

History of the New Guinea Singing Dog

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New Guinea Singing Dog (*canis dingo hallstromi*, Troughton, 1957)



Photograph taken at London Zoo in the 1960s, presumably showing an offspring of the original pair at Taronga

- **Other common names:** New Guinea dingo, Hallstroms dog, bush dingo, New Guinea wild dog, New Guinea singer New Guinea Singing Dingo, Highland Wild Dog. **German:** Neuguinea-Dingo, Urwald-Dingo, Hallstromhund. **Swedish:** Nya Guineas sjungande hund
- **Local names:**
- **Synonyms:**
- **Etymology:**
- **Holotype:** adult male (AM8502; skin and skull) secured in 1956 by Papua New Guinea District Officer J.P. Sinclair and Medical Assistant Albert Speer while they were on government patrol in the previously unvisited Levani Valley, which was in the then uncontrolled Huri-Dana country of the Southern Highlands Province, PNG (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007).

Taxonomic History

The origin and taxonomic position of the New Guinea Singing Dog remains hotly debated and opinions concerning taxonomic designation and phylogenetic relationships of this canid have varied. It has been re-classified several times and has variously been called *Canis lupus hallstromi*, *Canis familiaris hallstromi* or *Canis dingo hallstromi* (Schultz, 1969; Troughton, 1971; Voth, 1988; Brisbin et al., 1994; Corbett, 1995; Flannery, 1995a).

The first New Guinea singing dog, a black-white individual, was shot and killed by Sir William MacGregor in 1897 at an elevation of about 2,133 m (about 6,998 ft) on Mount Scratchley in the Oro Province, SE PNG. MacGregor described the dog as 11 1/2 inches at the shoulder and primarily black in colour. White markings trimmed the neck, the throat, chest and tip of the tail. He sent the skin and the skeleton to the Queensland Museum where they were preserved in alcohol. This specimen was, however, secured during a time when many naturalists made large collections but did not study them until many years later (Troughton, 1957).

In 1911 C.W. DeVis assembled and studied MacGregor's specimen, along with Professor Wood-Jones who described the skin as "black and white, the black dominant". Wood Jones concluded that it probably afforded "definite evidence that the Papuan feral dog is a very definite race, possessing a relatively large upper carnassial tooth typical of primitive canine breeds, and differing widely in its characters from the dogs of certain other Pacific Islands". He also stressed the need for accumulating more material before this breed became too hybridised (Wood-Jones, 1929; Troughton, 1957). H.A. Longman also studied the skin and skull in 1928. From 1897 until 1954, this single specimen comprised the scientific community's entire body of knowledge regarding the New Guinea Singing Dog.

In 1954 Mr. Ellis Troughton (the curator of mammals at the Australian Museum) arrived in Papua New Guinea and began collecting native animals, among them a pair of New Guinea Singing dogs brought down from the highlands by local tribesmen. Unfortunately, he underestimated their escape capabilities. The dogs escaped from captivity and wreaked havoc on the government's chicken population. They were quickly handed off in disgrace to some natives.

The wild dog of New Guinea was described as a unique species, *Canis hallstromi*, by Troughton (1957; 93) based on a pair (an adult male and a young female) secured in 1956 by Papua New Guinea District Officer J.P. Sinclair and Medical Assistant Albert Speer while they were on government patrol in the previously unvisited Levani Valley, which was in the then uncontrolled Huri-Dana country of the Southern Highlands Province, PNG. Speer sent this pair of NG Singing Dogs, which had been captured and raised by native tribesmen, to Sir Edward Hallstrom as a gift (the Zoo Director of Taronga). He had sponsored the search for them and kept this pair at his Fauna Station at Nondugl in the Waghi Valley, Western Highlands Province under the care of Mr. Fred Shaw-Mayer (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007).

Schultz (1969) based on its morphological similarity to *Canis familiaris* grouped it with the Australian dingo as a feral wild subspecies of the domestic dog, *Canis familiaris dingo*.

The New Guinea Singing Dog has often been dismissed, without investigation, as a feral domestic dog, based on its morphological similarity to *Canis familiaris*. It is not genetically or ecologically exchangeable with any other canid population and it is an evolutionarily significant unit. In 1976, W. Nelke collected 5 live specimens while on a expedition to the Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province (Indonesia) for the Museum of Ethnography, State Museums, Berlin (Schultz, 1978; Voth, 1988).



