

Selection against domestication alleles in introduced rabbit populations

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38 **ABSTRACT**

39 Humans have moved domestic animals around the globe for thousands of years. These have
40 occasionally established feral populations in nature, often with devastating ecological
41 consequences. To understand how natural selection shapes re-adaptation into the wild, we
42 investigated one of the most successful colonizers in history, the European rabbit. By sequencing
43 the genomes of 297 rabbits across three continents, we show that introduced populations exhibit a
44 mixed wild-domestic ancestry. We show that alleles that increased in frequency during
45 domestication were preferentially selected against in novel natural environments. Interestingly,
46 causative mutations for common domestication traits sometimes segregate at considerable
47 frequencies if associated with less drastic phenotypes (e.g., coat color dilution), while mutations
48 that are likely strongly maladaptive in nature are absent. While natural selection largely targeted
49 different genomic regions in each introduced population, some of the strongest signals of
50 parallelism overlap genes associated with neuronal or brain function. This limited parallelism is
51 likely explained by extensive standing genetic variation resulting from domestication together with
52 the complex mixed ancestry of introduced populations. Our findings shed light on the selective and
53 molecular mechanisms that enable domestic animals to re-adapt to the wild and provide important
54 insights for the mitigation and management of invasive populations.

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56 **Keywords:** feralization, domestication, natural selection, artificial selection, biological invasions,
57 behavior, invasive species

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59 INTRODUCTION

60 When domesticated species adapt to an anthropogenic environment, long-term selective pressures
61 associated with fitness in the wild are relaxed and novel selective pressures arise. This process over
62 thousands of years led to the evolution of a common set of phenotypes favored by humans (*e.g.*,
63 tameness and fancy coat colors) that otherwise would be subjected to strong negative selection in
64 wild populations (1-3). Conversely, when domesticated animals move outside the sphere of human
65 influence and recolonize natural settings, they become re-exposed to many of the former selective
66 pressures, as well as novel ones. Over time, these populations thrive and frequently reverse to the
67 original phenotypes that characterize their wild ancestors through a process known as feralization
68 (4-6 and references therein). Understanding the molecular mechanisms by which feralization
69 operates can thus provide valuable insights about how populations establish in new environments
70 and, ultimately, about the process of evolution.

71 The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is one of the most successful colonizer animal
72 species. From a circumscribed native distribution in the Iberian Peninsula and France, rabbits are
73 now widespread in all continents, except Antarctica, and in over 800 islands around the globe (7),
74 thriving in various ecological contexts and considered an invasive species in many regions (8, 9).
75 This cosmopolitan distribution is the result of a series of human-mediated introductions in the last
76 1,000 years (7, 10-14). Rabbit domestication predates this expansion, and it is believed to have
77 occurred in France between AD 500 and 1000 (15-18). Since most of the species' expansion
78 occurred after its domestication, many populations were formed by the release of domestic rabbits
79 (7). While in some instances, these domestic importations failed to establish until wild rabbits,
80 better adapted to the natural environment, were introduced (19), in others, domestic rabbits were
81 able to adapt, thrive, and eventually establish feral populations that still exist today (7). The
82 numerous introductions of rabbits worldwide offer a powerful and replicated study system to
83 elucidate the molecular mechanisms associated with feralization.

84 The process of animal domestication is thought to result from shifts in allele frequency of
85 many loci across the genome (20). This highly polygenic architecture is well illustrated by genomic
86 studies of wild and domestic rabbits (18). For example, out of ~50 million single nucleotide
87 polymorphisms across the genome, only 20 variants were found to be fixed for alternative alleles
88 between wild rabbits from the native range, from which domestic rabbits were derived, and
89 domestic rabbits (18). Since the ancestral "wild" alleles still segregate in domestic rabbits for most
90 loci, even if at low frequency, these loci have the potential to revert to the ancestral state (21) when
91 exposed to a natural environment. This source of readily available standing genetic variation could
92 potentially provide the means to explain the rapid evolutionary change and phenotypic reversal that
93 frequently occurs when domesticated animals are released back into the wild. While the origin and

94 role of alleles involved in the process of domestication have been widely studied, the fate of these
95 alleles in natural environments, and their subsequent role in adaptation outside captivity, is not well
96 understood.

97 In this study, we leveraged the worldwide colonization of the European rabbit to
98 investigate the genetic changes induced by feralization. Using whole genome sequencing of 297
99 individuals, we compared levels and patterns of genetic diversity between six introduced rabbit
100 populations against domestic rabbits and wild rabbits from the native range. We show that
101 introduced rabbit populations are characterized by a mixture of wild and domestic ancestry and that
102 alleles that have increased in frequency during domestication are enriched among those that
103 underwent strong shifts in frequency in introduced populations. Our results highlight the complexity
104 of animal introductions and show how natural selection can reshape the variation of domestic
105 animals when exposed to natural environments, providing a general view of the molecular
106 mechanisms enabling their adaptation to the wild.

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110 RESULTS

111 Colonization bottlenecks in introduced rabbit populations

112 We generated low-pass whole-genome sequencing data from six introduced rabbit populations
113 across three continents (Fig. 1A). In South America, Neuquén and Tierra del Fuego; in Europe,
114 Skåne and Gotland; and in Oceania, Australia and New Zealand. All these introductions have
115 occurred in the last 200 years and historical records suggest they were largely independent (*SI*
116 *Appendix*, Supplementary text). We additionally generated whole-genome sequencing data for wild
117 rabbits from the native range (Iberia and southern France) and domestic individuals from seven
118 breeds that are representative of the phenotypic diversity seen in domestic rabbits. In total, we
119 resequenced 297 individuals at an average sequencing coverage of 1.5X (Supplementary Table 1),
120 taking advantage of approaches based on the estimation of genotype likelihoods to calculate
121 population genetics statistics. These approaches have become increasingly common in recent years
122 in population genomics, as they provide a cost-effective and accurate estimation of allele
123 frequencies while bypassing the need for genotype calling (22).

124 We began by investigating patterns of population structure with a principal component
125 analysis (PCA, Fig. 1B). Overall, the populations were well differentiated across the two main axes
126 of variation (MANOVA, Wilk's $\Lambda = 5.85 \times 10^{-3}$, $F_{14,576} = 496.9$, $P < 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$, partial $\eta^2 = 0.988$).
127 Along the main axis (PC1, explaining 34.0% of the total variation), wild and domestic rabbits
128 showed high differentiation and were placed on opposite sides of the distribution. The introduced
129 populations were distributed between the two groups along this putative domestic-wild axis, except
130 for Tierra del Fuego which clusters at the far end of domestic rabbits. The second principal
131 component (PC2, explaining 20.3% of the total variation) separates the individuals from Neuquén
132 and Gotland from the remaining samples. An analysis of ancestry using an admixture algorithm
133 based on genotype likelihoods (Fig. 1C, Extended Data Fig.1) was broadly consistent with the PCA
134 results. At $K = 2$, the two ancestry components separate the domestic and Tierra del Fuego
135 populations from the remaining dataset and at $K = 4$, the populations of Neuquén and Gotland
136 emerged as differentiated from the remaining groups. Increasing values of K resolved the expected
137 substructure associated with each population.

138 We then estimated genome-wide levels of nucleotide diversity for each population (Fig.
139 1D). As expected, diversity in all introduced populations was lower than that in the native range
140 populations. This could be explained by a combination of bottlenecks (due to a limited number of
141 founders) and domestic ancestry because domestic rabbits have significantly lower nucleotide
142 diversity than their wild ancestors (17, 23). The genetic diversity of the populations that were
143 placed in the extremes of the PCA plot (*i.e.*, Neuquén, Tierra del Fuego and Gotland) was similar to

144 that in domestic breeds (π domestic = 0.45%). This is likely a consequence of strong bottlenecks
145 and could explain their clustering position in the PCA analysis.

146 Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis corroborates the patterns described above:
147 haplotypic diversity in populations from the native range was markedly higher than that in
148 introduced populations (Extended Data Fig.2). The mtDNA phylogeny also illustrates the variation
149 and complexity of the colonization history of the different populations (Fig. 1E, Extended Data
150 Fig.3). For example, some populations contain haplotypes distributed across the phylogeny
151 (Neuquén, Australia and New Zealand), while others show a tight clustering consistent with a
152 strong colonization bottleneck (Gotland and Tierra del Fuego). Samples from geographically close
153 locations are not substantially more likely to cluster in related haplogroups, further underlining that
154 these introductions were largely independent and did not follow a simple step-wise colonization
155 pattern. Despite this diversity, all mtDNA haplotypes belong to the *O. c. cuniculus* subspecies, the
156 European rabbit lineage that is found in Northeastern Iberia and France, and which was the direct
157 source of domestic rabbits (17). Although some reports indicate a Spanish origin for some
158 introduced rabbit populations (12), which would increase the probability of a direct contribution by
159 the subspecies from the Southwestern Iberia (*O. c. algirus*), we did not find evidence of this in any
160 population.

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163 **High levels of domestic ancestry in introduced rabbits**

164 To estimate the contribution of domestic ancestry to each introduced population, we next estimated
165 an ancestry index that enabled us to assess the relative contributions of wild and domestic
166 genotypes for each individual based on a set of autosomal variants that are informative for
167 domestic/wild ancestry ($n = 1,995$). Corroborating the previous analyses, this index suggests that
168 most introduced populations have a predominantly domestic ancestry, albeit mixed with wild (Fig.
169 2A). The relative proportion of wild and domestic ancestry was very similar among individuals
170 within each population, and the average domestic contribution for each population varied between
171 47.5% (Skåne) and 80.8% (Tierra del Fuego; Supplementary Table 2) We note, however, that
172 selection against domestic alleles (see below) could lead to a reduction of the inferred domestic
173 ancestry when compared to the true proportion of neutral admixture background.

174 To further evaluate the contribution of domestic ancestry to the introduced populations, we
175 calculated an outgroup f_3 statistic, which measures shared drift between pairs of populations in
176 relation to an outgroup (24). We applied the statistic to trios with wild rabbits as the outgroup, and
177 domestic rabbits and each introduced population as ingroup. Divergence was higher between
178 domestic and wild rabbits from the native range, with intermediate values for each introduced

179 population. There is a very strong agreement with the ancestry index analysis above in terms of the
180 relative differences among populations (Fig. 2B). For example, rabbits from Tierra del Fuego
181 showed the largest divergence from the wild outgroup and Skåne the least. These results are
182 consistent with a scenario of mixed wild-domestic ancestry for all introduced rabbit populations,
183 regardless of their geographic context. However, the degree of admixture, the specific affinities
184 between populations, and the overall levels of nucleotide diversity reflect each population's
185 colonization history.

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188 **Selection against domestic alleles**

189 The population from Tierra del Fuego exhibits a predominantly domestic ancestry (Fig. 2). This
190 provides an opportunity to study the effects of natural selection on variants that were initially
191 selected during domestication but subsequently exposed to selective pressures commonly found in
192 the wild. We tested the prediction that the adaptation to natural environments could be facilitated by
193 standing genetic variation present in domestic rabbits, since the domestication process is not
194 associated with significant allele fixation (18). We calculated allele frequency differences (ΔAF) for
195 each autosomal variant between i) domestic rabbits and rabbits from the native range, and ii)
196 between domestic rabbits and rabbits from Tierra del Fuego (Fig. 3A). To specifically test whether
197 selection against domestication alleles is more frequent than expected by chance, we defined lowly
198 and highly differentiated variants as those with $\Delta AF < 0.75$ and $\Delta AF \geq 0.75$, respectively. Highly
199 differentiated variants between wild and domestic rabbits are expected to be enriched in loci
200 selected during domestication, while highly differentiated variants between domestic rabbits and
201 rabbits from Tierra del Fuego should be enriched in loci associated with adaptation to the wild
202 following the introduction to Tierra del Fuego.

203 For positions with lower ΔAF between rabbits from the native range and domestic rabbits
204 ($\Delta AF < 0.75$, $n = 16,276,491$), 0.73% were highly differentiated between domestic rabbits and
205 Tierra del Fuego ($\Delta AF \geq 0.75$, $n = 118,296$). Strikingly, when considering positions with higher
206 ΔAF between wild and domestic rabbits ($\Delta AF \geq 0.75$, $n = 53,235$), the proportion that was also
207 highly differentiated in the Tierra del Fuego versus domestic rabbits was 3.79% ($\Delta AF \geq 0.75$, $n =$
208 2,019). This suggests that domestication alleles are over five times more likely to revert to a high
209 frequency of the wild-type allele than other loci (one-sided Fisher's exact test, $P < 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$, odds-
210 ratio = 5.385). While imposing an artificial threshold to define highly differentiated variants may
211 risk inducing over-interpretation of these results, a closer inspection further suggests that this
212 enrichment is increasingly stronger for variants that are highly differentiated between domestic and
213 native populations (Fig. 3B). This can be interpreted as variants that shifted more strongly in allele

214 frequency during domestication were also more strongly selected against when reintroduced to a
215 natural environment.

216 We next investigated the genome-wide distribution of these 2,019 variants with
217 simultaneous high ΔAF in the two contrasts. Their distribution in the genome was not uniform but
218 instead enriched in specific regions (Fig. 3C). By summarizing the number of these variants in
219 overlapping 100 kb windows, we identified 398 windows with five or more of these variants that
220 defined 71 independent genomic regions, which overlapped 171 protein-coding genes. We
221 examined the top five regions. The 1st top outlier region overlapped the gene *PHACTR4* (159
222 variants). *PHACTR4* is a phosphatase and actin regulator that is required for neural tube and optic
223 fissure closure, and enteric neural crest cell migration, which has been linked to abnormal retina
224 morphology, exencephaly and educational attainment (25,26). The 2nd region was located near an
225 uncharacterized gene that is a likely homologue of *RPL35A* (62 variants), which has been connected
226 with bone marrow failure and anemia (27). Other top five regions also overlapped or were in the
227 vicinity of genes associated with brain function or neurogenesis. These are *KLF4* (53 variants),
228 which has been implicated in neurogenesis (28, 29) and previously shown to have been a strong
229 target of selection during rabbit domestication (18); and *DPP10* (46 variants), which encodes an
230 auxiliary subunit of voltage-gated potassium ion channels that are integral to signal processing in
231 neuronal cells (30, 31). The fifth region (43 variants) contained genes that might be associated with
232 other relevant phenotypic traits that might have undergone relaxed selection following
233 domestication, such as immune response (*CD180/MAST4*, 32).

