



Calling All Dogs!

We're the founders and lead scientists at the Dog Aging Project. We're grateful to have the opportunity to introduce ourselves and invite you to participate in the largest canine health study in the world.

The Dog Aging Project has two main goals: (1) understanding how biology, lifestyle, and environment influence aging in dogs and (2) intervening to increase *healthspan*, the period of life spent free from disease. This nonprofit research is funded by the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes on Health, and private donations.

All the dogs in our study live and play at home with their owners. Once a dog is part of the project, we ask owners to complete periodic surveys about their dogs and upload veterinary electronic medical records via a secure research portal. We plan to maintain lifelong relationships with dogs and owners so we can follow dogs as they age and through the end of life.

In addition, the ten-year research plan at the Dog Aging Project includes several other distinct lines of scientific inquiry such as sequencing the genomes of 10,000 dogs, collecting samples (such as urine, feces, blood, and hair) from 1,500 dogs, and conducting a clinical trial to test a promising compound for its ability to improve healthy aging. Dogs who join the Dog Aging Project will be invited to these additional studies based on specific research criteria. Their owners can decide whether or not they want to take on this more involved level of participation.

We're hoping you might consider enrolling your dog in our project. Dogs of all ages and sizes, including mixed breed and purebred dogs, are welcome to join. Are there factors that influence the onset of disease? Do certain diets or exercise regimes impact long-term health? These are some of the questions we hope to answer.

To learn more and to nominate your dog, visit our website at dogagingproject.org. We hope that you will consider becoming our scientific partner in this quest to learn more about canine health and aging.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kate Creevy
Chief Veterinary Officer

Dr. Daniel Promislow
Principal Investigator/Co-Director

Dr. Matt Kaerberlein
Co-Director