Photograph taken at Melbourne Zoo, December 1965, presumably showing an offspring of the original pair at Taronga Zoo

The History of *c.d.hallistromi* in Captivity

US Foundation Stock

As of 2012 there were 9 founders who contributed to the US NGSD genetic pool.

- The pair imported to San Diego Zoo, California from Taronga Zoo in 1958-59.
- Male "Dinkum" and female "Thundera" imported to Sedgwick County, Wichita from Taronga Zoo on 16 September 1980.
- Female "Olga" imported from the University of Kiel, Germany to Sedgwick County, Wichita from Taronga Zoo on 1 June 1987.
- Male "Darkie" imported by Sheryl Langan (Canada) from Taronga Zoo in 1987. He was sent to the Swamp Fox Sanctuary, South Carolina in 1994.

- Male "Madang" imported from Taronga Zoo to Sedgwick County Zoo on 2 July 1990.
- Male "Benji" imported from ?, Germany to Tampa's Lowry Zoo in 2007. Male "Babyface" imported from ?, Germany to ? in 2007. They both descend from the NG Singing dogs brought back to Germany from the Eipomek River Valley by Wolfgang Nelke in 1976.

Additional Information on US Foundation Stock

- Swamp Fox Sanctuary (South Carolina, USA): 20.12 (ISIS March 2008-July 2010).
- In 1994, 14-year-old male Darkie was sent by Ms. Sheryl Langan (Alberta?, Canada) to the Swamp Fox Sanctuary owned by NG Singing dog authority Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, Jr., at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, University of Georgia (7yrs after his importation from Taronga).
- Even at that advanced age, Darkie was successfully bred to Scratchley, a Dinkum (Taronga)/Olga (Kiel University) cross female born at Sedgwick County (Zoo) and they sired three litters at Dr. Brisbin's Swamp Fox Sanctuary (Koler-Matznick, 2004). This cross hopefully preserved as much genetic variation as possible.
- Miller Park Zoo (Illinois, USA): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010); on breeding loan from The Conservators' Center. Still kept here as of June 2012.
- Palm Beach Zoo (Florida, USA): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010). Still kept here as of July 2012.
- Miami Zoo (Florida, USA): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010). Still kept here as of November 2011.
- Kansas City Zoo (Kansas USA): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010). They possibly received two females from Cleveland (Zoo) in the second quarter of 2012.
- Columbian Park Zoo (Indiana, USA): 1.0 (ISIS March 2008-December 2008); 1.1 (ISIS July-December 2010). The male originate from Tampa's Lowry Zoo?
- Tampa's Lowry Zoo (USA): 4.2 (ISIS March 2008-December 2008); 3.1 (ISIS July-December 2010). In January 2013, the education department at the zoo received a new pair of NG Singing dogs, which is being rotated with their second pair between the education department and their main exhibit in Wallaroo Station.
- Tautphaus Park Zoo (USA): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010). Still kept here as of August 2012.
- Nashville Zoo (Tennessee, USA): 0.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010).
- San Diego Zoo (California, USA): kept here since 1958 (still keeping pure-bred individuals?). 0.1 (1978); 1.1 (1979); 0.1 (ISIS March 2008-December 2008); 1.2 (ISIS July-December 2010).
- In January 1958, they received a female from Taronga (Zoo), this was the first NG Singing Dog to be imported to the USA; she was part of a historic litter of 1 male and 3 female puppies born at Taronga (Zoo) in 1957 (Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick et al. 2007).
- In 1959 she was joined by a male born at Taronga (Zoo). The exact relationships between these two individuals remains unclear but they were presumably a sibling pair, both born to the original pair arriving at Taronga (Zoo) in 1956 (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- This pair successfully breed for the first time in 1960?
- In 1961 the San Diego (Zoo) started dispersing NG Singing dogs to other zoological collections in the USA.
- By the mid 1960s ?
- The male "Papa" and the female "Mama", both part of the same litter born at San Diego (Zoo) on 30 March 1966 were were moved to Great Bend (Zoo), Kansas in ?