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236 **The fate of domestic variants of known phenotypic impact**

237 Rabbit domestication has produced a variety of phenotypes for which the underlying causal genes
238 and/or variants have been identified (33-41). Following up on the finding that domestication alleles
239 are disproportionately more likely to be the targets of selection during feralization, we assessed the
240 frequency of occurrence in each population of domestic mutations known to be associated with
241 specific phenotypes. We focused on ten mutations associated with variation in coat color, fur
242 texture and length, morphology and fat coloration (Fig. 4). All these mutations can be found in
243 rabbits of different breeds but are unlikely to be detected by our previous analysis focused on
244 variants that differentiate all domestic rabbits from wild rabbits from the native range.

245 Five mutations were completely absent in any introduced population. These were linked to
246 either coat structure and length (rex and angora), changes in pigmentation (black, and black/tan) or
247 drastic morphological changes (dwarf). Four other mutations linked to coat color variation were
248 present in the majority of the introduced populations at low-to-moderate frequencies, with the

249 highest prevalence being the dilute mutation of *MLPH* that was present in 10 out of 30 individuals
250 sampled from Gotland. The *BCO2* variant causing yellow fat was also relatively common (7.4% to
251 13.3% in three populations). We did not detect any of these domestic alleles in wild rabbits from the
252 native range. These results support the hypothesis that there is a strong variation in selective
253 pressures associated with mutations of domestic origin..

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256 **Population-specific selection against domestic ancestry**

257 Next, we investigated the distribution of genomic regions that are more strongly differentiated
258 between each of the introduced populations and domestic rabbits. These regions should be enriched
259 for loci where domestic ancestry was likely selected against when compared to the admixed genetic
260 background of both wild and domestic origin found in all introduced populations. To accomplish
261 this, we calculated ΔAF using a sliding-window approach ($n = 81,842$ windows, Extended Data
262 Fig.4) and then combined the results using a modification of the *di* statistic (42). This scan revealed
263 multiple genomic locations as strong outliers when compared to the genome-wide average (Fig.
264 5A). The top 0.1% windows from the autosomal distribution were located on 27 independent
265 genomic regions containing 52 protein-coding genes, 14 of which (26%) were already outliers in
266 the previous analysis in Tierra del Fuego rabbits (see above). These regions of high differentiation
267 show signatures of selective sweeps: these top 0.1% ΔAF windows in each population (Extended
268 Data Fig.4) show a significant enrichment for lower values of Tajima's *D* when compared to
269 genome-wide values (Welch's *t*-test, $P < 4.7 \times 10^{-4}$, in all six populations; Extended Data Fig.5,
270 Supplementary Table 3).

271 The strongest cross-population signal of differentiation between domestic rabbits and the
272 introduced populations overlapped the Yes-associated protein 1 gene (*YAPI*; chr1:114,550,000-
273 114,725,000), with four windows that were in the top 1% of the empirical distribution in each of the
274 six contrasts (Fig. 5B, Extended Data Fig.4). Among several organismal functions, *YAPI* activity is
275 necessary for neural stem cell differentiation into neural progenitor cells (43-45); knock-down of
276 *YAPI* expression in rat hippocampal neurons lead to impaired dendrite development (46). The 2nd
277 top outlier overlapped *RSPH4A*, which encodes for a component of the radial spoke head of cilia
278 (47). Several of the other top five outlier windows overlapped or were in the vicinity of genes that
279 can be associated with brain function. *CPQ* encodes a carboxypeptidase that interacts with
280 thyroglobulin to release thyroxin (48, 49), the levels of which are regulated by environment-induced
281 stress (50); *MIB1* encodes a ubiquitin ligase that controls neurogenesis and gliogenesis in the spinal
282 cord and has been implicated in synaptic plasticity and memory formation in the hippocampus (51,
283 52). The fifth region contains *PRKG2*, which encodes a serine/threonine protein kinase that is

284 highly expressed in the brain where it plays a role in circadian rhythm regulation and anxiety-like
285 behavior (53-55). This gene could also be associated with other phenotypes relevant to the re-
286 adaptation to the wild since it has been implicated in bone growth and linked to several abnormal
287 morphological phenotypes in mice, such as abnormal bone ossification, small bones and
288 disproportionate limbs and cranium (56).

289 We next assessed the degree of parallelism among the six introduced populations. We
290 calculated ΔAF for each pair of domestic vs. introduced population for 20,483 non-overlapping
291 windows of 100 kb, and intersected the top 1% (Fig. 5C). We found that the great majority of these
292 top windows ($n = 755$; 78.9%) were specific to one population and 202 (21.1%) were outliers
293 shared by two or more populations. Only one window was shared among the six and contained the
294 *YAPI* gene (Fig. 5B). The observed overlap was generally higher than expected by chance
295 (Bonferroni-corrected $P < 0.05$; Supplementary Table 4). For example, the null expectation of 1%
296 outlier sharing between two populations is approximately two windows, while in our dataset, we
297 found that this number ranged from 10-to-45 windows. For comparisons involving three or more
298 populations, the expectation of overlap was below one, but we still observed multiple shared outlier
299 windows in almost all intersections. Taken together, these results suggest a significant but modest
300 degree of parallelism, with the great majority of regions being population-specific outliers.

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304 **DISCUSSION**

305 Understanding the causes that determine the success of a population in a novel environment is a
306 question whose implications intersect a wide range of fields, from conservation to evolutionary
307 biology. The repeated introduction of domesticated organisms into natural environments provides a
308 unique framework for understanding how this process unfolds. Taking advantage of the unique
309 history of rabbit colonization and the replication provided by the numerous translocation events in a
310 variety of geographic and ecological contexts, we used whole-genome resequencing of 297 rabbits
311 across three continents to understand the molecular mechanisms by which domestic animals re-
312 adapt to the wild and establish feral populations.

313 A striking observation in our data is that all studied populations are characterized by a
314 blend of wild and domestic genotypes. This mixed ancestry suggests that most successfully
315 introduced rabbit populations originate either from multiple introductions of different stocks or
316 from importations of already mixed stocks. The pervasiveness of wild ancestry is surprising as
317 domestic rabbits were easier to acquire and transport and were available at the time when all the
318 colonization events studied here occurred. One potential explanation for this pattern is that the
319 spread of rabbits could have followed a stepping-stone model where an admixed stock of animals
320 was moved from place to place; however, historical records for the populations we analyzed suggest
321 that, with exception of Australia and New Zealand, they originate from independent introductions
322 (*SI Appendix*, Supplementary text). This is corroborated by our analyses, which indicate an
323 important degree of genetic distinctiveness. A more likely explanation could be associated with the
324 fitness advantage that wild ancestry provides. In Australia, a large body of historical records report
325 that multiple domestic introductions failed to become established until an introduction of rabbits
326 with wild ancestry triggered a biological invasion that swept the entire continent (19). This
327 signature of “exoferality” in rabbits (in contrast to “endoferality”, when introduced populations
328 derive from an essentially domestic ancestor) has been found in other introduced plants and animal
329 species (5, 57), and could be argued as a key factor promoting the establishment and persistence of
330 human-mediated introductions. We note that the majority of recorded instances of rabbit
331 introductions have been on small oceanic islands (7), where selective pressures are typically
332 relaxed, particularly those linked to predation, competition for resources, and plant chemical
333 defenses (58, 59). This is well illustrated by the Japanese island of Ōkunoshima, also known as the
334 “Rabbit Island”, where a large population of tamed rabbits, segregating for a wide range of colors
335 and other domestic-like traits, has thrived for over 50 years (60). However, most of the introduced
336 populations from our study thrive in continental environments populated by predators and where
337 competition for resources with other species is presumably stronger. In more competitive and
338 predator-rich environments, domestic alleles are more likely to be deleterious, so mixed wild-

339 domestic ancestries are in turn more likely to establish successful populations than introductions
340 based strictly on domestic rabbits.

341 If domestication traits presumably prevent population establishment, two questions
342 remain: how do populations with a predominantly domestic origin adapt to a wild environment, and
343 what happens to the fraction of the genome associated with domestic ancestry in the mixed
344 populations during this process? Our results suggest that an important way to mitigate the
345 deleterious impact of domestication variants during adaptation to the wild is negative selection
346 against these alleles. In rabbits from Tierra del Fuego, a population of predominant domestic
347 ancestry, we found a genome-wide signature of stronger selection against alleles that have more
348 strongly increased in frequency during domestication. Domestication in rabbits acted mostly on
349 standing genetic variation that was pre-existing in ancestral wild rabbits (18), with some notable
350 exceptions such as large effect alleles that were cherry-picked by breeders. As a consequence, most
351 variants contributing to rabbit domestication have not become fixed in domestic breeds, which
352 promotes the conditions for wild-type alleles to rise in frequency if natural selection becomes again
353 a predominant factor. This pattern was stronger near genes with functions likely to be associated
354 with traits relevant for domestication, in particular brain function, raising the intriguing possibility
355 that some of these signatures could be important to compensate for the reduced fear and flight
356 response that characterizes domestic rabbits and are highly deleterious in natural settings. The fate
357 of domesticated alleles in wild settings is perhaps more directly demonstrated by our analysis
358 focused on causative mutations known for controlling several fancy traits, such as coat color and
359 fur-type. Interestingly, some of the mutations underlying less extreme coat color phenotypes (*e.g.*,
360 dilution) or the coloration of fat were present at moderate/high frequencies, likely because they are
361 not strongly deleterious in some natural habitats and therefore tolerated. Domestic variants that are
362 linked to phenotypes with more pronounced phenotypic effects are often absent, suggesting that
363 they were likely purged by selection. Although these results can be confounded by the specific
364 domestic ancestry for each introduced population (some alleles could have been already rare or
365 absent in the source population, particularly for breeds like rex and angora), many of these variants
366 are both common across domesticated rabbits and have a recessive mode of inheritance, which
367 increases the chances of them being introduced into a population undetected. Combined, these
368 factors are likely contributing to the atavism commonly observed in feral populations.

369 The several instances of adaptation to wild environments in introduced rabbit populations
370 could potentially result from parallel genetic changes. One striking example of a locus shared by the
371 six introduced populations overlaps the *YAPI* gene, which has a known role in neural cell
372 development. Nevertheless, the vast majority of putative signatures of selection were not shared
373 across populations. This is a good illustration of the power of standing genetic variation at multiple

374 loci to drive fast adaptation through soft selective sweeps (61). This highly polygenic and
375 independent pattern of selection is, however, also linked to a genetic legacy of mixed wild and
376 domestic ancestries in introduced rabbits, since all our populations had a significant contribution of
377 wild ancestry (~19-53%, depending on the population). These results thus add important insights to
378 the growing body of knowledge that has been collected in other species with feral populations. For
379 example, selective sweeps in feral chickens in Hawaii targeted mostly loci not associated with
380 domestication itself (62). In dingoes, a mixed scenario of reversions to functional wild-type alleles
381 in some loci and a rise in frequency of domestication alleles seems to have occurred in a context of
382 local adaptation (63). This is also the pattern observed in free-living Soay sheep, in which coat color
383 alleles at several loci were either under positive or negative selection, depending on specific fitness
384 components (64). Our study expands on these previous studies, which were mostly focused on
385 single populations, by investigating multiple iterations of the adaptation process.

386 Feralization has often been seen as a simple process of re-adaptation to the wild from a
387 previously domesticated population (sometimes called de-domestication, but see 4, 5, 65). This
388 simplistic view is challenged by our empirical data on multiple introduced populations, as well as
389 previous studies in other species, that illustrate the complex roles of admixture, local environment,
390 and demography in shaping how re-adaptation to the wild occurs. For example, our introduced
391 populations have adapted to strikingly different habitats, so readaptation to the wild occurs in
392 tandem with local adaptation to novel environments that differ from those in the native range (see
393 also 66, 67). Feralization in rabbits is thus not a simple reversal of domestication (5). Moreover, the
394 timing and frequency of admixture between wild, domestic, and feral populations can potentially
395 have a profound impact to shape the available genetic variation (64, 68), highlighting the crucial
396 roles that the initial genetic composition and standing genetic variation play in the successful
397 establishment of introduced populations.

398 Across the world, domestic species play a major role in human activity. When these
399 species run wild, however, they can cause devastating economic consequences. Extensive damage
400 to native fauna and flora can lead to irreversible impacts on natural ecosystems. Our study
401 demonstrates how these domestic species can circumvent the limitations imposed by the
402 domestication process and successfully adapt to novel locations. These findings therefore contribute
403 to a better understanding of the feralization process and have the potential to inform conservation
404 policies.

405

406

407 **METHODS**

408 **Sampling and whole-genome resequencing**

409 We collected 297 samples from domestic rabbits, wild rabbits from the native range, and wild
410 rabbits from multiple introduced populations (Fig. 1B, 1C, Supplementary Table 1). For wild
411 rabbits from the native range (*Oryctolagus cuniculus cuniculus*), we collected a total of 49 samples
412 from several localities: Caumont (n = 8, France), La Roque (n = 10, France), Villemolaque (n = 10,
413 France), Tarragona (n = 11, Spain) and Zaragoza (n = 10, Spain). From domestic rabbits, we
414 collected a total of 62 samples from seven breeds: Belgian hare (n = 10), Champagne d'argent (n =
415 10), Dutch (n = 9), English silver (n = 3), Flemish giant (n = 10), French lop (n = 10), and New
416 Zealand white (n = 10). For the introduced populations, we focused on the following six
417 populations: Neuquén (n = 42), Tierra del Fuego (n = 27), Skåne (n = 30), Gotland (n = 30),
418 Australia (n = 27) and New Zealand (n = 30).

419 DNA was isolated from blood or ear tissue using a commercial membrane-based kit
420 (Easyspin, Citomed, catalogue no. SP-DT-05). The quantity and integrity of DNA were assessed
421 using a NanoDrop instrument, Qubit dsDNA BR Assay Kit (Invitrogen, catalogue no. Q32853), and
422 through agarose gel visualization. Individual Illumina sequencing libraries were then produced
423 using a Tn5-based tagmentation protocol with PCR amplification based on (69) (more details in 70,
424 71). Following library preparation, libraries were pooled in equimolar concentrations and sequenced
425 on an Illumina instrument (2x150 bp) at an average coverage of 1.5X (Supplementary Table 1).
426 Whole-genome sequencing data are available in the Sequence Read Archive under BioProject
427 PRJNA936804.

