Could You—and Your Dog—Live Longer?

A group of veterinarians and scientists are studying our canine friends to uncover how genes, lifestyle, and environment influence dog aging—and how the information they glean might inform the future of human health. **Matt Kaeberlein**, codirector of the Dog Aging Project (DAP), and **Kate E. Creevy, D.V.M.,** the project's chief veterinary officer, share more.

Why dogs?
KC: They're excellent translational models for the study of aging in people—dogs get most of the same diseases, are genetically diverse, and share our environment. By better understanding how lifestyle and genes impact dog health, we can offer dog owners better guidance to help them make the best care decisions for their dogs.

Could we actually slow aging in dogs—or humans?
MK: We've already identified interventions that slow aging in lab mice, and everything I know about biology makes me believe some of these will have the same effect in dogs and also in people. As part of DAP, we're studying one such intervention.

What stage is the project in now?
MK: The DAP Pack has over 30,000 participating dogs, and soon we'll start separating them into sample cohorts. I'm excited by how interesting the initial data looks, and we haven't even started digging into the genetics and systems biology aspects of the project, which will last at least 10 years.

INTEREST PIQUED?
On July 27, learn why dogs age seven to 10 years faster than people, how human and canine health intersect, and more at Live Better Longer: The Dog Aging Project, part of a webinar series *Prevention* hosts with the American Federation for Aging Research. Sign up for free at afar.org/events.

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