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human terms for the relationships between parents and offspring helps her make a plausible argument for the similarity of mother love from one species to another, and it simultaneously raises questions about the customary methods of dispersing litters of puppies and kittens. As for paternal devotion, she tells of one husky father who, on his introduction to the litter he had sired, approached the puppies and their mother cautiously, then lowered his head and vomited, thus, in Thomas's interpretation, simultaneously promising to treat them gently and, atavistically, to provide them with food.

Thomas's use of terms relating to marriage seems less persuasive. Of course the relationship between mother and infant, of whatever mammalian kind, is grounded firmly in reproductive biology, although Thomas also finds that the metaphorical relationship of "adopted daughter" can be found among dogs. But marriage is a rather local legal construction, very differently understood in different human societies, and the legal relationship may do little to explain the behavior of human beings who voluntarily assume its constraints and obligations. Just what Thomas means when she writes of the marriage of the huskies Misha and Maria, or of the pups Bingo and Violet, is therefore unclear. She evidently wishes to imply that the range of canine behavior in-

In the case just cited, Bingo is warmly praised (indeed, Thomas, who did not try to stop Maria's aggression, feels "shamed by my own dog") and Maria's exuberant attack is more or less swept under the rug.

But a subsequent episode raises more troublesome issues about applying human moral language and moral standards to canines, particularly when one learns that the Thomas dogs divided themselves according to a hierarchy of precedence based on both the ability to dominate physically and the canine equivalent of charisma, which is as hard to define for dogs as it is for humans. Two of Thomas's dogs—Koki, a high-ranking husky, and Viva, a low-ranking dingo—had litters of puppies at the same time. Thomas came home one day just in

and when it should be seen as deriving from their remote wild ancestry?

Thomas may answer the latter question by her choice of pets. In view of her preference for dashing and independent breeds, it may seem surprising that the first two animals to join her pack were pugs, but she soon switched to huskies and dingoes. Huskies resemble wolves in their appearance and behavior much more closely than do most domestic dogs, and dingoes—whose ancestors traveled to Australia with its original human colonizers but soon escaped to populate the continent on their own—have a long tradition of feral existence. This is worth keeping in mind when we consider the most amazing incident chronicled by Thomas. Her dogs, when they were removed with