428

429 **Read mapping, variant calling and allele frequency estimation**

430 Read quality was evaluated using *FastQC* v0.11.8
431 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). Reads were then mapped to the
432 rabbit reference genome assembly (OryCun2.0, 18) using *BWA-MEM* (72) with default settings and
433 duplicates were removed using *PICARD* v2.0.1 (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>). Mapping
434 statistics were calculated using *SAMtools* (73) and custom scripts.

435 *ANGSD* v0.929 (74) was used to calculate population-specific allele frequencies (-doMaf 3)
436 based on genotype likelihoods, imposing for each position a minimum mapping quality of 30 (-
437 minMapQ 30), minimum base quality of 20 (-minQ 30), a minimum of 10 individuals with data (-
438 minInd 10), and setting the reference base as the major allele (-doMajorMinor 4). Since *ANGSD*
439 provides little control over the variant quality filters, variant calling was further carried out using
440 the haplotype-based variant caller *Freebayes* v1.0.0 (75), using the flags -H, -J and -g. To avoid
441 calling variants overlapping repetitive elements or copy number variants, positions with coverage

442 above 1500 were skipped. Reads with a mapping quality lower than 30 and base reads with a
443 quality lower than 20 were not considered. Prior to the analysis, we further applied several stringent
444 filtering steps to our catalog of variants using *vcftools* v0.1.16 (76) and the *vcffilter* tool of *vcflib*
445 v1.0.2 (77). First, we kept only biallelic markers. Second, we excluded variants with a quality score
446 below 30 (“--minQ 300” in *vcftools*). Finally, using *vcffilter* we filtered variants based on: i) allele
447 balance (“AB > 0.25 & AB < 0.75 | AB < 0.01”), ii) discrepancy in the properly paired status of
448 reads supporting reference or alternate alleles “PAIRED > 0.05 & PAIREDR > 0.05 & PAIREDR /
449 PAIRED < 1.75 & PAIREDR / PAIRED > 0.25 | PAIRED < 0.05 & PAIREDR < 0.05”, and iii)
450 alleles that are only seen on one strand (“SAF > 0 & SAR > 0 & RPR > 1 & RPL > 1”). Compound
451 variants were decomposed into single variants using the program *decompose* using *vt* (78). For each
452 of the variants passing filters, we obtained allele frequencies by intersecting the list of variants with
453 the list produced by *ANGSD* using *BEDTools* v2.26.0 (79).

454

455 **Population structure**

456 To evaluate population structure, we conducted a principal component analysis (PCA) on genotype
457 likelihoods using *PCAngsd* with default parameters (80). We restricted the analysis to those
458 positions called with *Freebayes* and passing quality filters. The resulting covariance matrix was
459 used to estimate principal components and individual loadings with the function *prcomp* from *R*
460 v3.6.3 (81). Differences between populations were tested with a MANOVA (statistical significance
461 considered at $P < 0.05$) on rank-transformed PC1 and PC2 values (minimal deviations from
462 normality within-groups were observed following quantile-quantile plot inspection), using *PAST*
463 v4.08 (82). Effect sizes (partial η^2) were calculated with a custom *R* script. The same genotype
464 likelihoods used for the PCA were used as the input for *NGSadmix* (83) to calculate individual
465 admixture proportions. We filtered triallelic positions, positions with base quality below 30, reads
466 with mapping quality below 30, secondary and duplicate reads, reads with multiple best hits, and
467 reads with one or both of the mates not mapping correctly. The analysis was run for several values
468 of K (2 to 10), imposing a minor allele frequency of 0.05.

469

470 **Nucleotide diversity**

471 *ANGSD* was used to estimate levels and patterns of genetic variation in our populations. We first
472 generated a maximum likelihood estimate of the unfolded site frequency spectrum and used this to
473 calculate nucleotide diversity (π , 84) in 100 kb non-overlapping windows. Nucleotide diversity
474 estimates were obtained by dividing the value obtained for each window by the total number of sites
475 passing filters (we excluded windows that did not have at least 50,000 sites passing filters).

476

477 **Mitochondrial DNA diversity**

478 To extract mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) read information from the individual whole-genome
479 sequencing data, we started by creating a novel reference genome based on the OryCun2.0
480 assembly to reduce the probability of true mtDNA reads erroneously mapping either to nuclear
481 mitochondrial DNA (NUMTs) or to smaller unplaced scaffolds that could have resulted from the
482 misassembly of mitochondrial reads. For this, we used *BLASTN* v2.11.0 (85) to align the annotated
483 mitochondrial scaffold of OryCun2.0 to the rest of the genome, and hard-masked all hits apart from
484 the mitochondrial scaffold itself. The WGS data were then re-mapped to this new hard-masked
485 reference (using *BWA MEM* and default parameters) and *SAMtools* was used to extract reads that
486 aligned exclusively to the mitochondrial scaffold.

487 From these alignments in *bam* format, *fasta* files were generated using *HTSBOX pileup*
488 (<https://github.com/lh3/htsbox>), using a majority-allele rule. Only reads with a mapping quality of
489 30 and bases with a quality of 30 were kept. After these filters, sites were classified as missing data
490 if they had a read depth of 4× or less. The *fasta* format files were combined and converted into a
491 nexus format file using *AliView* v1.26 (86). Median-joining haplotype networks for both the control
492 region and the cytochrome b gene were built with *PopART* v1.7 (87). A Bayesian tree was inferred
493 with *BEAST* v2.6.7 (88). The best-fitted mutation model (GTR) was determined by *ModelTest-NG*
494 v0.1.6 (89, 90), under the Bayesian information criterion (BIC). The demographic model selected
495 was the Coalescent Extended Bayesian Skyline with a strict clock. Both strict and relaxed clocks
496 were tested and evaluated with a Bayes factor, no significant differences were found. Final analyses
497 were run three times independently with 100,000,000 iterations. *Tracer* v1.7.2 (91) was used to
498 assess convergence across runs. The first 10% of the samples of the Markov chain of runs were
499 used as burn-in and the tree files were combined using *LOGCOMBINER* v2.6.7, included in the
500 *BEAST* package. The final tree was generated with the *R* package: *ggtree* (92).

501

502 **Ancestry index**

503 To quantify the contribution of wild and domestic ancestry for each introduced population, we
504 calculated a summary ancestry index based on nearly diagnostic alleles between wild rabbits from
505 the native range and domestic rabbits. We first calculated the frequencies of the non-reference
506 alleles to determine the number of SNPs with differences in allele frequency higher than 0.9
507 (excluding data from the X chromosome and unplaced scaffolds). We identified a total of 1,995
508 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) meeting this criterion to form a reference panel of nearly
509 diagnostic alleles maximizing ancestry differences between wild rabbits from the native range and
510 domestic rabbits. To calculate individual ancestry scores, we summarized allele counts at the
511 diagnostic positions using *SAMtools mpileup*, and then converted the *mpileup* file into the sync

512 format using *PoPoolation2* (93). Since the average depth of coverage across samples of 1.5X
513 prevents calling individual genotypes, we randomly subsampled one base per individual at any
514 given position and used this information to calculate the proportion of wild-like or domestic-like
515 alleles in each individual. The calculation of the index from the diagnostic reference panel and sync
516 file with allele counts was done using a custom script (available at:
517 <https://github.com/PJADPereira/hybridindex>). When running the script, we performed 100
518 independent replicates (each time a different allele may be selected in samples with >1 read), setting
519 a minimum distance between markers of 200 kb to account for close linkage between markers. The
520 average number of wild-like and domestic-like alleles were calculated to obtain individual ancestry
521 scores.

522

523 **f_3 statistics**

524 Outgroup f_3 statistics were calculated using *TreeMix* v1.13 (94). *TreeMix* uses population-level
525 allele frequencies obtained from allele counts as inputs, which given our low-coverage dataset could
526 provide biases if allele counts were directly used. To account for this, we used the single-read
527 sampling option in *ANGSD* to randomly subsample one allele per individual at each SNP (scoring
528 the alleles as reference or alternative), summing the number of alleles of each individual by
529 population to generate the typical *TreeMix* input counts file. We then ran the *threepop* v0.1
530 subprogram, with 500 SNP per block for estimation of standard error. For each run, we constructed
531 an input file with three populations: domestic, wild and each introduced population independently.
532 For plotting, we considered the triplet (wild from native range, domestic, introduced population), in
533 which wild native rabbits were considered the outgroup. Each autosome was run independently, and
534 results were averaged.

535

536 **Inspection of causal variants underlying common breeds**

537 To verify the presence of alleles in introduced populations that are causal of (or strongly associated
538 with) known domestic rabbit phenotypes, we compiled information from the literature on alleles of
539 interest from the following phenotypes: angora (*FGF5*; 33); red, black, and brindle (*MC1R*; 34, 35);
540 rex (*LIPH*; 36); dilute (*MLPH*; 37); yellow fat (*BCO2*; 38); dwarf (*HMGA2*; 39); black/tan (*ASIP*;
541 40); and albino (*TYR*; 41) For each of these mutations, we identified its coordinate in the
542 OryCun2.0 assembly and gathered allele counts for each population at the respective locus (plus
543 1,000 bp around each side) using *SAMtools mpileup*. We restricted the analysis to reads with a base
544 quality and mapping quality above 30. We then visually inspected the *mpileup* files to detect the
545 presence of each allele in each individual of the dataset. For the large structural variants associated
546 with black/tan and dwarf, we complemented this analysis by inspecting read depth with *SAMtools*

547 and visualizing alignments with *IGV* v2.16.2 (95). Due to the low coverage whole-genome
548 resequencing that prevented us from obtaining individual genotypes, we therefore scored for each
549 population the minimum number of individuals carrying at least one copy of the mutant allele.

550

551 **Outlier sharing between populations**

552 To identify the loci most strongly differentiated between domestic rabbits and introduced
553 populations, we used the d_i statistic (42), which was originally conceived to investigate parallel
554 divergence in dog breeds. Using the allele frequencies obtained previously, we calculated
555 differences in allele frequency (ΔAF) between each introduced population and domestic rabbits,
556 summarized the values across the genome in overlapping windows (100 kb with 25 kb overlap) and
557 used these values to calculate $d_i\Delta AF$ using the following formula for each window:

558

$$559 \quad d_i\Delta AF = (\Delta AF_{\text{domestic-populationA}} - \text{average } \Delta AF_{\text{domestic-populationA}}) / \text{standard deviation } \Delta AF_{\text{domestic-populationA}}$$

560

561 To obtain the final value of $d_i\Delta AF$ for each window, these values were then summed across
562 all pairs of population-domestic comparison, and the top 0.1% and 1% outliers of the $d_i\Delta AF$
563 distribution were considered for further inspection. To calculate Tajima's D (96) for each
564 population across the genome (100 kb windows with 25 kb overlap), we used *ANGSD* (with the
565 same approach used to calculate π), To test for signatures of selection in the top 0.1% outliers of the
566 ΔAF scan of each population, we compared D values of those windows with genome-wide D values
567 using a non-parametric Welch's t -test in *R* (*t.test* function with `var.equal=FALSE`; statistical
568 significance considered at $P < 0.05$), and estimated effect sizes with Hedge's g (with a custom *R*
569 script). To investigate if outlier overlap was significantly greater than expected by chance, we
570 repeated the ΔAF analysis for all six domestic-introduced comparisons in non-overlapping 100 kb
571 windows and extracted the top 1% windows of all six sets. Multi-set intersection testing was
572 performed with the *R* package *SuperExactTest* (97) through the online shiny application
573 (<https://network.shinyapps.io/SuperExactTest/>), considering a background population size of $n =$
574 20,483 (the total number of calculated windows when intersecting all contrasts). Statistical
575 significance was considered at $P < 0.05$ after Bonferroni correction.

576

577

578 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

579 Whole-genome resequencing data are available in the Sequence Read Archive
580 (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra) under BioProject PRJNA936804.

581

582 **CODE AVAILABILITY**

583 A script developed for the calculation of the hybrid index is available at

584 <https://github.com/PJADPereira/hybridindex>

585

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597

598 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT**

599 M.C., L.A., N.F., P.A. and J.M.A. conceived the study; N.B., J.A.D., H.G., M.L., T.S., C.-G.T.,
600 G.Q.,R.V. and N.F. coordinated and performed sample collection. C.G.S and S.A. performed
601 experiments. P.A., M.C., J.M.A., P.P., C.-J.R., E.S., E.E., R.F., Y.Z., F.M.J. and L.A. analyzed
602 data. P.A., J.M.A., L.A. and M.C. wrote the paper with input from all other authors.

