFA2T2*. Additionally, we identified new associations specific to this subgroup with *PITPNA* (also associated with height) and *SLC43A2*. Both of these genes were shown to decrease body weight in knockout mice (Alb et al., 2003; Guetg et al., 2015). In the subgroup of larger individuals we found two genes to be associated with weight, *PKD2* and on *SPIDR*, both of which are associated with body fat.

For lifespan, we highlight several other associations of interest. When testing all samples, we find significant SNPs linked to the genes: *TXNRD3*, *DRD3*, *TIGIT*, *SEPT11* and *ZXDC*. *TXNRD3* has been previously associated with lower survival rates for various types of cancers (Wu et al., 2021). However, to our knowledge, no previous studies have found an explicit connection between *TXNRD3* and lifespan. The gene that encodes the D3 dopamine receptor, *DRD3*, is associated with schizophrenia, which has too been linked with decreased life expectancy (Hjorthøj et al., 2017; Y. Kang et al., 2023). We observed significant signals at *TIGIT* and *SEPT11*, which both have been tied to the promotion of tumor growth and reduced longevity (Chauvin et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2023; Johnston et al., 2014). *ZXDC* was previously associated with cervical cancer metastasis, which has a significant negative impact on patient survival (Mao et al., 2023). In small dogs, we saw an association with *RUNX2*, which has also been associated with multiple cancers and poor patient prognosis (Zhao et al., 2021). In large individuals, our GWAS revealed *SLC41A3* to be associated with lifespan. A relationship between this gene and liver hepatocellular carcinoma, which is the second primary contributor of carcinoma-associated death, has been established (Q. Chang et al., 2021). Another gene found in

the group of large individuals is *CFAP100*, which to our knowledge, has not previously been linked to lifespan.

In humans, there have been 25,551 associations with height, 2,233 associations with weight, and 664 associations with lifespan as of 2023 (Sollis et al., 2023). After correcting for inflation, we recover a total of 50 associations with height, 84 associations with weight, and 21 associations with lifespan. This corresponds to previous work, which has suggested that dogs have a more simplified complex trait architecture than humans. (Boyko et al., 2010; Freedman et al., 2016). Importantly, we conducted an additional test to validate our ROH based GWAS by attempting to replicate a previously identified peak that was known to be homozygous on chromosome 13 within *RSPO2* for furnishings in dogs (Plassais et al., 2019). We were able to identify the same peak on chromosome 13 for *RSPO2* (Figures S27 and S28), though it did not meet genome-wide or suggestive significance after p-values were corrected. In addition to the *RSPO2* peak, we observed additional peaks that had not been previously identified. Replicating this peak suggests our approach which aimed at capturing slightly different information is powerful and worthwhile. Notably, similar power in human GWAS requires hundreds of thousands or even a million individuals (Yengo et al., 2022). Here, we captured slightly different information (non-additivity) when using ROH-mapping GWAS, and we were able to capture this information with less than 1000 dogs. This is due to the unique domestication and breed formation bottlenecks that dogs experienced that simplified complex trait architecture (Boyko et al., 2010; Hayward et al., 2016; Plassais et al., 2019). Overall, our GWAS and association tests suggest that quantitative traits in dogs are polygenic, and some traits may not be entirely additive. The newly identified genes, which have not been observed in previous studies, could be used as candidates in future functional exploration.

There are some limitations in the work that we would like to highlight. First, the phenotypic values used in the analysis were calculated based on the breed average, restricting us to study associations between breeds. In other words, the within breed values would not yield any significant results as the expected association between the trait and F_{ROH} would be 0, due to using a breed average phenotype. Using the breed average has been previously validated (Boyko et al., 2010; Hayward et al., 2016; Jones et al., 2008; Plassais et al., 2017, 2019; Rimbault et al., 2013) but the assumption does come with caveats. For example, when using a breed average value, we are ignoring variance among individuals within a breed. This variance within the breed is quite small due to the strict standards of the AKC. To this end, we mathematically show (Supplementary Text) that as long as the within breed variance is small the effect size computed from individual level data will be equivalent to the effect size from using the average. However, bias can be introduced in some cases when aggregating across breeds (Figure S29). Secondly, breed group categorization was based on neighbor joining trees and AKC, which could introduce errors when grouping some breeds. Third, observed that there was a concentration of peaks in the last few chromosomes. After eliminating SNP density issues (Figure S30, Table S16), we believe that the large number of peaks on the smaller chromosomes might be due to stronger linkage disequilibrium in the smaller chromosomes amplifying the strength of the signal. Alternatively, some chromosomes such as chromosome 32 have a higher GC content when examining the CanFam3.1 assembly (C. Wang et al., 2021), which could introduce noise into our results.

In sum, our work has further elucidated the genetic structure of quantitative trait architecture in dogs. We identified significant relationships between F_{ROH} and multiple phenotypic traits, suggesting that domestication and artificial selection played a role in shaping complex non-disease

traits. Our ROH-based association tests and GWAS provide new avenues to explore non-additivity in domesticated species while further elucidating complex trait architecture.

Author Contributions

ZAS and JAM designed and supervised the research project. S performed the research and analyzed data. SN reviewed domestication literature for writing and editing of the manuscript. SH generated the proof and plots for the effect of using breed averages. S along with the assistance of SN, ZAS and JAM wrote the paper.

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Data Accessibility Statement

Whole Genome Sequencing is available on NCBI (Accession number: PRJNA448733). The source phenotype data was obtained from (Plassais et al., 2019). All other data are contained within the article and its supplementary information.

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