

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 **over 45,000 dogs as of August 2023**. Participants whose dogs are members of the Pack are asked to update their dogs' information annually, and if possible, upload veterinary electronic medical records.
- Currently, **over 23,000 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 TRIAD, a clinical trial of the drug rapamycin.
- **Enrollment in additional studies is ongoing**, especially 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 clinical trial sites..
- The project is **based at the University of Washington and Texas A&M University** with research team members at many top institutions.
- 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.