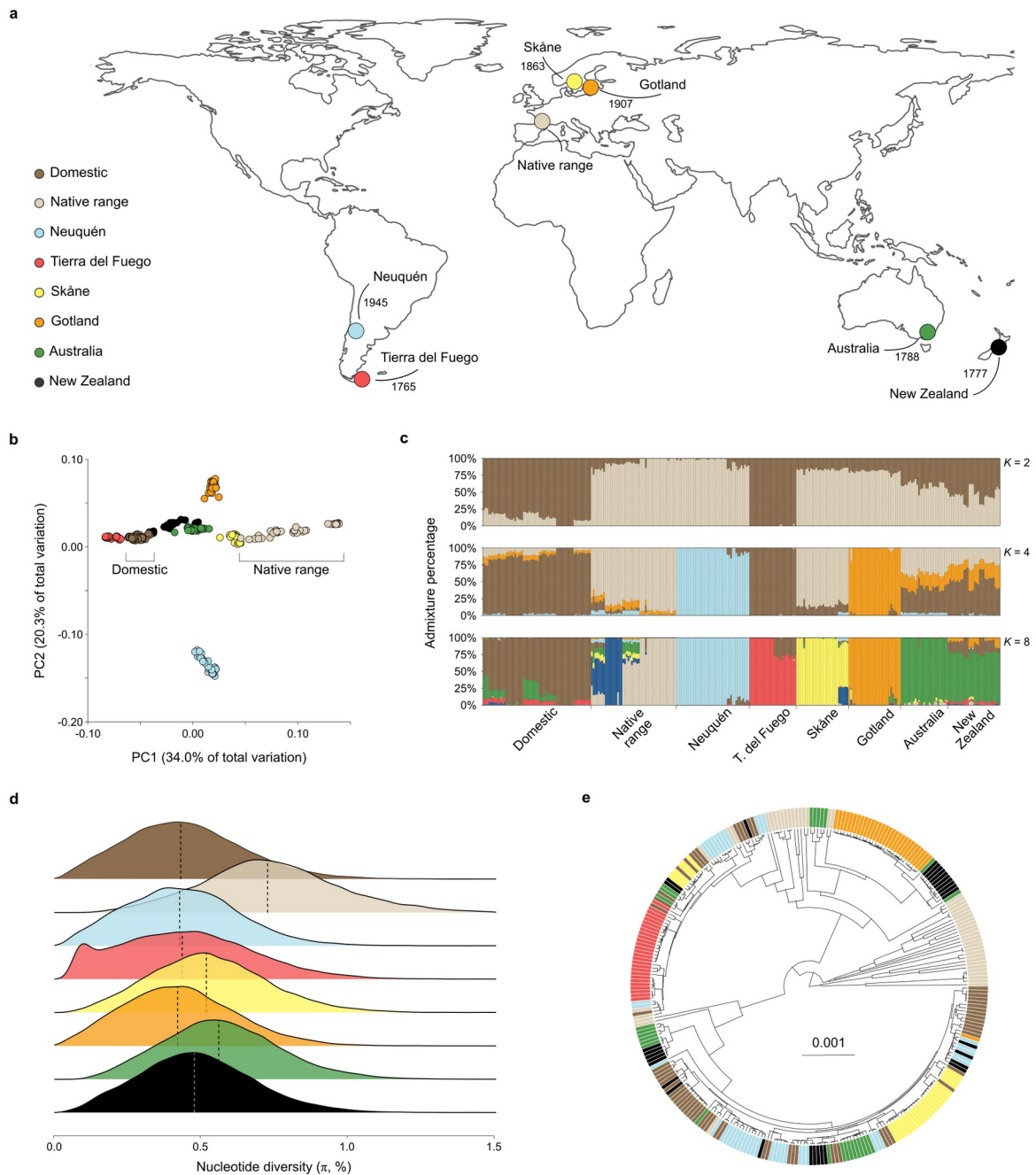
603

604 **COMPETING INTERESTS STATEMENT**

605 The authors declare no competing interests.

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607

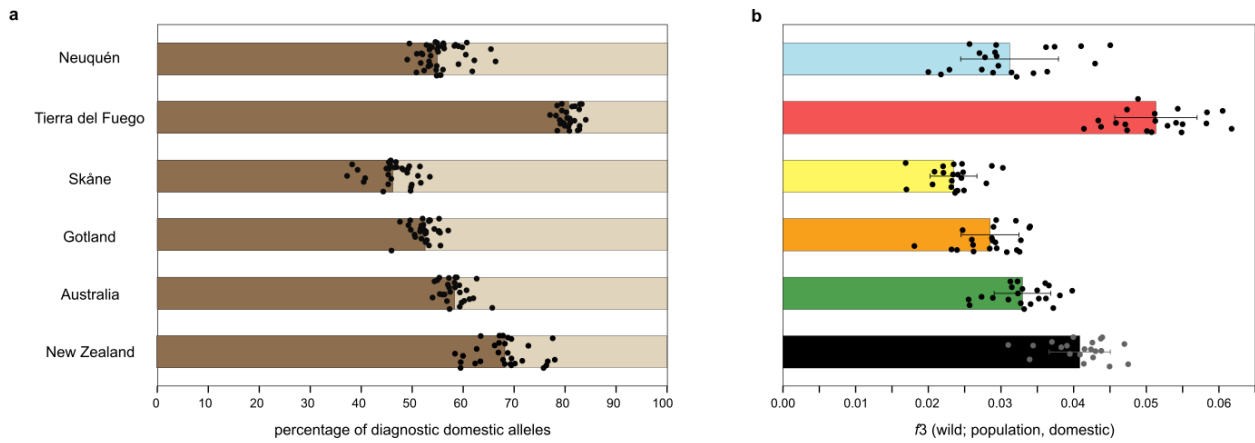


611 **Fig. 1 | Population genomics of introduced rabbits across three continents.** (A) Introduced
 612 rabbit populations were sampled across several localities on three different continents,
 613 corresponding to six colonization events. Estimated dates for the earliest known introductions are
 614 given (*SI Appendix*, Supplementary text). We also sampled multiple localities from the native range
 615 (Iberia and France) and seven domestic breeds. Map obtained from www.naturalearthdata.com. (B)
 616 Principal component analysis based on genotype likelihoods. The percentage of variance explained
 617 by each component is given in parentheses. Individuals are colored according to their population of

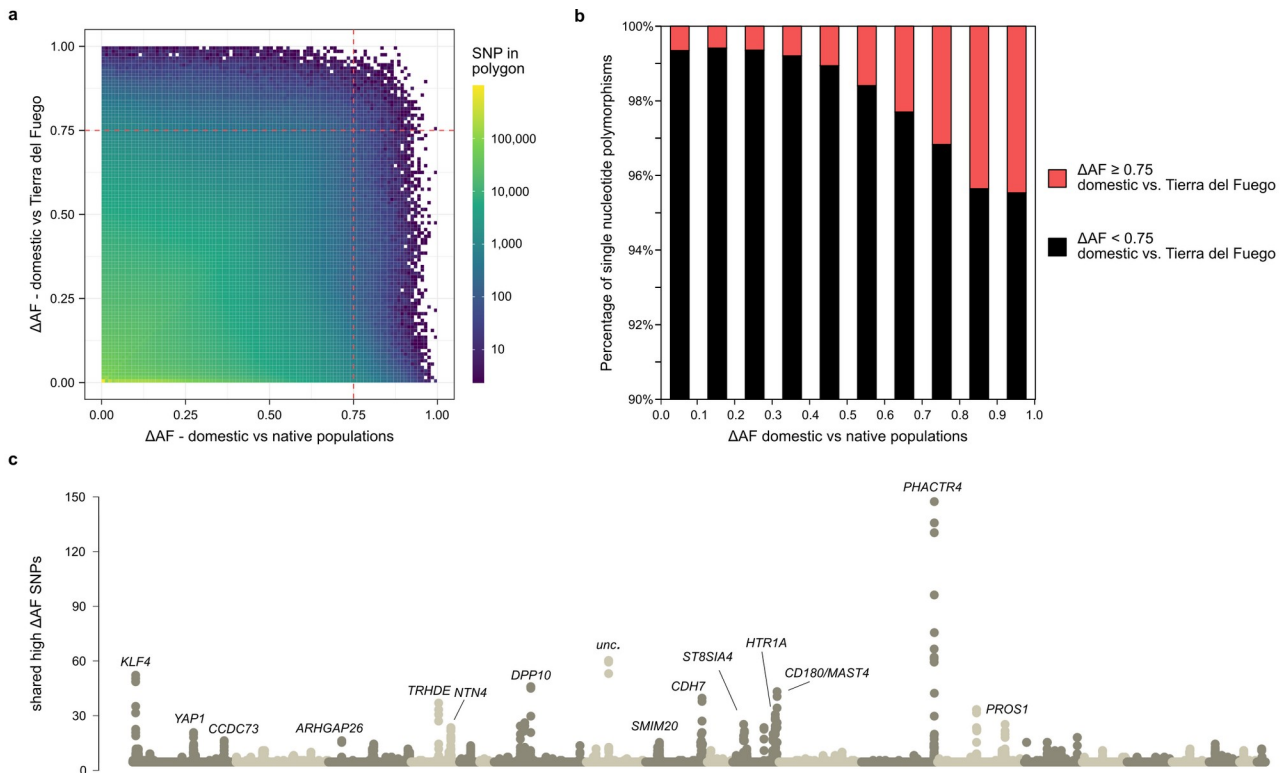
618 origin. **(C)** Admixture proportions were calculated for a sample of domestic rabbits, wild rabbits
619 from the native range and six introduced populations, calculated based on genotype likelihoods.
620 Expanded results for a larger number of values of K are shown in Extended Data Fig.1. **(D)**
621 Genome-wide estimates of nucleotide diversity (π , %) for each population, based on non-
622 overlapping 100 kb windows. The dashed line in the middle of each density plot indicates the
623 median of the distribution. **(E)** Bayesian tree of mtDNA sequences. Each individual is colored
624 according to the population of origin. Support values (Bayesian posterior probabilities) for each
625 node are shown in Extended Data Fig.3.

626

627



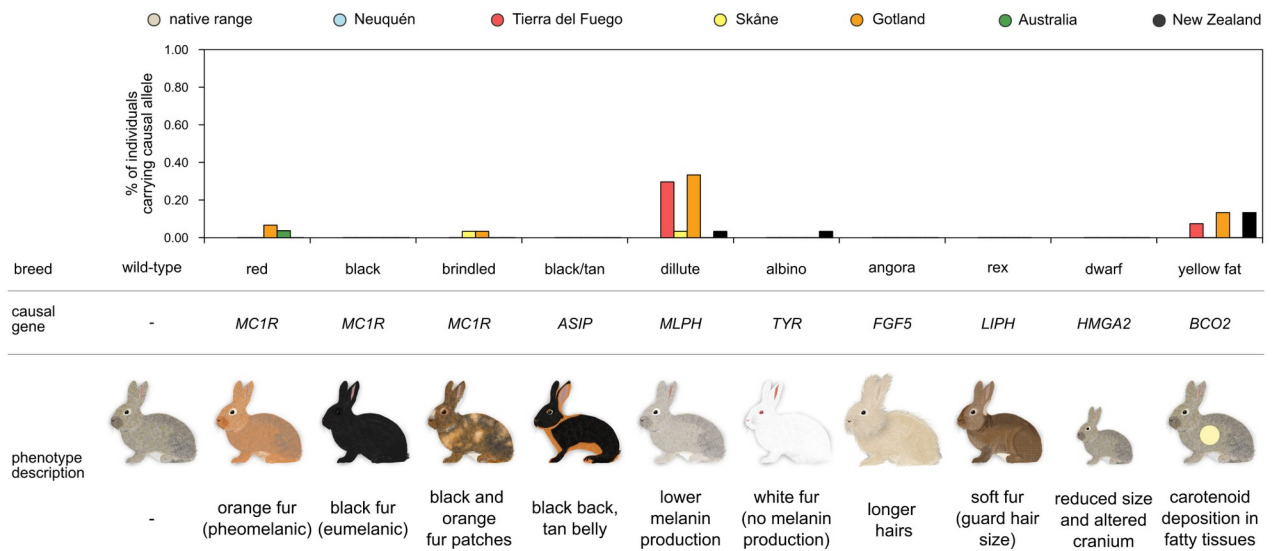
630 **Fig. 2 | Introduced rabbit populations have a large proportion of domestic ancestry. (A)**
 631 Ancestry index representing the percentage of diagnostic domestic alleles per population (dark
 632 brown) compared to wild alleles (light brown). Each dot corresponds to the percentage of domestic
 633 alleles in each sampled individual; **(B)** Outgroup f_3 statistics calculated for all introduced
 634 populations to measure shared drift between each introduced population and domestic rabbits to the
 635 wild outgroup. Bar plot values represent the average value of f_3 calculated for each chromosome
 636 independently, and error bars indicate the standard deviation. Each dot corresponds to the average
 637 f_3 value for each chromosome.
 638



