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Last [week](#) [6], I shared a mandible and tooth fragment from an animal that I thought many of you would recognize. Many of you quickly surmised it was a canine of some sort, but which one?

This was a *Tomarctus sp.* in the *Canidae* family from the Miocene, found in what is now Nevada. [From Prehistoric-Wildlife.com](#) [7]:

"A relative of such genera as *Aelurodon* and *Borophagus*, *Tomarctus* is another one of the hyena-like 'bone crushing' dogs of the Miocene."

Bone crushing dogs? That sounds like fun!

"*Tomarctus* is known to have existed for at least the first half of the Miocene, and seems to have disappeared with the appearance of later borophagine forms like *Aelurodon*. During the early half of the Miocene *Tomarctus* would have lived amongst other groups of carnivores such as false sabre-toothed cats, bear dogs and entelodonts."

When I was poking through the archives I found several more jaw fragments from the same area, so expect more bone crushers, biters, and scratchers in the coming weeks!

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[7] <http://www.prehistoric-wildlife.com/species/t/tomarctus.html>