- In 1972 the first NG Singing dogs entered the private sector in the USA, when Jay Hosler of California adopted his first NG Singing dog from San Diego (Zoo). Jay eventually adopted two more dogs from San Diego (Zoo). According to some sources until the late 1980's, all NG Singing dogs in North America were kept in zoos (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- From 1958 until 1980 (22 years) (see under Sedgwick County Zoo for more details) this was the only bloodline of NG Singing dogs introduced in the USA. Until 1987, all NG Singing dogs in the USA were descended from the presumed sibling pair arriving at San Diego (Zoo) from Taronga (Zoo) in 1958-59. As a result, the majority of all pure-bred NG Singing Dogs kept in Canada/USA descend from this pair (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- San Diego Wild Animal Park (California, USA): 2.0 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010). Still kept as of January 2012.
- The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (California, USA): 1.0 (ISIS July-December 2010).
- Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium (Arizona USA): 6.2 (ISIS March 2008-December 2008); 2.2 (ISIS July-December 2010). Still kept here as of February 2013.
- Cohanzick Zoo (New York, USA): 1.1 (2010). In June, their 12-year old male (1.0) died, and was replaced by young pair.
- DeYoung Family Zoo (Michigan, USA): it has been successfully bred.
- The Conservators' Center (North Carolina, USA): 2.3 (2010); it has been successfully bred.
- GW Exotic Animal Memorial Park (Oklahoma, USA): as of May 2011 they kept a single female named "Jingle", which was nine years old at the time. She is a sister to the mother of the female who was sent Sandwich (RSCC) in the UK.
- Guzoo Animal Farm (Canada): kept here as of June 2008.
- Jyllands Park Zoo (Denmark): 1.1 (ISIS March 2008-July 2010).
- Tierpark Neumünster (Germany): 0.1 (2009-2010).
- NG Singing dogs used to be regularly bred, they keep a single female together with a male Dingo now.
- This female originates from the Conservators' Center in the USA.
- Zlin-Lesna Zoo (Czech Republic): kept here since April 2011.
- In April 2011, they received a sibling pair (1.1) from Exmoor (Zoo), UK. This pair was born at the Rare Conservation Centre in 2009 to a pair imported from San Diego (Zoo).
- Zoonimal Wild Encounters (Germany)
- Exmoor Zoological Park (England, UK): kept here since 2010.
- In 2010 they received two males and 2 females from the Rare Species Conservation Centre in Kent, England; the original pair imported from San Diego (Zoo) in 2009 as well as their offspring.
- In April 2011, the sibling pair born at the Rare Species Conservation Centre in 2009 were transferred to Zlin-Lesna (Zoo), Czech Republic.
- Birmingham Zoo (USA)
- National Zoo (USA)
- Honolulu Zoo (USA)
- Lincoln Park (USA)
- Sedgwick County Zoo (Wichita, Kansas, USA): kept here 16 September 1980 to 1993 ?
- On 16 September 1980, they received the male "Dinkum" and female "Thundera" from Taronga (Zoo), Australia where both had been born. These were the first NG Singing dogs imported to the USA since the pair brought in to San Diego (Zoo) from Taronga (Zoo) in 1958-59 (Koler-Matznick et. al 2005). The import of the male "Dinkum" is well acknowledged in the NG Singing dog history, whilst the import of the female "Thundera" seems to have been acknowledged by very few.