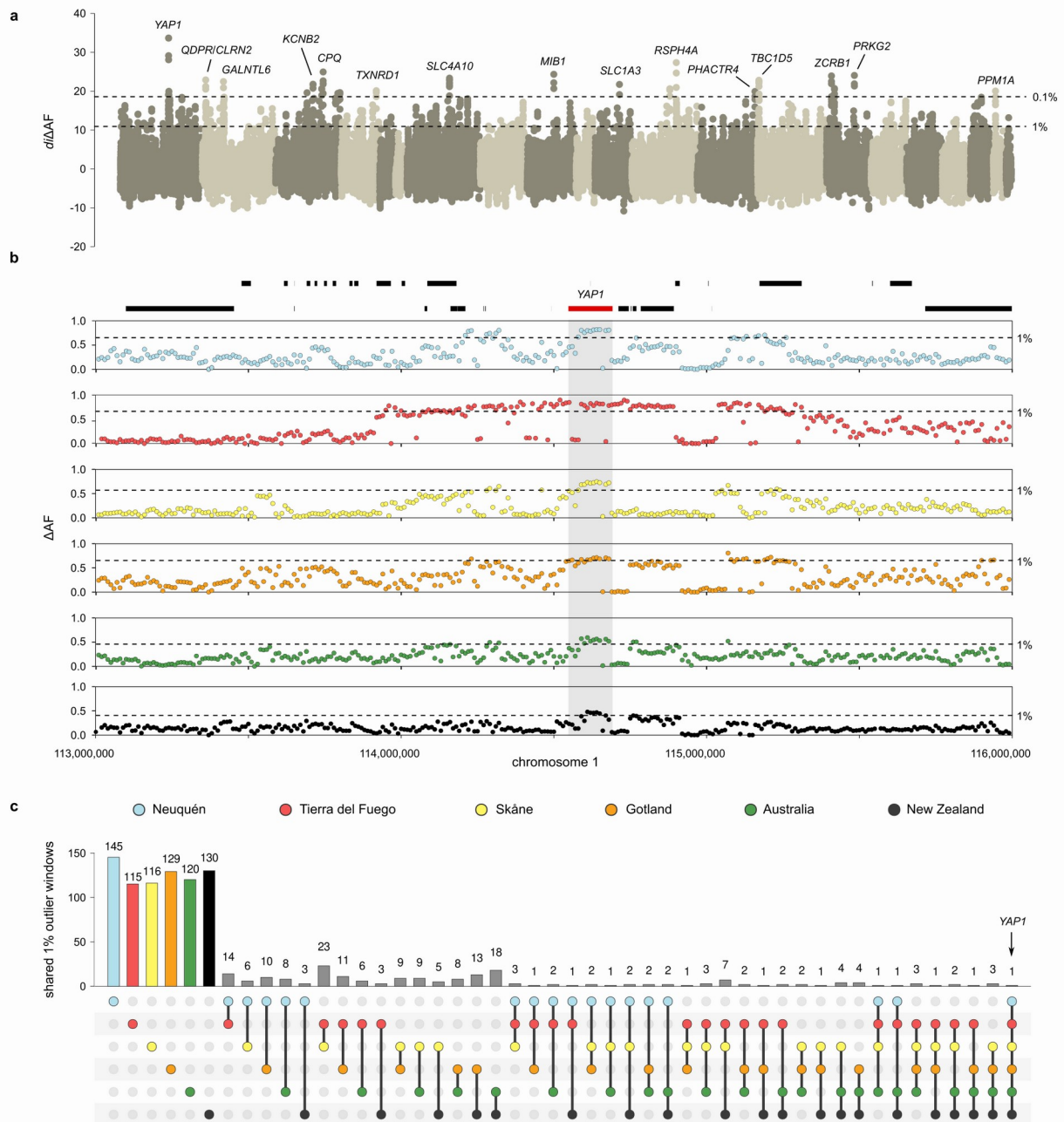
641 **Fig. 3 | Adaptation in an introduced population with a predominant domestic ancestry (Tierra**
 642 **del Fuego).** (A) Comparison between allele frequency differences (ΔAF) of domestic rabbits and
 643 native wild rabbits, to the domestic rabbits vs. Tierra del Fuego pair. The area of the plot is divided
 644 into 100x100 squares, with each square colored according to the density of single nucleotide
 645 polymorphisms (SNP) present at its coordinate. (B) Percentage of SNPs that have high ($\Delta AF \geq$
 646 0.75, red) or low ($\Delta AF < 0.75$, black) allele frequency differences between domestic rabbits and the
 647 Tierra del Fuego population, compared to their ΔAF in the domestic versus native comparison. This
 648 contrast is informative on whether SNPs that are associated with feralization in this population were
 649 also more likely to have been associated with domestication, or if feralization affects loci
 650 irrespective of their role in domestication. (C) Genome-wide distribution of SNP which have
 651 simultaneous high allele frequency differences ($\Delta AF \geq 0.75$) between domestic and native rabbits,
 652 and between domestic and rabbits from Tierra del Fuego. The y-axis shows counts of these variants
 653 for overlapping 100 kb windows (25 kb overlap). Genes with putative functional significance and
 654 overlapping the top signals are highlighted (unc. - uncharacterized protein-coding gene).
 655 Alternating colors correspond to different chromosomes.

656

657

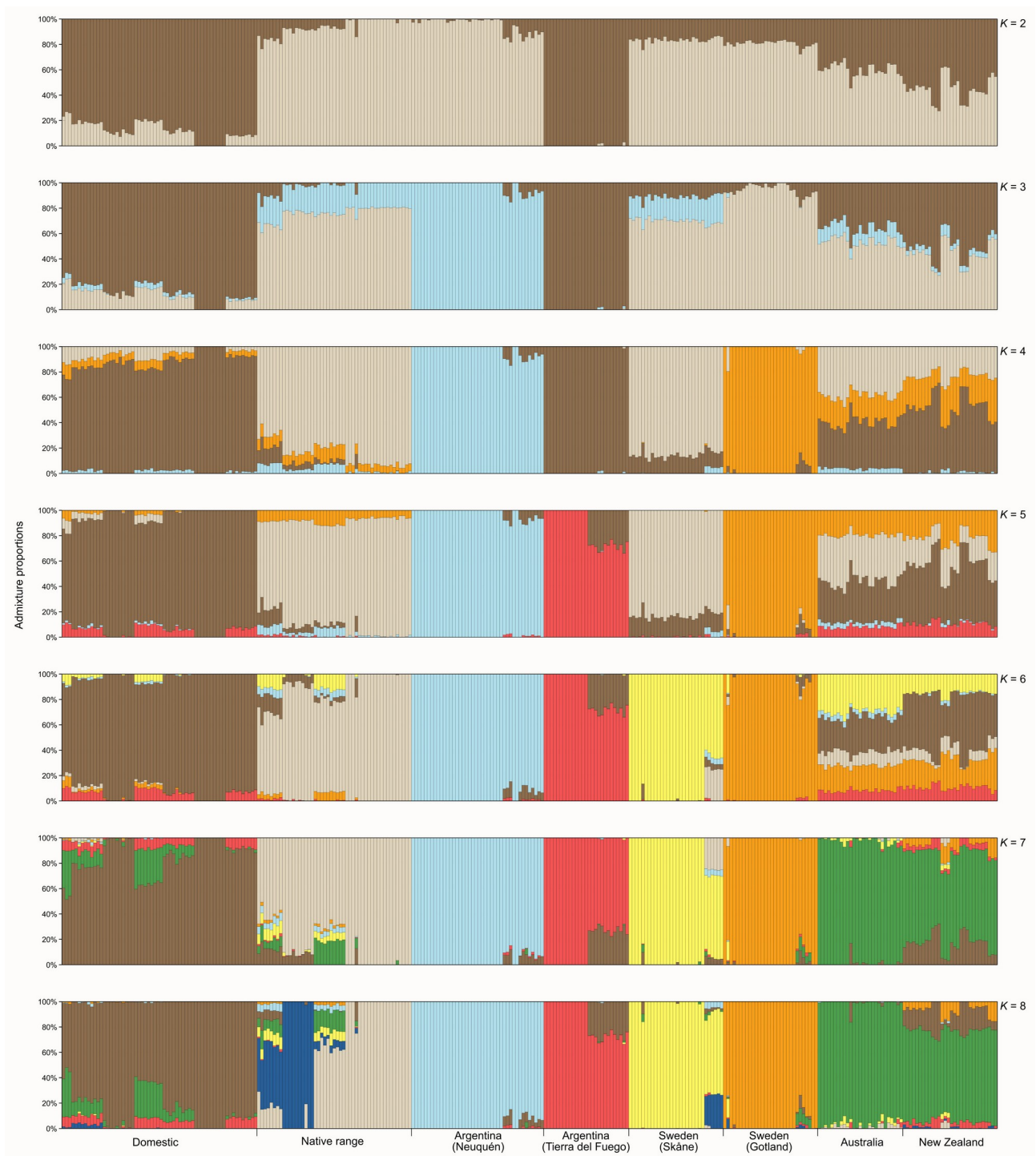


659 **Fig. 4 | Presence of mutations associated with multiple traits in domestic rabbits in the six**
 660 **introduced populations.** The plot indicates the proportion of individuals carrying at least one
 661 mutant allele. The information below the bars indicates the name of the breed, the implicated causal
 662 gene, and a description of the phenotype associated with each mutation. Illustrations by Nuno
 663 Guerra Serén.
 664

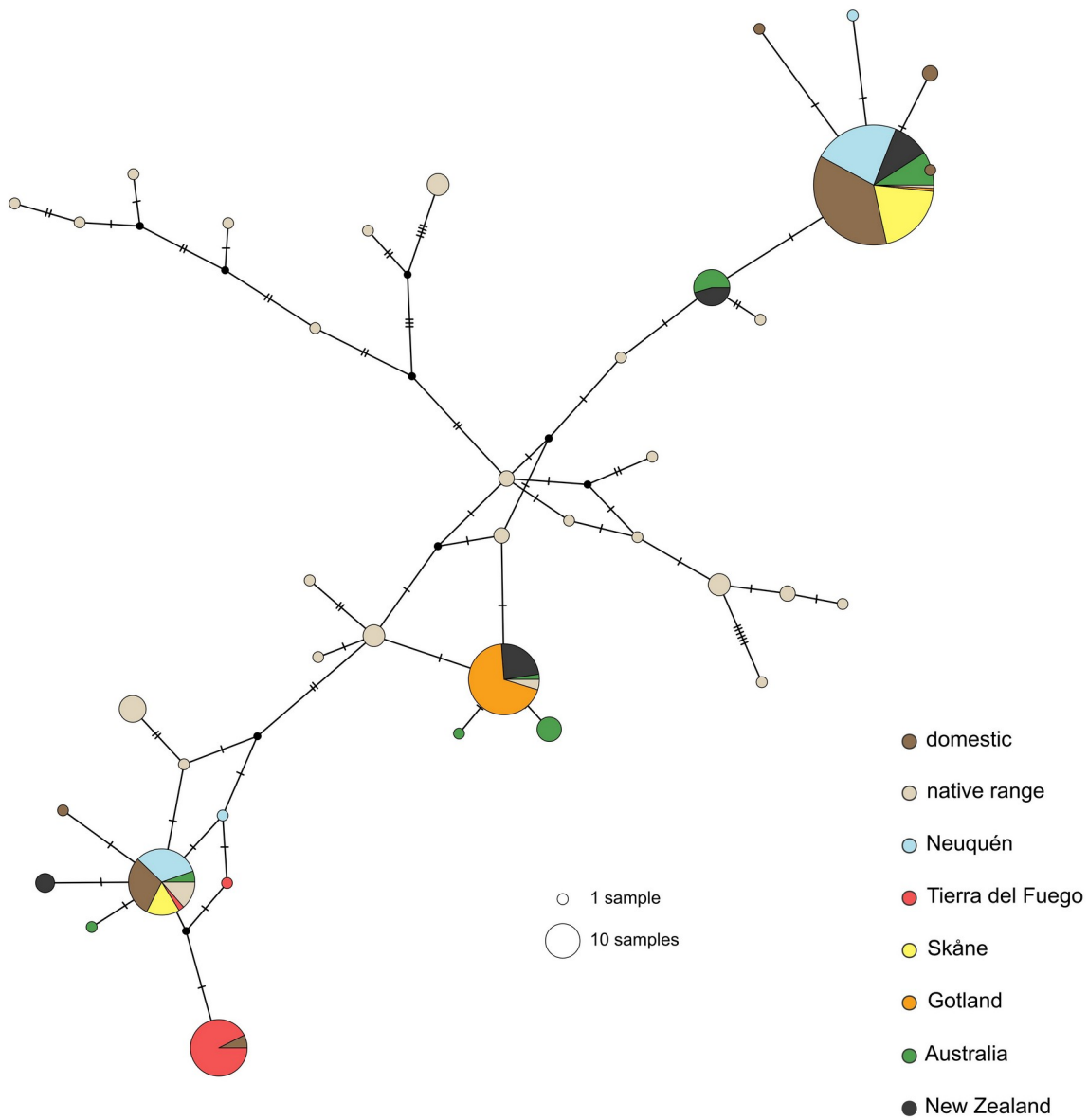


666 **Fig. 5 | Signatures of selection against domestic ancestry in introduced rabbit populations. (A)**
667 Scan for signatures of repeated genetic differentiation between domestic and introduced rabbits
668 across colonization events as measured by d_i (31). d_i was calculated from allele frequency
669 differences ($d_i \Delta AF$) between domestic rabbits and each population. Each dot represents 100 kb
670 windows with 25 kb steps iterated across the genome, and the dashed lines represent thresholds for
671 the top 1% and 0.1% outlier windows (from an empirical distribution considering only autosomal
672 regions). Genes of potential functional significance to adaptation to the wild, and overlapping the
673 top signals, are highlighted. **(B)** Allele frequency differences (ΔAF) between domestic and multiple
674 introduced populations overlapping *YAP1* (a candidate for parallel adaptation across populations).
675 The open reading frame of *YAP1* is highlighted by a red box, while that of the other protein-coding

676 genes in the region are highlighted in black (genes on top are in the forward strand, on the bottom in
677 the reverse strand). Contrasts with each population are labeled with a different color; each dot
678 represents the median ΔAF from a non-overlapping 10 kb window. The dashed line represents the
679 top 1% threshold of the empirical distribution in each contrast. **(C)** Population-specific and shared
680 outlier windows from domestic vs. introduced ΔAF scans (100 kb non-overlapping windows).
681 Colored dots indicate the existence of shared top 1% ΔAF outliers between different domestic-
682 population contrasts, with the number of shared windows indicated above.
683
684



686 **Extended Data Fig. 1 | Admixture in introduced rabbit populations.** Admixture proportions
 687 calculated for a sample of domestic rabbits, wild rabbits from the native range and six introduced
 688 populations, based on genotype likelihoods. Results for several values of K are shown and the
 689 population names are given at the bottom of the figure.
 690

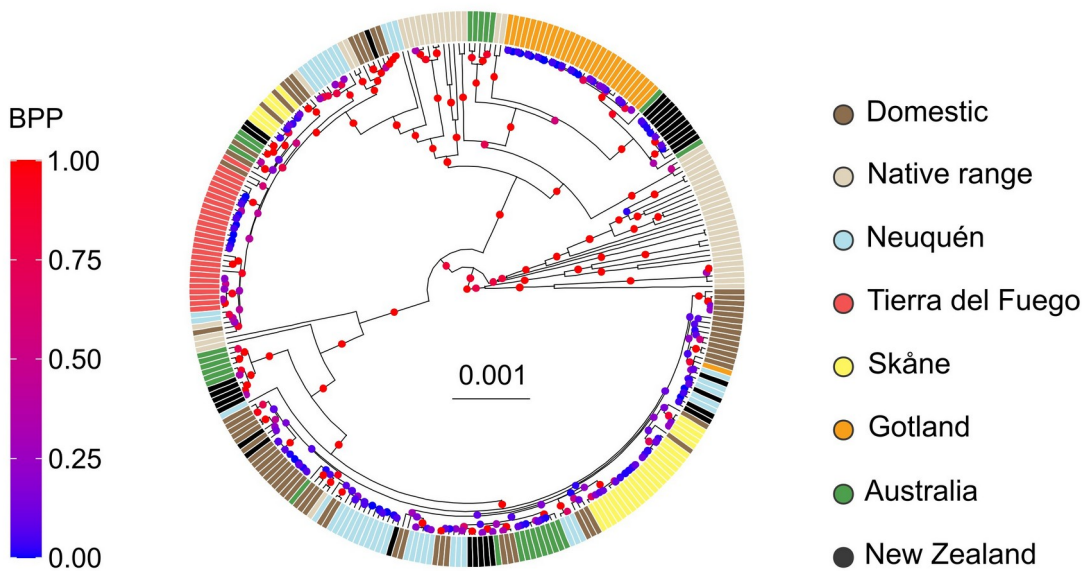


692 **Extended Data Fig. 2 | Median-joining haplotype network of the mtDNA cytochrome b locus.**

