

A BIG THANK YOU!

As with the previous newsletters, we would like to start by saying **THANK YOU** to all the puppy owners who have signed up and are taking part in this exciting project so far.

As of the 22nd February 2018, **863 dogs** have been recruited to the project. Here are some of the pups!



Dudley



Archie



Drogo



Roman



Luna



Tott

We would also like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who has expressed an interest in the project and helped us spread the word. Finally, a massive **THANK YOU** to the Dogs Trust welfare grants committee for making this all possible and funding this study.

Please keep sharing everyone! The more dogs we recruit, the greater the impact of this project will be.

Publicity for Generation Pup...



The Puppy
Conference 2018

Since the last newsletter, we have been working hard to publicise the project as we are hoping to recruit puppies from all over the UK and from all walks of life. Our team have been in touch with veterinary professionals, trainers, behaviourists, breeders and other organisations that might be able to aid in recruitment, and so far we have been receiving fantastic responses and offers of help.

A big part of publicising Generation Pup is communicating about our project to other researchers and dog professionals. Here are the details of events we have attended/will be attending over the next few months;

- The Puppy Conference, January 2018
- Association of Charity Vets conference, February 2018
- Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SVEPM) Conference & Annual General Meeting of the Society, March 2018
- Association of Dogs and Cats Homes Conference, April 2018
- International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) Conference, April 2018
- National Dog Behaviour Conference, June 2018

New postal address...



The Generation Pup office has now moved to the Dogs Trust headquarters. This means we have a new postal address. The postal address has changed from Hawkshead Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 7TA to

Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ.

Points to note...

New expiry dates on questionnaires...

You may have noticed, when you receive an email from us alerting you that your pup's next questionnaire is due or when you log in to your Generation Pup account, that you are now being given a date by which the questionnaire should be completed. The reason for this is that we need to ensure the information we collect is as fresh as possible in your mind. By completing the surveys within these time periods we can ensure our findings and results are as accurate as possible. After the date stated has passed, the questionnaire will disappear from your dashboard.

Length of questionnaires...

You may also have noticed that some of our questionnaires (when your pup is 6 months, 7 months and 9 months of age) are longer than those you have already completed. We do appreciate that we are asking a lot of our Generation Pup owners, and we cannot express enough how grateful we are for your time. The reason that some of our questionnaires may take longer than others is due to the depth of information that we need so as to be able to identify risk factors for behavioural issues such as separation anxiety, and aggression, and health issues such as obesity, and limbic fractures, along with many more issues which affect the health and welfare of our dogs.

Your puppy's Vet Cards...

Most Generation Pup dog owners will have received three Vet Cards at Christmas (along with your Christmas card). Please follow our guidance as to when these should be taken to your veterinary practice for completion. Please also remember that you should not make a separate appointment with your vets to complete this card, please just try to remember to bring it along with you on your dog's next health check or vet visit. Thank you!

Need to update
your personal
details?



Got a new pet?



Moved to a new
house?



Planning to change
your email address?

It is easy to update
your information by
visiting your
dashboard or by
contacting us!

Would you like to win an iPad Air 2?



As a thank you for your commitment to Generation Pup, we have **TWO iPad Air 2 tablets** to give away! These were kindly donated by Dogs Trust.

In order to be entered into the competition you must:

- 1) Have a dog registered on the study by the 30th June 2018**
- 2) Have completed and submitted online/returned by post a questionnaire between the 1st March and 30th June 2018 for that dog. (ALL owners will have a questionnaire due for completion during this timeframe.)**

The owners of the first two dogs randomly selected from all dogs fulfilling the above criteria will each win an iPad.

All registered dog owners will have one or more questionnaires coming their way during March – June, so if you are a Generation Pup dog owner you will be in with a chance to win! We will let you know via email or phone if you are one of the two lucky winners by the **6th July 2018**. Good luck!

New collaborators sign up to work with Generation Pup ...

We have researchers who are keen to work with data from Generation Pup dogs. Some owners have agreed to provide samples from their dogs. Here are some of the projects where Generation Pup data and samples will be used:

Dr Matthew Suderman (University of Bristol)

Dr Suderman is planning to use buccal (cheek) swabs to investigate how neutering affects a dog at the level of individual cells. To do this, he will generate, for the first time, DNA methylation profiles from a population of dogs, some neutered and some not. Dr Suderman is studying male English Springer Spaniels, so if you have one that is less than a year old we might be in touch with you soon about assisting with this vital work. For more information about DNA methylation, see <http://goo.gl/53PjM7>.

Updates for other researchers working with us...

In our previous newsletter we told you the **Royal Veterinary College's canine epilepsy** research team are investigating factors in early-life that may be associated with the development of epilepsy and anxiety. This study is now under way and is called the **IDEAS** study. Please keep an eye on your email inbox if you have a Border Collie or German Shepherd dog. Any owners whose dogs are potentially suitable for this study will be contacted by the Generation Pup team. <http://ow.ly/R71J30im3RW>

The **OH-STAR** team from the University of Bristol have been investigating antimicrobial resistance in dogs. Many of our participants who agreed to provide faecal samples from their dogs, will have been sent one sample to the Generation Pup team and one to the OH-STAR team. Thank you so much for your help. For more information visit: <http://ow.ly/ldXF30im40P>



Proud of your pup?
Would you like your dog to be the next Generation Pup Dog of the Month?

If you own a Generation Pup dog and would like to be considered for next month's Dog of the Month, please email us a photo and a short description of your pooch! Alternatively, you can send entries via Facebook messenger if you have liked our Facebook page!

Check our Facebook and Twitter pages at the start of each month to see the monthly winner!

Generation Pup now has an Instagram account!



Why not follow us!
[generation_pup](https://www.instagram.com/generation_pup)

Can you help us advertise Generation Pup?

We are looking to find veterinary practices, dog breeders, trainers, behaviourists, and members of dog groups that are willing to help us recruit puppies. If you are able to display our posters or give out flyers, please get in touch.

Need to get in touch?

Email us at generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk

Call us on 07434 843460



Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & SC037843