- "Dinkum" was successfully bred with "Thundera" for two seasons, they produced a total of 5 puppies between 1981 and 1983 (did any of those actually survive?); adding the 2nd bloodline to the North American population.
- In 1984 the female "Thundera" died of arteriosclerosis at the age of 4 years and 4 months. This left the male "Dinkum" living alone at Sedgwick County (Zoo) between 1984 and 1987.
- Dr Brisbin entered the NG Singing dog world when he was visiting Sedgwick County (Zoo) during the mid 1980s. He saw "Dinkum" and asked his friend, the zoo director, about Dinkum. Thanks to Bris's influence and encouragement, the zoo imported of a pair of NG Singing dogs in 1987 to expand the genetic diversity of the USA captive population.
- On 1 June 1987, they received a male and the female "Olga" from the University of Kiel, Germany; their ancestors were among five NG Singing dogs that were brought back to German from the Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province by Wolfgang Nelke in 1976 (Koler-Matznick, 2004). The male failed to reproduce at Sedgwick County (Zoo).
- The female "Olga" sired several litters with the male "Dinkum" imported from Taronga (Zoo) in September 1980, they added a 3rd foundation bloodline of NG Singing dogs in North America. Including a female ("Scratchley") born on 25 June 1987, a litter of 1 male and 1 female puppy ("Sportkin" and "Cueca") born on 26 June 1988 as well as a single female ("Maddie") born on 22 June 1989 (Koler-Matznick et. al 2005). The offspring of this cross have demonstrated "hybrid vigor" and a reduction of monorchidism, which had appeared in the North American population.
- The female "Scratchley" were transferred to the Swamp Fox Sanctuary (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- The male "Dinkum" died of ? at the end of 1989 at the age of 9 years and 8 months.
- On 2 July 1990, the male "Madang" and a female arrived from Taronga (Zoo), Australia where both had been born (Koler-Matznick et. al 2005). They were part of the final dispersment of NG Singing dogs kept at Taronga (Zoo), the female died shortly after arriving at Sedgwick County (Zoo). The male "Madang" was a descendent of the original pair at Taronga (Zoo) but now 22 years removed from the original pair.
- Sometime in the second quarter of 1990 male "Madang" sired a litter with the female "Maddie" (daughter of one of the Dinkum/Olga litters) and one male puppy was born ("Morgan").
- Today all NG Singing dogs in the USA trace back to Olga on the female line. Today, some USA NG Singing dog pedigrees trace entirely back to the "Dinkum" and "Olga" breeding pair in the fourth or fifth generations, as they were the only pair reproducing for several years (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- Great Bend Zoo (?, Kansas, USA):
- Clay Center Zoo (?, Kansas, USA):
- Cleveland Zoo (Ohio, USA): 0.2 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010).
- No longer kept as of November 2012 as the two females kept were moved to a Zoo in Kansas (Kansas City Zoo?), shifted in favour of a exhibit focusing on Dingos.
- Toronto Zoo (Toronto, Canada): 1.0 (ISIS March 2008-December 2010).
- In May 2011, they kept a pair at Kids Zoo & Outreach, the male "Koto" and the female "Tari".
- No longer kept as of February 2013.
- Aquarium of the Pacific (California, USA)
- Tallin Zoo (Estonia)
- Lintrup Zoo Park (Denmark): 1.3 (200?); but it was never bred.
- Aschersleben Zoo (Germany): kept to around 1983.
- Tierpark Bad Bösen (Germany): kept to around 1983.
- Tiergarten Bad Langensalza (Germany): kept up around 1983.
- Tierpark Berlin (Germany): 1965 to 2009.

- In 1965 they received a Taronga born? pair from the University of Kiel. This pair successfully bred at Berlin (Tierpark) in the same year with the female raising a litter of 2 male and 1 female puppies?
- In 1966 one of the males born at Berlin (Tierpark) in 1965 was moved to Erfurt (Zoopark).
- In 1969 a pair born at Berlin (Tierpark) in 1965? was moved to Liberec (Zoo), Czech Republic.
- In 1983 they received a male and two females from the University of Kiel; they were presumably some of the NG Singing dogs brought back to Germany from the Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province by Wolfgang Nelke in 1976.
- This species was continuously bred at Berlin (Tierpark) up until 1999.
- Their last male died of old age in 2009.
- Zoopark Erfurt (Germany): kept to around 1983.
- In 1966 they a male born at Berlin (Tierpark) in 1965.
- Heimattierpark Grimmen (Germany): kept up to ca. 1983.
- Kronberg-Opel Zoo (Germany)
- Tierpark Stralsund (Germany): kept up to ca. 1983.
- University of Kiel (Kiel, Germany): 196? to 1965?; 1976 to 1983?.
- In the early 1960s they possibly received offspring from the founder pair at Taronga (Zoo).
- In 1965 a pair (1.1) was transferred to Berlin (Tierpark).
- in 1976, Wolfgang Nelke obtained five captive individuals while out on an expedition to the remote Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province (= Irian Jaya) sponsored by the Staatliche Museum Preussischer Kulturbestiz Berlin/ Museum fur Volkerkunde (Schultz, 1978; Voth, 1988; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2003; Koler-Matznick, 2004). These specimens had reportedly been bred by members of the Eipo tribe, apparently one of the few traditional people who actually allowed their captive singing dogs to breed. However, the villagers indicated that their original dogs came from the wild. Once they arrived in Germany they were deposited with the Kiel Domestic Animal Institute (Voth, 1988; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2003; Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- In 1983 a male and two females was transferred to Berlin (Tierpark); they were presumably some of the NG Singing dogs brought back to Germany from the Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province by Wolfgang Nelke in 1976.
- In 1987 a male and the female "Olga" was transferred to Sedgwick County (Zoo) in the USA; their ancestors were among five NG Singing dogs that were brought back to German from the Eipomek River Valley, Papua Province by Wolfgang Nelke in 1976 (Schultz, 1978; Voth, 1988; Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- Liberec (Czech Republic): 1969 to 1977?
- In 1969 they received a sibling? pair (1.1) born at Berlin (Tierpark) in 1965? (Annual Animal Inventory 1969 to 1977).
- This pair successfully bred in 1970 (Annual Animal Inventory 1969 to 1977).
- Rare Species Conservation Centre (England, UK): 2009 to 2010.
- In 2009 they imported a pair from San Diego (Zoo),
- This pair successfully bred in 2009 and the female give birth to a litter of 1 male and 1 female puppy.
- This family group were transferred to Exmoor (Zoo) in 2010.
- London Zoo (England, UK): this species was successfully bred here.
- Jersey Zoo (Jersey, UK): 1966 to ?.
- They were successfully bred here in 1967, the first successful breeding of this species in a UK zoo.
- Chisinanu Zoo (Moldova): 1979 to 198?