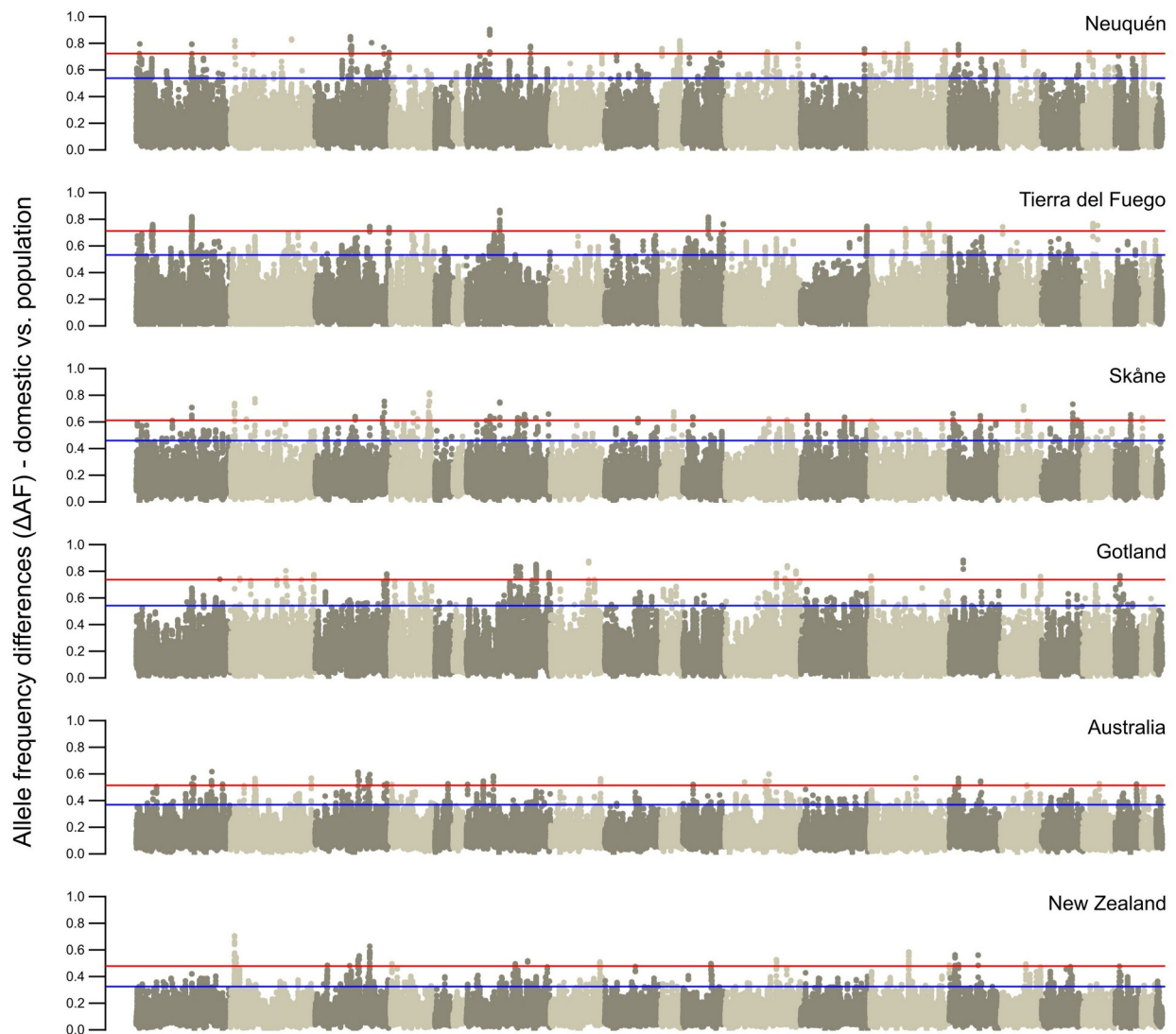
693 The size of the circle is proportional to the number of individuals that share the same haplotype.

694 The number of mutations for each branch is given by the number of smaller cross-dashes on the

695 branch.

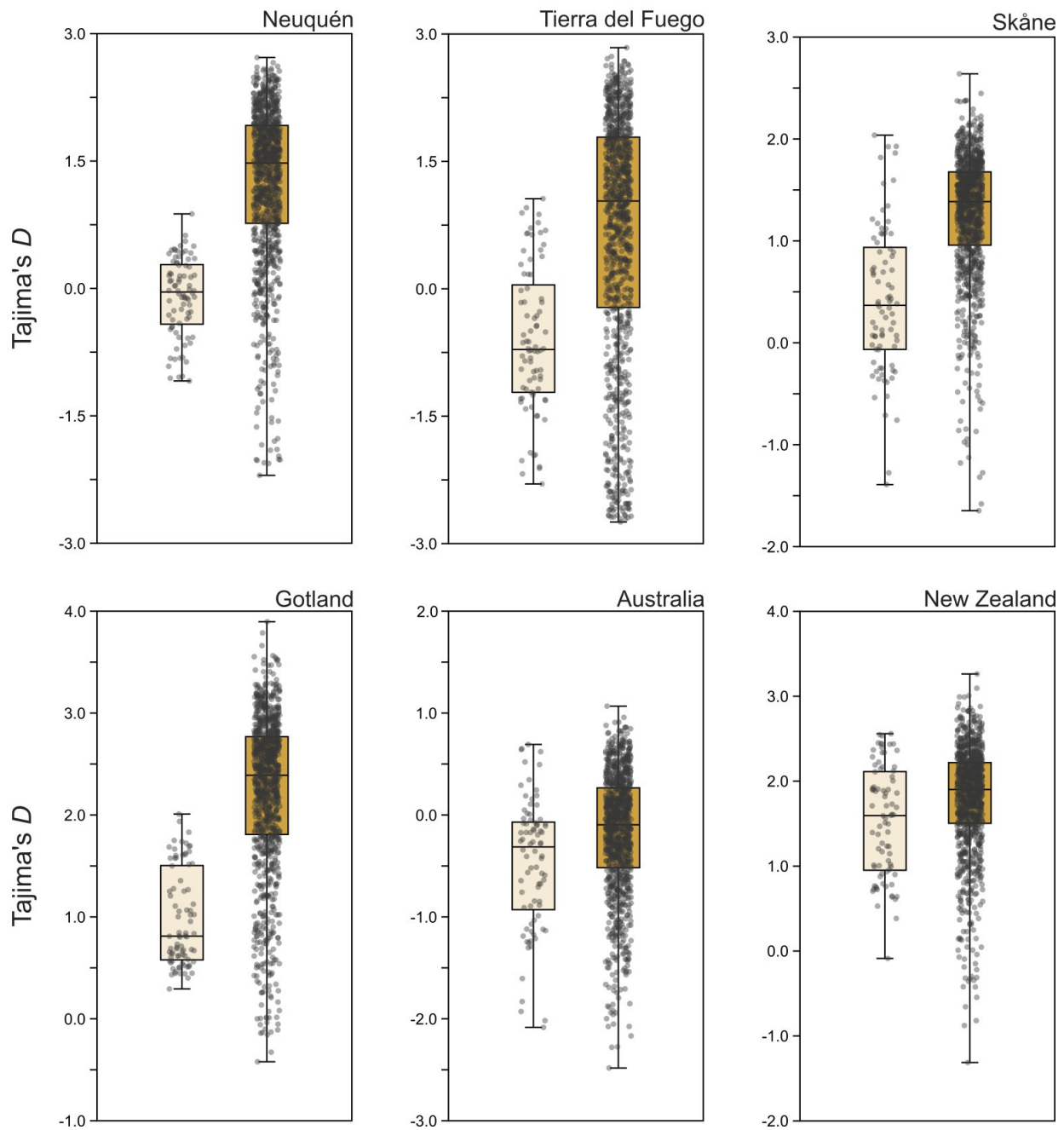


697 **Extended Data Fig. 3 | Bayesian tree of mtDNA sequences.** Each individual is coloured
 698 according to the population of origin. Support values (Bayesian posterior probabilities, BPP) for
 699 each node are coloured according to the scale.
 700



702 **Extended Data Fig. 4 | Genome-wide differences in allele frequency (ΔAF) between domestic**
 703 **rabbits and each introduced population.** Dots correspond to 100 kb windows, with a step of 25
 704 kb. The red line corresponds to the top 0.1% of the empirical distribution for each contrast, while
 705 the blue line corresponds to the 1%. Only autosomes were considered due to the lower effective
 706 population size of the X chromosome, which results in higher-than-average differentiation for
 707 variants within that chromosome.

708



709 **Extended Data Fig. 5 | Signatures of selection on genomic regions of high differentiation**
 710 **(differences in allele frequency, ΔAF) between domestic rabbits and each introduced**
 711 **population.** For each introduced population we calculated Tajima's D in 100 kb windows, with a
 712 step of 25 kb. We then inspected D values for the top 0.1% ΔAF windows in each domestic-
 713 population contrast (light brown, left box in each plot, $n = 82$) and compared them to genome-wide
 714 D values (dark brown, right box in each plot, $n = 1,000$ randomly selected windows). For each plot,
 715 whisker ends represent minimum and maximum of the distribution; box edges represent first
 716 quartile and third quartile of the distribution; centre line represents the median. See Supplementary
 717 Table 3 for statistical testing on the full genome-wide dataset.

718

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SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

Records on the introduction of rabbit populations in the six populations from this study

South America

Populations of European rabbits were established in five regions of continental Argentina: south of San Juan, north of Mendoza, south of Mendoza and north of Neuquén, east of Chubut, and southwest of Santa Cruz province

Argentina - Neuquén

Within the general area where the provincial borders of Neuquén and Mendoza meet, the first established rabbit population was seen between 1945 and 1950 in the headwaters of the Neuquén River, near Andacollo locality in Neuquén province (36° 80' W; Howard and Amaya 1975). These authors suggest that there is circumstantial evidence that rabbit populations in central Chile (brought from Spain) spread to Argentina crossing the Andes Cordillera through passes lower than 1800 m elevation. This dispersal probably occurred during summer, when environmental and habitat conditions were more suitable due to the presence of grass for food and shrubs for shelter (Jaksic et al. 2002). In 1969, Howard and Amaya (1975) recorded that rabbits crossed the Colorado River to the north (arriving in Mendoza province) and the Neuquén and Agrio rivers to the south.

Argentina - Tierra del Fuego

Delibes and Delibes-Mateos (2015) documented from a sailor's diary that in 1765 a ship named Purísima Concepción shipwrecked near the coast of Tierra del Fuego and the crew introduced rabbits in the island with the intention of being supplied with food. However, nothing is known about the success of this early introduction. In 1880, Thomas Bridges and his sons introduced rabbits in several islands in the Beagle Channel (Bridges 1949, in Jaksic and Yáñez 1983) to provide food to castaways and Yahgan (natives to the island) (Navas 1987). These individuals came from the Falkland (or Malvinas) islands, where they were introduced by French colonists around 1765 (Fig. 9.1).

Europe

Sweden - Skåne

Although there is anecdotal information about rabbits in Sweden tracing back to medieval times, likely domestic rabbits, the first documented introduction occurred in 1863 near Göteborg at the Swedish west coast. In the following years, during the 1870s and 1880s, there were reports about feral/wild rabbits from several places in southern Sweden, including Skåne and Gotland. The generally accepted first successful introductions of rabbits to Skåne occurred, however, in 1903, with some variation on the exact year (cf. Curry-Lindahl, 1970; Andersson et al., 1981; Danell, 2023).

Swedish wild rabbits are commonly believed to have originated from feral domestic rabbits, wild rabbits from central Europe and imports from European game farms. The primary rationale for rabbit introductions was to provide hunters with a novel game species. After a few decades however, the success of the rabbits raised a concern named “kaninfaran” in Swedish (Eng. “Rabbit Danger”), referring to the impact rabbits had on farming, forestry and gardening. The “Rabbit Danger” was likely exaggerated, and more recent studies indicate that the later impoverishment of the Swedish rabbit populations led to biodiversity losses (Eliasson, 1996; Larsson, 2006).

The current distribution includes most of south-central Sweden, including the Baltic Sea, and the islands Öland and Gotland (<https://artfakta.se/artbestamning/taxon/oryctolagus-cuniculus-206005>). North thereof it is possible to find isolated populations of recently established, and typically short-lived, feral rabbits. In recent years for example, the city of Gävle, located north of *limes norrlandicus*, (Rutger Sernander, sensu Fries, 1948), has experienced a rabbit population boost and subsequently decline because of rabbit hemorrhagic disease. Wild rabbits in Sweden also suffer from myxomatosis outbreaks, that has resulted in pauperized and fragmented populations with fluctuating densities.

Sweden - Gotland

According to Thamdrup (1965), rabbits were first introduced to Gotland in 1907 (thus, a few years after the south Swedish mainland), and in a few decades increased in numbers to cause problems for forestry and agriculture. There are, however, records of earlier introductions (see above), and repeated introductions have likely occurred both before and after 1907.

After the spread of myxomatosis in 1962-63 (Curry-Lindahl, 1970) the population density of rabbits dropped dramatically. This had negative consequences for the royal eagle population on Gotland, for which rabbits are the most important prey species (Tjernberg 1981). In addition to

eagles, foxes also benefit from rabbit presence (Flux & Fullagar, 1992). There is also a local, domestic breed of rabbits called “Gotlandskanin” that might even predate wild rabbit occurrence.

Domestic rabbits have primarily been raised at Swedish farms since the nineteenth century, where they have been used for meat and fur production on a small scale. During the First and Second World Wars, rabbit production was an important food resource, and rabbit meat was also exported (*e.g.*, England). In general, however, domestic rabbits in Sweden are mostly raised as pet animals and are not relevant in the overall meat production.

Oceania

Australia

Major introduction from England of a mix of wild and domestic rabbits. Rabbits were released originally in Victoria followed by a fast spread (Alves et al. 2022).

