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Indian Dogs Make Great Companions

Dogs were the only domesticated animal in North America when the Europeans first arrived. No one knows for sure if Indians brought the dogs from Asia, or if they domesticated wolves and coyotes.

Plains Indians relied on dogs for companionship and more. Dogs were guard animals, baby sitters, hunters, pack animals and foot warmers. Their fur was often used in weaving. And when it became necessary, dogs were used for food.

There were many different breeds of "native" American dogs. Eskimo dogs, for example, were sturdier and closely resembled wolves. Dogs from southwestern areas were smaller and had thinner coats, similar to terriers. One type of dog from central Mexico was hairless and resembled a greyhound.

The Indian dog breeds nearly disappeared, but in recent years, dog breeders like Beverly Woodcock, Grants Pass, Oregon, have been working to re-establish them.

Woodcock specializes in a breed kept by the Plains Indians. The breed, called the American Indian Dog, is medium-sized and looks somewhat like a coyote, which some

native Americans called "God's Dog." American Indian Dogs weigh about 30 lbs. and have long upright ears, a bushy tail that is carried down (like a coyote, not a wolf) and fur that is black, brown, gold and red. Eyes can be yellow, amber, blue or brown.

Woodcock says native American people continued to breed their dogs back to coyotes to retain certain desirable traits, like pack loyalty and high intelligence. "Today's American Indian Dogs retain the desired traits of their ancestors, through careful breeding programs and research rather than through introduction of primitive stock," she says. "These dogs should not be confused with coyote or wolf hybrids."

Bev's Waggin' Tail Farm offers American Indian Dogs for sale. She has a new litter coming in August. Pups sell for \$500 to \$800 each. She says they make excellent companions and guard dogs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beverly Woodcock, Waggin' Tail Farm, 11656 Williams Hwy., Grants Pass, Oregon 97527 (ph 541 846-6501 or 541 846-6747).

Toy Excavator With A Different Twist

"I've seen many different types of toy excavators but I feel that mine is different," says Glen Woodside, Thorndale, Ontario.

"Other excavators I've seen have the bucket linked to the main boom so the only way to curl or dump the bucket is to move the 'dipper stick' in or out. I developed a linkage system that allows the bucket to be controlled regardless of the position of the boom. I made the levers work the same way they do on real machines so while your little operator is having fun and improving his coordination, he is also training himself to be a backhoe operator.

"The right lever lifts the main section of the boom and can be used to swing the body of the machine. The left lever is a wobble stick. Moving it sideways controls the bucket and moving it in and out controls the dipper stick (the outer section of the boom) just like on a real machine.

"It also actually looks like an excavator. The 'tracks' are made from pieces of 4 by 4-in. wood rounded at the ends and painted black. The body of the machine is made from layers of 2 by 12-in. boards, painted yellow



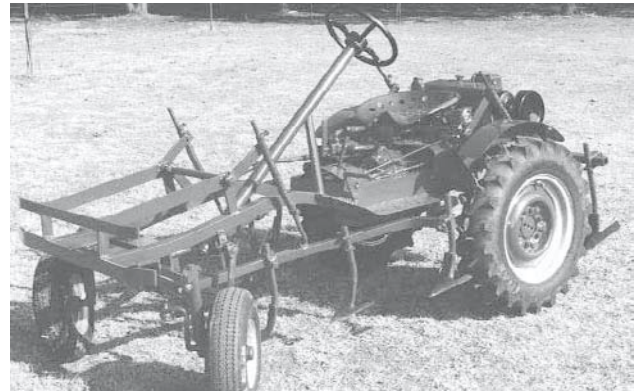
Linkage system on this toy excavator allows bucket to be controlled regardless of the position of the boom.

and black.

"This would be a great project for anyone to build. If there's enough interest, I'll put plans together."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen Woodside, RR3, Thorndale, Ontario N0M 2P0 Canada (ph 519 284-3509).

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Hubert Dyson's Allis Chalmers 'G' is powered by a rear-mounted 14 hp Tecumseh air-cooled engine.

He Built His Own Allis Chalmers "G"

Hubert Dyson thinks the Allis Chalmers "G" was the best utility tractor ever made for cultivating and all-around small plot work. But finding a "G" in good working condition is not easy. Dyson decided to build his own, based as closely as possible on AC's original design.

He built the tractor's frame from scratch using 1 3/4-in. sq. solid steel bar. He fitted it with a 14-hp. Tecumseh air-cooled engine, mounted at the back. It drives a Volkswagen 4-speed rear end and also powers a hydraulic pump. The clutch flywheel pressure plate also came off a Volkswagen, as did the steering sector.

There's one brake — on the back right wheel — which is controlled by a hand lever. The front axle was made from 1 1/4 by 4-in. tubing.

Overall length of the tractor is 7 ft. It's 38 1/2-in. wide. Front tires are 4.00 by 8 in. Back tires are 7L00 by 16-in.

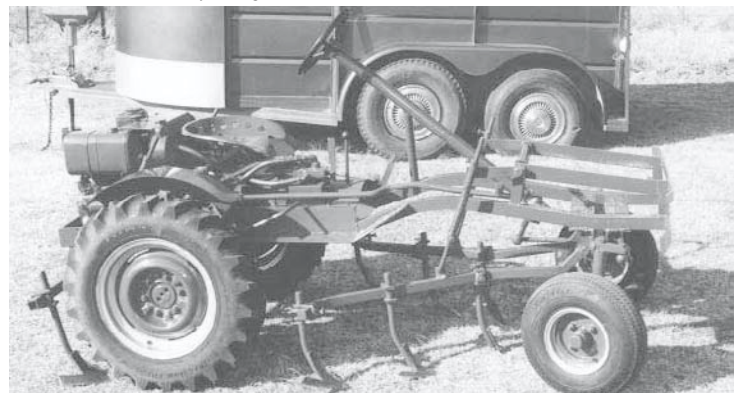
"I use this model in my own garden and in

a neighbor's five-acre garden," says Dyson. "I can use it with a 1-row planter as well as a cultivator with eight sweeps - two on back to cover the tractor's wheel tracks, and three on front on each side. The sweeps can be forced down as deep as I want and will even penetrate hard ground. A 2-in. hydraulic cylinder raises and lowers the sweeps.

"The trickiest part was building the bull gears that are used to gear it down. There's one gearbox on each side, right next to each rear wheel. There are five roller bearings, four sprockets, and two chains inside each gearbox. The chains run in oil and run so slow that they barely turn. The original tractor was designed to drive slow for garden work, not to do 100 acres."

All it takes to change attachments is a 3/4-in. wrench.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hubert Dyson, #2 Dyson Lane, Vilonia, Ark. 72173 (ph 501 796-2520).



Dyson's tractor is equipped with a cultivator that has eight sweeps.