- Nondugl Sanctuary (Nondugl, Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea; closed in 1967): the first pair of live NG Singing Dogs, an adult male and a young female, brought out in 1956 were secured by Papua New Guinea District Officer J.P. Sinclair and Medical Assistant Albert Speer while they were on government patrol in the previously unvisited Levani Valley, which was in the then uncontrolled Huri-Dana country of the Southern Highlands Province, PNG. Speer sent this pair of NG Singing Dogs, which had been captured and raised by native tribesmen, to Sir Edward Hallstrom as a gift (the Zoo Director of Taronga). He had sponsored the search for them and kept this pair at his Fauna Station at Nondugl in the Waghi Valley, Western Highlands Province under the care of Mr. Fred Shaw-Mayer (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007).
- In the following year, he donated them to Taronga (Zoo) (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007), where they arrived in March 1957. They were first live NG Singing Dogs to be transported out of New Guinea. The late New Guinea anthropologist Ralph Bulmer took a snapshot of this pair on the boat to Sydney (Koler-Matznick et a. 2007).
- Troughton (1957: 93) described *Canis hallstromi* based on his examinations of this pair.
- Baiyer River Sanctuary (Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea; closed in 2001): there was a breeding colony established here, with some exchange of individuals occurring with Taronga (Zoo) in Australia. In 1981 the male "Darkie was born here, his father was a pure Taronga line male whilst his mother is listed as "wild-caught", making her the last wild NG Singing dog to be added to the captive population (). No other information is available on this female as the Baiyer River (Sanctuary) was later closed due to a local inter tribal conflict and all records lost. The other offspring this pair produced did not go on to reproduce, as they all died after the Taronga Zoo transferred them to a living museum in PNG in 1989 ().
- The male "Darkie" was transferred to Taronga (Zoo) in the early 1980s in order to introduce some new blood in the captive breeding group there ().
- Adelaide Zoo (Adelaide, Australia): offspring from the founder pair at Taronga (Zoo) arrived at Adelaide (Zoo) in 1959, but the number of animals received remains unknown to me. There appears to be very few details available concerning the NG Singing dogs kept here.
- Taronga Zoo (Sydney, Australia): kept here March 1957 to around 1990.
- The first pair of live NG Singing Dogs, an adult male and a young female, brought out in 1956 were secured by Papua New Guinea District Officer J.P. Sinclair and Medical Assistant Albert Speer while they were on government patrol in the previously unvisited Levani Valley, which was in the then uncontrolled Huri-Dana country of the Southern Highlands Province, PNG. Speer sent this pair of NG Singing Dogs, which had been captured and raised by native tribesmen, to Sir Edward Hallstrom as a gift (the Zoo Director of Taronga). He had sponsored the search for them and kept this pair at his Fauna Station at Nondugl in the Waghi Valley, Western Highlands Province under the care of Mr Fred Shaw-Mayer. In the following year, he donated them to Taronga (Zoo) (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007), brought there by Ellis Troughton? they arrived in March 1957. These were first live NG Singing Dogs to leave New Guinea (Troughton, 1957; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007).
- In 1957, Dr. Ellis Troughton who was the Curator of mammals at the Australian Museum examined this original pair, and based on these examinations he published a scientific paper declaring the NG Singing dog a species separate from domestic dogs and the Australian dingo. He named it *Canis hallstromi* in honour of Sir Edward Hallstrom (Troughton, 1957: 93; Titcomb, 1969; Koler-Matznick, et al. 2007).
- The female was already pregnant upon arrival at Taronga (Zoo) and approximately 3 weeks after their arrival she gave birth to an historic litter of 1 male and 3 female puppies – historic because the majority of all captive NG Singing Dogs in the world today descend from it.

