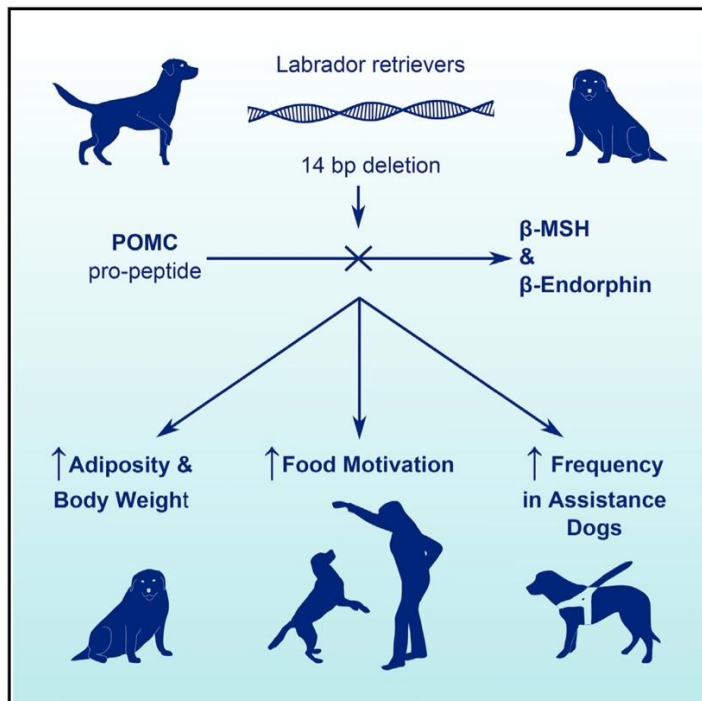


OBESITY GENES IN DOGS AND HUMANS



Labrador Retrievers are widely used as assistance dogs, and their training often involves food rewards. This means that the most obedient dogs tend to be those that are highly food-motivated. Over time, this selection process favored dogs that had lost the sensation of satiety.

This condition has been linked to mutations in specific genes, as demonstrated by Raffan et al. (2016)¹, who identified a deletion in the POMC gene associated with increased appetite and weight in Labrador Retrievers

More recently, a study published in Science (2025)² by a research team led by E. Raffan provided a more comprehensive analysis of the genetic connection between obesity in dogs and humans. This research highlights the shared genetic mechanisms influencing appetite regulation in both species.

1. [https://www.cell.com/cell-metabolism/fulltext/S1550-4131\(16\)30163-2?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS1550413116301632%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/cell-metabolism/fulltext/S1550-4131(16)30163-2?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS1550413116301632%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)
2. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.ads2145>