New Zealand

Multiple introductions of domestic rabbits from 1777 onward and releases of wild type rabbits sourced from England and Australia from the late 1850s. Substantial contribution of domestic rabbits (Alves et al. 2022)

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SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1. Summary statistics of the whole-genome sequencing data.

Sample	Population	Breed/location	Number of reads	% of reads mapping	Depth of coverage
AA01	domestic	English silver	24,896,255	98.85	1.23
AA02	domestic	English silver	58,769,065	98.85	2.75
AA04	domestic	English silver	16,374,904	99.02	0.80
AC01	domestic	Champagne d'argent	45,861,067	98.72	2.17
AC02	domestic	Champagne d'argent	27,338,523	98.65	1.34
AC03	domestic	Champagne d'argent	33,382,686	98.78	1.65
AC04	domestic	Champagne d'argent	32,013,957	98.67	1.58
AC05	domestic	Champagne d'argent	24,345,063	98.58	1.20
AC06	domestic	Champagne d'argent	33,899,531	98.80	1.67
AC07	domestic	Champagne d'argent	22,429,864	98.81	1.11
AC08	domestic	Champagne d'argent	16,353,769	98.57	0.81
AC09	domestic	Champagne d'argent	32,709,384	98.75	1.62
AC10	domestic	Champagne d'argent	29,188,540	98.75	1.45
BH01	domestic	Belgian hare	17,080,737	98.80	0.85
BH02	domestic	Belgian hare	23,865,206	98.76	1.17
BH03	domestic	Belgian hare	26,889,182	98.77	1.32
BH04	domestic	Belgian hare	25,658,695	98.65	1.27
BH05	domestic	Belgian hare	22,595,656	98.71	1.11
BH06	domestic	Belgian hare	37,477,423	98.70	1.83
BH07	domestic	Belgian hare	27,051,125	98.74	1.33
BH08	domestic	Belgian hare	22,668,060	98.70	1.12
BH09	domestic	Belgian hare	17,006,563	98.65	0.84
BH10	domestic	Belgian hare	22,006,303	98.67	1.09
DUTCH01	domestic	Dutch	25,550,345	98.83	1.20
DUTCH03	domestic	Dutch	33,303,523	98.68	1.64
DUTCH04	domestic	Dutch	16,019,210	98.53	0.79
DUTCH05	domestic	Dutch	17,167,621	98.73	0.84
DUTCH06	domestic	Dutch	22,174,240	98.69	1.09
DUTCH07	domestic	Dutch	48,716,556	98.70	2.29
DUTCH08	domestic	Dutch	35,936,687	98.63	1.76
DUTCH11	domestic	Dutch	22,970,522	98.81	1.13
DUTCH12	domestic	Dutch	18,505,173	98.82	0.91

FGes01	domestic	Flemish giant	67,385,451	99.06	3.16
FGes02	domestic	Flemish giant	23,403,587	98.81	1.16
FGes05	domestic	Flemish giant	47,012,730	98.81	2.23
FGes10	domestic	Flemish giant	33,329,652	98.80	1.64
FGes11	domestic	Flemish giant	25,965,359	98.98	1.29
FGsap01	domestic	Flemish giant	16,120,576	98.78	0.79
FGsap09	domestic	Flemish giant	15,829,996	98.80	0.77
FGsap14	domestic	Flemish giant	30,827,606	98.80	1.47
FGsap15	domestic	Flemish giant	26,063,456	98.96	1.29
FGsap18	domestic	Flemish giant	25,313,575	98.90	1.26
FL01	domestic	French lop	36,335,390	98.80	1.79
FL02	domestic	French lop	28,545,708	98.79	1.41
FL03	domestic	French lop	31,090,619	98.70	1.54
FL04	domestic	French lop	28,539,745	98.71	1.41
FL05	domestic	French lop	36,495,738	98.73	1.80
FL06	domestic	French lop	21,328,448	98.81	1.06
FL07	domestic	French lop	21,488,774	98.78	1.07
FL08	domestic	French lop	24,570,456	98.75	1.22
FL09	domestic	French lop	40,411,132	98.86	1.99
FL10	domestic	French lop	24,478,018	98.50	1.20
NZ26	domestic	New Zealand white	30,832,378	98.98	1.53
NZ27	domestic	New Zealand white	32,492,646	98.72	1.60
NZ28	domestic	New Zealand white	41,006,669	98.79	2.01
NZ30	domestic	New Zealand white	31,714,189	98.95	1.57
NZ31	domestic	New Zealand white	31,651,105	98.84	1.56
NZ32	domestic	New Zealand white	33,615,306	98.92	1.66
NZ33	domestic	New Zealand white	43,178,929	98.80	2.10
NZ36	domestic	New Zealand white	42,145,221	98.89	2.05
NZ41	domestic	New Zealand white	30,947,042	98.93	1.53
NZ44	domestic	New Zealand white	28,655,626	98.65	1.39
Caum01	wild native range	Caumont, France	89,217,562	98.78	4.21
Caum02	wild native range	Caumont, France	25,866,273	98.94	1.26
Caum03	wild native range	Caumont, France	19,474,830	98.81	0.95
Caum04	wild native range	Caumont, France	40,973,352	98.97	1.99
Caum05	wild native range	Caumont, France	17,889,434	98.74	0.87

Caum06	wild native range	Caumont, France	54,741,642	99.17	2.53
Caum07	wild native range	Caumont, France	62,534,358	98.87	2.89
Caum10	wild native range	Caumont, France	23,005,786	98.81	1.10
LaRo01	wild native range	LaRoque, France	44,596,626	98.95	2.15
LaRo02	wild native range	LaRoque, France	57,732,587	98.92	2.77
LaRo03	wild native range	LaRoque, France	50,936,390	99.07	2.46
LaRo04	wild native range	LaRoque, France	37,205,892	98.95	1.79
LaRo05	wild native range	LaRoque, France	33,037,732	99.10	1.59
LaRo06	wild native range	LaRoque, France	48,214,072	99.04	2.34
LaRo07	wild native range	LaRoque, France	24,646,622	98.92	1.20
LaRo08	wild native range	LaRoque, France	41,006,038	98.94	1.98
LaRo09	wild native range	LaRoque, France	44,057,495	98.80	2.13
LaRo10	wild native range	LaRoque, France	49,837,202	98.81	2.39
TAR102	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	12,513,082	99.09	0.55
TAR103	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	24,460,826	98.90	1.08
TAR104	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	18,531,082	99.02	0.82
TAR107	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	21,020,848	99.06	0.92
TAR108	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	44,315,228	99.06	1.94
TAR109	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	14,233,146	98.75	0.64
TAR110	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	15,304,440	99.09	0.67
TAR111	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	26,086,380	98.68	1.14
TAR13	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	28,408,490	99.49	0.88
TAR5	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	13,792,534	98.89	0.60
TAR6	wild native range	Tarragona, Spain	14,436,527	99.02	0.63
Vill01	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	32,257,244	98.83	1.57
Vill02	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	34,508,971	98.90	1.67
Vill03	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	35,495,658	99.10	1.71
Vill04	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	39,560,871	98.75	1.92
Vill05	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	47,719,713	98.94	2.25
Vill06	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	33,918,572	98.92	1.65
Vill07	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	41,015,933	98.87	1.98
Vill08	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	22,379,477	98.89	1.09
Vill09	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	19,094,020	98.75	0.94
Vill10	wild native range	Villemolaque, France	17,692,142	98.85	0.87
ZRG1.2	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	15,518,465	99.42	0.66
ZRG11	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	9,439,899	99.07	0.41
ZRG12	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	39,906,085	99.28	1.50

ZRG14	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	16,501,975	99.17	0.71
ZRG15	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	9,606,534	99.28	0.41
ZRG17	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	8,803,508	99.26	0.36
ZRG18	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	17,093,656	99.44	0.72
ZRG21	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	8,347,950	99.45	0.35
ZRG4	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	17,831,937	98.81	0.78
ZRG5.2	wild native range	Zaragoza, Spain	22,084,918	99.07	0.96
OcAL02	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	44,827,209	99.14	1.78
OcAL03	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	17,895,130	96.81	0.76
OcAL04	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	18,149,140	99.16	0.81
OcAL05	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	20,768,798	99.47	0.95
OcAL06	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	22,102,935	99.49	1.00
OcAL07	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	19,872,865	99.47	0.86
OcAL08	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	49,197,402	98.61	1.91
OcAL09	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	10,809,625	98.82	0.41
OcAL10	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	20,024,420	97.89	0.87
OcAL11	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	16,624,578	99.35	0.75
OcAL12	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	12,586,504	97.67	0.53
OcAL13	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	49,237,679	99.17	2.06
OcAL15	Argentina (Neuquén)	Aluminé, Neuquén, Argentina	54,394,524	99.11	2.28
OCNEU10	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	35,596,773	99.01	1.67
OCNEU11	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	34,104,406	98.63	1.58
OCNEU12	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	46,449,831	99.16	2.18
OCNEU13	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	24,615,459	98.65	1.16
OCNEU14	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	19,440,520	99.08	0.91
OCNEU15	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	23,400,855	99.15	1.10
OCNEU16	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	25,251,990	95.58	1.04
OCNEU17	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	39,557,630	98.89	1.88
OCNEU18	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	36,599,905	98.41	1.66
OCNEU19	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	37,279,608	99.17	1.74
OCNEU20	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	27,142,114	99.22	1.24
OCNEU21	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	19,376,086	99.19	0.88
OCNEU36	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	37,318,394	98.78	1.74
OCNEU37	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	31,432,490	98.64	1.45
OCNEU38	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	34,070,250	99.08	1.58

OCNEU39	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	41,330,741	99.00	1.93
OCNEU40	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	34,878,314	98.97	1.64
OCNEU41	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	27,488,697	98.57	1.27
OCNEU42	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	62,391,137	98.96	2.88
OCNEU44	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	41,900,052	98.95	1.94
OCNEU45	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	40,604,655	98.57	1.86
OCNEU46	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	29,929,751	99.21	1.37
OCNEU47	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	26,896,244	99.22	1.21
OCNEU48	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	32,131,018	99.05	1.49
OCNEU49	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	35,668,852	99.24	1.63
OCNEU50	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	42,357,343	98.85	1.96
OCNEU7	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	24,769,255	98.95	1.17
OCNEU8	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	28,409,486	98.05	1.29
OCNEU9	Argentina (Neuquén)	Manzano Amargo, Neuquén, Argentina	22,411,105	99.09	1.05
OCTDF_17	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	59,628,163	98.40	2.82
OCTDF_18	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	46,808,442	99.23	2.22
OCTDF_19	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	38,041,433	98.76	1.83
OCTDF_30	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	37,412,364	98.92	1.80
OCTDF_31	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	37,757,120	98.78	1.81
OCTDF0	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	19,608,306	99.30	0.92
OCTDF2	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	30,611,819	99.40	1.44
OCTDF3	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	23,882,472	99.13	1.11
OCTDF4	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	31,224,697	98.91	1.48
OCTDF5	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	39,954,796	98.78	1.91
OCTDF6	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	28,366,271	99.19	1.32
OCTDF7	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	60,884,509	99.01	2.84
OCTDF8	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	24,504,943	98.75	1.11
OCTDF9	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	40,181,650	99.04	1.92
OcTF01	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	54,699,139	99.21	2.54
OcTF02	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	25,623,173	99.25	1.19
OcTF03	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	22,964,553	99.37	1.07
OcTF04	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	10,483,040	94.60	0.44
OcTF06	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	14,842,704	94.18	0.61
OcTF08	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	46,963,023	99.16	2.20
OcTF09	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	59,784,058	99.17	2.79
OcTF10	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	33,253,301	99.19	1.56
OcTF11	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	33,208,753	99.23	1.56

OcTF12	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	21,770,678	97.55	0.95
OcTF13	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	33,080,393	99.17	1.56
OcTF14	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	17,017,245	95.37	0.69
OcTF15	Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	Estancia Túnel, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	41,696,162	98.29	1.73
Occ-S-01	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (Burensvik), Skåne, Sweden	28,983,677	98.71	1.40
Occ-S-02	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (Burensvik), Skåne, Sweden	30,002,820	98.79	1.45
Occ-S-03	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (Burensvik), Skåne, Sweden	22,469,085	98.57	1.08
Occ-S-04	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (Burensvik), Skåne, Sweden	23,928,263	98.84	1.14
Occ-S-05	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (Burensvik), Skåne, Sweden	26,629,682	98.68	1.26
Occ-S-06	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	20,476,290	98.82	0.98
Occ-S-07	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	23,751,067	98.94	1.14
Occ-S-08	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	60,120,525	95.89	2.59
Occ-S-09	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	60,264,562	97.09	2.68
Occ-S-10	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	50,796,679	97.51	2.26
Occ-S-11	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	27,739,115	98.50	1.31
Occ-S-12	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	29,226,819	98.83	1.40
Occ-S-13	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	31,349,593	98.75	1.48
Occ-S-14	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	36,669,601	98.77	1.73
Occ-S-15	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	34,808,238	98.70	1.67
Occ-S-16	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	22,190,141	98.76	1.08
Occ-S-17	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	23,277,418	98.96	1.13
Occ-S-18	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	28,065,919	98.66	1.35
Occ-S-19	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	21,000,911	98.77	1.02
Occ-S-20	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	22,594,997	98.73	1.09
Occ-S-21	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	21,974,295	98.80	1.06
Occ-S-22	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	50,563,013	98.16	2.28
Occ-S-23	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	19,806,562	98.73	0.95
Occ-S-24	Sweden (Skåne)	Torekov (village), Skåne, Sweden	35,571,202	98.76	1.68
Occ-S-25	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	37,246,900	98.86	1.78
Occ-S-26	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	37,952,570	98.65	1.80
Occ-S-27	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	39,586,941	98.58	1.87
Occ-S-28	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	49,169,995	98.92	2.32
Occ-S-29	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	43,212,292	99.13	2.06
Occ-S-30	Sweden (Skåne)	Näsbyholm, Skåne, Sweden	46,482,587	99.03	2.20
Occ-S-48	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	18,411,295	98.50	0.90
Occ-S-49	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	28,636,645	98.77	1.39
Occ-S-50	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	19,024,037	98.60	0.92