- In January 1958 one of these females was transferred to San Diego (Zoo), presumably the first NG Singing Dog to leave Taronga (Zoo) and the first imported to the USA (). Aim not sure when the founding pair at Taronga (Zoo) successfully bred again but in 1959 a male was transferred to San Diego (Zoo) to join the female already there.
The exact relationships between these two individuals remains unclear but they were presumably a sibling pair, both born to the original pair at Taronga (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- Additional individuals were transferred to Adelaide (Zoo) and Melbourne (Zoo) in 1959, but there appears to be very few details available concerning these moves or the individuals involved, e.g. Rix (1978) does not provide any details about the individuals kept at Melbourne (Zoo) others than concluding that the species was kept there at one point.
- In 1963 a female was captured by H. Clissold, who sent it to Taronga (Zoo).
- The founding pair which arrived in March 1957 at Taronga (Zoo) died in 1964 respectively 1967 (following their deaths both specimens were deposited in the collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Adult male, Holotype, AM8502 Skin and skull; Adult female, Allotype (collected and handled as Holotype), AM8917 Skin, skull and skeleton).
- Following the birth of the first litter in 1957 over 100 pups were born over the next 30 years at Taronga (Zoo) and the offspring of this founder pair were widely distributed to zoological collections all over the world including Melbourne Zoo (Australia), Adelaide Zoo (Australia), Wellington Zoo (New Zealand), London Zoo (England, UK), University of Kiel?, Honolulu Zoo (USA), and the Sedgwick County Zoo (USA). As such it is very unfortunate that all Taronga Zoo NG Singing Dogs records have either been lost or destroyed, as it would obviously have shed some light on the important history of this species in captivity.
- In the early 1980s the original group became so inbred that Taronga (Zoo) decided there was a need to import "new blood". The male "Darkie" born at Baiyer River (Sanctuary) and a pair from Berlin (Tierpark) was imported.
- Taronga (Zoo) indicated that the male "Darkie" was born in 1981 in the breeding colony at the Baiyer River (Sanctuary), his father was an pure Taronga line male whilst his mother is listed as "wild-caught, making her the last wild NG Singing dog to be added to the captive population. No other information is available on this female, as the Baiyer River (Sanctuary) was later closed due to a local inter tribal conflict and all records lost ().
- In September 1980. the male "Dinkum" born at Taronga (Zoo) were transferred to Sedgwick County (Zoo).
- It would appear that Taronga (Zoo) quit breeding around 1987.
- In 1987 the male "Darkie" and five females (the females were all born at Taronga), were imported to Canada by Sheryl Langan. Some sources suggest that only two females were imported by Ms. Langan to Canada (Koler-Matznick, 2004).
- In June 1990. the male "Madang" and a female, both born at Taronga (Zoo), were transferred to Sedgwick County (Zoo). The male "Madang" was a descendent of the original pair but now 22 years removed from the original pair. The Zoo gradually lost interest in NG Singing dogs and this pair were part of the final dispersal of NG Singing dogs kept at Taronga.
- Melbourne Zoo (Melbourne, Australia): offspring from the founder pair at Taronga (Zoo) arrived at Melbourne (Zoo) in 1959, but the number of animals received remains unknown to me. There appears to be very few details available concerning the NG Singing dogs kept here, e.g. Rix (1978) does not provide any details about the individuals kept at Melbourne (Zoo) others than concluding that the species was kept there at one point. Still kept in December 1965 (photographic evidence) but presumably no longer kept in 1978.
- Wellington Zoo (Wellington, New Zealand): offspring from the founder pair at Taronga (Zoo) arrived at Wellington (Zoo) in the early 1960, but the number of animals received remains

unknown to me. There appears to be very few details available concerning the NG Singing dogs kept here.

- Jay Hosler (California, USA): in 1972 the first NG Singing dogs entered the private sector in the USA, when Jay Hosler adopted his first NG Singing dog from San Diego (Zoo). Jay eventually adopted two more dogs from San Diego (Zoo) and they produced litters. Subsequently very little information seems to be available about the fate of these dogs.
- Sheryl Langan (Alberta?, Canada): she was not affiliated with any Zoo but was just a breeder of rare canines with Aussie connections. In 1987 she imported the male "Darkie" as well as five females from Taronga (Zoo); according to some sources only two females were imported by Ms. Langan to Canada (Koler-Matznick, 2004). In any case, all failed to reproduce.
- In 1994, 14-year-old male Darkie was sent by Ms. Sheryl Langan to the Swamp Fox Sanctuary owned by NG Singing dog authority Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, Jr., at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, University of Georgia (7yrs after his importation from Taronga) (Koler-Matznick, 2004).

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