

Key Facts about the Dog Aging Project



- The Dog Aging Project is a community science project that relies on the participation of dog owners around the US to help collect data for scientific research intended **to identify the biological and environmental factors that maximize companion dog health and longevity.**
- The project is funded by **grants from the National Institute on Aging**, a part of the National Institutes of Health, by private donations, and by corporate sponsorship.
- Dogs of all ages, including purebred and mixed breed dogs as well as healthy dogs and dogs with chronic illness, are invited to join the Dog Aging Project.
- After enrolling their dog, each owner completes the Health and Life Experience Survey, which takes 2-3 hours and collects information about diet, activity, behavior, home environment, health history and more.
- Upon completion of the Health and Life Experience Survey, the dog is officially a member of the Dog Aging Project Pack, joining **almost 30,000 dogs as of April 2021**. Participants whose dogs are members of the Pack are asked to update their dogs' information annually, and if possible, upload veterinary electronic medical records as well.
- Currently, **nearly 15,000 participants have uploaded records**, making them eligible for additional studies, which include genetic analyses, the collection of biological samples for metabolic studies, and participation in a clinical trial of the drug rapamycin.
- **Enrollment in additional studies is ongoing, and there is a specific recruitment call** for puppies, dogs who have not yet been spayed or castrated, dogs from very rural or very urban areas, and dogs living near our partner veterinary teaching hospitals.
- The project is **based at the University of Washington and Texas A&M University** with research team members at many top institutions. Our partner veterinary teaching hospitals include the University of Georgia, Iowa State University, Colorado State University, Oregon State University, Washington State University, and North Carolina State University.
- All canine participants continue to live and play at home with their families. The Dog Aging Project strives to maintain lifelong relationships with dogs enrolled in the study.
- Participants whose dogs are members of the Pack have access to a private, online forum for participants called the Dog Park, where they can interact with each other and have insider access to the research team.
- Studying aging in dogs will also help us learn about human health because dogs get many of the same diseases of aging, share our environment, and have a sophisticated health care system comparable to the human health care system.