Occ-S-51	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	26,136,643	98.63	1.26
Occ-S-52	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	25,484,002	98.66	1.23
Occ-S-53	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	27,169,608	98.68	1.32
Occ-S-54	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	29,667,274	98.69	1.42
Occ-S-55	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (Hide), Gotland, Sweden	26,673,278	98.57	1.28
Occ-S-56	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	27,598,868	98.62	1.33
Occ-S-57	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	26,867,960	98.49	1.30
Occ-S-58	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	29,539,196	98.59	1.42
Occ-S-59	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	21,632,719	98.53	1.05
Occ-S-60	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	33,820,359	98.56	1.62
Occ-S-61	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	26,149,964	98.55	1.27
Occ-S-62	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	27,467,452	98.60	1.33
Occ-S-63	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	23,893,212	98.58	1.16
Occ-S-64	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	22,305,337	98.62	1.09
Occ-S-65	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	19,490,396	98.51	0.95
Occ-S-66	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	37,203,838	98.55	1.79
Occ-S-67	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	41,457,471	98.61	1.99
Occ-S-68	Sweden (Gotland)	Hellvi (St Olofsholm), Gotland, Sweden	33,235,525	98.59	1.60
Occ-S-69	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	21,715,154	98.70	1.06
Occ-S-70	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	26,997,473	98.64	1.30
Occ-S-71	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	29,703,472	98.60	1.43
Occ-S-72	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	43,602,406	98.55	2.09
Occ-S-73	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	35,469,570	98.51	1.69
Occ-S-74	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	24,230,993	98.68	1.16
Occ-S-75	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	39,497,654	98.61	1.89
Occ-S-76	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	28,306,944	98.55	1.36
Occ-S-77	Sweden (Gotland)	Fröjel (Mulde), Gotland, Sweden	37,952,906	98.53	1.82
VIC01	Australia	Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia	30,040,838	98.84	1.35
VIC02	Australia	Longwood, Victoria, Australia	54,217,624	98.81	2.42
VIC03	Australia	Wonwonda, Victoria, Australia	25,717,573	99.33	1.08
VIC05	Australia	Elmhurst, Victoria, Australia	45,026,681	98.58	2.03
VIC06	Australia	Bahgallah, Victoria, Australia	19,969,208	99.17	0.96
VIC07	Australia	Nelson, Victoria, Australia	33,900,523	99.49	1.53
VIC08	Australia	Cranbourne, Victoria, Australia	21,928,731	99.36	0.98
VIC09	Australia	Cranbourne South, Victoria, Australia	19,262,535	99.34	0.92
VIC10	Australia	Mt Moriac, Victoria, Australia	10,914,151	90.93	0.44

VIC11	Australia	Somers, Victoria, Australia	12,658,292	96.47	0.55
VIC12	Australia	Newhaven, Victoria, Australia	26,984,325	98.3	1.22
VIC13	Australia	Bendigo, Victoria, Australia	39,787,408	99.24	1.78
VIC14	Australia	Bendigo, Victoria, Australia	33,528,792	99.21	1.33
VIC16	Australia	Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia	84,886,850	98.86	3.85
VIC17	Australia	Hattah, Victoria, Australia	37,662,682	99.16	1.81
VIC18	Australia	Hattah, Victoria, Australia	33,556,771	99.18	1.57
VIC19	Australia	Ararat, Victoria, Australia	37,923,897	98.94	1.82
VIC20	Australia	Ararat, Victoria, Australia	29,195,404	99.15	1.42
VIC21	Australia	Telopea Downs, Victoria, Australia	42,571,328	99.07	2.02
VIC22	Australia	Telopea Downs, Victoria, Australia	58,140,819	96.01	2.45
VIC23	Australia	Euroa, Victoria, Australia	58,255,830	96.03	2.52
VIC24	Australia	Euroa, Victoria, Australia	19,481,971	98.91	0.92
VIC25	Australia	Yambuk, Victoria, Australia	26,335,194	96.00	1.06
VIC27	Australia	Avalon, Victoria, Australia	17,008,836	97.91	0.71
VIC28	Australia	Avalon, Victoria, Australia	17,546,536	98.88	0.84
VIC29	Australia	Kerang, Victoria, Australia	52,878,593	97.41	2.37
VIC30	Australia	Pyramid Hill, Victoria, Australia	17,732,971	98.88	0.77
NZ_01	New Zealand	Bendigo new, Otago, New Zealand	34,737,992	99.17	1.66
NZ_02	New Zealand	Bendigo new, Otago, New Zealand	27,392,888	99.08	1.32
NZ_03	New Zealand	Bendigo new, Otago, New Zealand	34,497,936	99.37	1.65
NZ_04	New Zealand	Bendigo station, Otago, New Zealand	52,461,872	98.84	2.51
NZ_05	New Zealand	Bendigo station, Otago, New Zealand	28,135,278	98.86	1.36
NZ_06	New Zealand	Bendigo station, Otago, New Zealand	29,882,358	98.64	1.45
NZ_11	New Zealand	Cloudy peak station, Otago, New Zealand	17,943,224	98.91	0.86
NZ_12	New Zealand	Cloudy peak station, Otago, New Zealand	25,980,347	98.58	1.26
NZ_13	New Zealand	Cloudy peak station, Otago, New Zealand	48,475,423	98.90	2.32
NZ_14	New Zealand	Halswell H2, Canterbury, New Zealand	40,863,104	98.87	1.97
NZ_15	New Zealand	Halswell H3, Canterbury, New Zealand	22,703,835	98.98	1.10
NZ_16	New Zealand	Halswell H5, Canterbury, New Zealand	23,609,073	98.99	1.15
NZ_17	New Zealand	Lesley Hills, Canterbury, New Zealand	24,294,961	98.91	1.18
NZ_18	New Zealand	Lesley Hills, Canterbury, New Zealand	20,793,044	98.81	1.01
NZ_19	New Zealand	Lesley Hills, Canterbury, New Zealand	21,812,545	98.87	1.06
NZ_31	New Zealand	Queensberry hills, Otago, New Zealand	27,747,696	98.9	1.34
NZ_32	New Zealand	Queensberry hills, Otago, New Zealand	37,752,396	98.68	1.80
NZ_33	New Zealand	Queensberry hills, Otago, New Zealand	25,133,685	99.01	1.20
NZ_34	New Zealand	Selwyn Motukarara, Canterbury, New Zealand	25,450,611	98.78	1.22

NZ_35	New Zealand	Selwyn Motukarara, Canterbury, New Zealand	30,062,067	98.90	1.44
NZ_36	New Zealand	Selwyn Motukarara, Canterbury, New Zealand	33,355,750	98.93	1.59
NZ_37	New Zealand	Simons Hill, Canterbury, New Zealand	27,051,996	98.87	1.30
NZ_38	New Zealand	Simons Hill, Canterbury, New Zealand	22,990,402	98.79	1.11
NZ_39	New Zealand	Simons Hill, Canterbury, New Zealand	27,248,281	98.87	1.31
NZ_43	New Zealand	Tek River, Canterbury, New Zealand	25,363,074	98.61	1.23
NZ_44	New Zealand	Tek River, Canterbury, New Zealand	25,958,485	98.80	1.26
NZ_45	New Zealand	Tek River, Canterbury, New Zealand	23,174,109	98.81	1.13
NZ_46	New Zealand	Wantwood Station Gore, Southland, New Zealand	24,095,370	98.65	1.17
NZ_47	New Zealand	Wantwood Station Gore, Southland, New Zealand	28,529,999	98.54	1.39
NZ_48	New Zealand	Wantwood Station Gore, Southland, New Zealand	24,397,255	98.70	1.19

Supplementary Table 2. Average percentage of diagnostic domestic alleles in each of the six introduced populations in this study, based on a reference panel of 1,995 SNPs with allele frequency differences between domestic and wild samples above 0.9.

Population	Average percentage of diagnostic domestic alleles (%)	Standard deviation of the percentage of domestic alleles (%)
Argentina (Neuquén)	54.4	4.1
Argentina (Tierra del Fuego)	80.8	1.9
Sweden (Skåne)	47.5	4.2
Sweden (Gotland)	52.1	2.6
Australia	58.7	3.2
New Zealand	68.0	5.6

Supplementary Table 3. Welch's two-sided *t*-test results for the comparisons between genome-wide Tajima's *D* versus the top 0.1% windows in the allele frequency difference scan (ΔAF) between domestic rabbits and each introduced population. Both statistics were calculated in 100 kb windows, with a step of 25 kb. We then inspected *D* values for the top 0.1% ΔAF windows in each domestic-population contrast and compared them to genome-wide *D* values (n = 81,842 total windows). See Extended Data Fig.5 for more information.

Population	Welch's <i>t</i>	df	<i>P</i>	mean <i>D</i> (genome-wide)	mean <i>D</i> (top 0.1% ΔAF)	95% CI for mean difference	Hedge's <i>g</i>
Neuquén	25.77	81.67	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$	1.212	-0.098	1.209 - 1.412	-1.407
Tierra del Fuego	13.89	81.48	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$	0.703	-0.603	1.118 - 1.492	-0.896
Skåne	10.30	81.12	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$	1.236	0.417	0.661 - 0.977	-1.318
Gotland	23.79	81.42	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-15}$	2.219	0.978	1.137 - 1.344	-1.638
Australia	3.99	81.15	1.423×10^{-4}	-0.189	-0.470	0.141 - 0.420	-0.465
New Zealand	3.65	81.15	4.657×10^{-4}	1.790	1.529	0.119 - 0.403	-0.416

Supplementary Table 4. Test for significant overlap between outliers in allele frequency differences (ΔAF) in contrasts of domestic vs. introduced populations. We calculated ΔAF in non-overlapping 100 kb windows and for each population retrieved the top 1% windows (205 in each population out of a total of 20,483 windows). Overlaps were tested with the *R* package *SuperExactTest*, which employs an algorithm for the calculation of the exact probability (one-sided) distributions of multi-set intersections. Bonferroni-corrected *P*-values are shown (significance at $P < 0.05$). Population abbreviations: NEU - Neuquén (Argentina); TDF - Tierra del Fuego (Argentina); SKA - Skåne (Sweden); GOT - Gotland (Sweden); AUS - Australia; NZE - New Zealand.

Populations	Degree of overlap	Observed overlap	Expected overlap	Fold-enrichment	P-value
NEU - NZE	2	10	2.052	4.874	0.002
NEU - GOT	2	16	2.052	7.798	1.558E-08
NEU - SKA	2	16	2.052	7.798	1.558E-08
NEU - AUS	2	18	2.052	8.773	1.570E-10
TDF - NZE	2	20	2.052	9.748	1.224E-12
TDF - GOT	2	22	2.052	10.723	7.532E-15
SKA - GOT	2	23	2.052	11.210	5.436E-16
TDF - AUS	2	24	2.052	11.698	3.719E-17
NEU - TDF	2	24	2.052	11.698	3.719E-17
GOT - NZE	2	25	2.052	12.185	2.417E-18
GOT - AUS	2	26	2.052	12.672	1.494E-19
SKA - NZE	2	26	2.052	12.672	1.494E-19
SKA - AUS	2	29	2.052	14.135	2.647E-23
AUS - NZE	2	38	2.052	18.521	1.419E-35
TDF - SKA	2	45	2.052	21.933	4.699E-46
NEU - GOT - NZE	3	1	0.021	48.700	1.000
NEU - TDF - GOT	3	2	0.021	97.399	0.012
NEU - GOT - AUS	3	3	0.021	146.099	7.758E-05
NEU - SKA - NZE	3	3	0.021	146.099	7.758E-05
NEU - SKA - AUS	3	3	0.021	146.099	7.758E-05
NEU - SKA - GOT	3	3	0.021	146.099	7.758E-05
NEU - TDF - NZE	3	3	0.021	146.099	7.758E-05
TDF - GOT - NZE	3	4	0.021	194.798	3.808E-07
NEU - AUS - NZE	3	4	0.021	194.798	3.808E-07
NEU - TDF - AUS	3	5	0.021	243.498	1.474E-09

NEU - TDF - SKA	3	5	0.021	243.498	1.474E-09
SKA - GOT - NZE	3	6	0.021	292.198	4.686E-12
TDF - SKA - GOT	3	6	0.021	292.198	4.686E-12
TDF - AUS - NZE	3	7	0.021	340.897	1.258E-14
TDF - GOT - AUS	3	7	0.021	340.897	1.258E-14
GOT - AUS - NZE	3	9	0.021	438.297	5.900E-20
SKA - GOT - AUS	3	9	0.021	438.297	5.900E-20
SKA - AUS - NZE	3	10	0.021	486.996	1.060E-22
TDF - SKA - AUS	3	10	0.021	486.996	1.060E-22
TDF - SKA - NZE	3	11	0.021	535.696	1.705E-25
NEU - GOT - AUS - NZE	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - SKA - AUS - NZE	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - SKA - GOT - NZE	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - SKA - GOT - AUS	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - TDF - GOT - NZE	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - TDF - GOT - AUS	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - TDF - SKA - NZE	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
NEU - TDF - SKA - GOT	4	1	0.000	4865.923	0.012
TDF - GOT - AUS - NZE	4	2	0.000	9731.846	1.180E-06
TDF - SKA - GOT - NZE	4	2	0.000	9731.846	1.180E-06
NEU - TDF - AUS - NZE	4	2	0.000	9731.846	1.180E-06
NEU - TDF - SKA - AUS	4	2	0.000	9731.846	1.180E-06
TDF - SKA - AUS - NZE	4	3	0.000	14597.770	7.777E-11
SKA - GOT - AUS - NZE	4	4	0.000	19463.693	3.769E-15
TDF - SKA - GOT - AUS	4	4	0.000	19463.693	3.769E-15
TDF - SKA - GOT - AUS - NZE	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - SKA - GOT - AUS - NZE	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - TDF - GOT - AUS - NZE	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - TDF - SKA - AUS - NZE	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - TDF - SKA - GOT - NZE	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - TDF - SKA - GOT - AUS	5	1	0.000	486188.805	1.172E-04
NEU - TDF - SKA - GOT - AUS - NZE	6	1	0.000	48578562.424	1.173E-06