

A big THANK YOU!

We would like to start this newsletter by saying THANK YOU to all the puppy owners who have signed up and are taking part in this exciting project so far. Here are some of the pups!



Alfie



Audrey



Luna



Dave



Ralph



Mochridhe

We would also like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has expressed an interest in the project and helped us spread the word by sharing information, Facebook posts and tweets. Finally, a massive THANK YOU to the Dogs Trust welfare grants committee for making this all possible and funding the first three years of this study.

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

Developments over the last year...

Some of you may be wondering why you haven't heard much from Generation Pup recently. This is due to significant project developments that have taken place over the last year. The biggest change being that we moved! We are now based at Dogs Trust in London and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) as well as the University of Bristol.

This move has been very beneficial, and has created new opportunities for the project. We have been busy making plans for the future of the project and meeting with new collaborators. The Generation Pup team have also been working very hard to develop new questionnaires.

If you are a Generation Pup dog owner, please keep us updated with how your pooch is getting on! Don't forget there is a "Diary" section on your dashboard, and you can use this space to log your vet visits or tell us anything extra about your pup.

Know someone who has a new puppy?



Why not tell them about Generation Pup!

Share our newsletter, website, Facebook and Twitter links!

New email address...



The project has a new email address. The Generation Pup email address has changed from generationpup@rvc.ac.uk, to

generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk

Please save our new email address in your email address book to make sure you receive our future newsletters and other communications successfully.

Researcher takes on a bigger role in Generation Pup...

Dr Jane Murray

You may know, Dr Jane Murray has been contributing to Generation Pup since the start of the project. Jane is a well-known companion animal epidemiologist, which means she has extensive experience in analysing potential causes for disease and behaviour problems.

Jane used to work at the University of Bristol and led the feline sister project of Generation Pup called 'Bristol Cats', which follows kittens through life. However, Jane has recently taken a position within Dogs Trust as their Veterinary Epidemiologist and is now in charge of the day to day management of Generation Pup. Her experience is invaluable in ensuring that Generation Pup asks, and answers, all the right questions so that this project is as successful as it can possibly be!



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

We already 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:

Professor Holger Volk, Dr Rowena Packer & Tsz Law (RVC)

Royal Veterinary College's canine epilepsy research team is investigating factors in early-life that may be associated with the development of epilepsy and anxiety. Epilepsy is the most common chronic brain disorder in dogs, and can have a significant impact on the quality of life of affected dogs and their owners. In addition to seizures, some dogs with epilepsy develop anxiety; this is also seen in people with epilepsy.

In their investigations, the team will study popular breeds that are predisposed to epilepsy. They will use the data from our questionnaires to identify dogs that develop epilepsy and anxiety. They will then use behavioural tests, urine and faecal samples to explore whether dogs with these conditions behave differently as puppies, have differences in their gut bacteria, and differences in the metabolites present in their body compared to dogs that do not develop these conditions. The results of this study will advance our understanding of canine epilepsy and anxiety, and may lead to screening tools that can help identify dogs at high risk of epilepsy before seizures begin.

This project is funded by the BBSRC. You can keep up to date with the epilepsy team's work on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rvccanineepilepsyresearch/>



One Health Selection and Transmission of Antimicrobial Resistance (OH-STAR) (University of Bristol)

This team is investigating bacteria, and how bacteria have built resistance to antimicrobial medications. They are keen to analyse faecal samples from Generation Pup dogs who are exercised in different environments. Among other things, they will examine whether reducing antimicrobial use in dairy cows influences the bacteria found in the faecal matter of dogs.

OH-STAR is funded by the Antimicrobial Resistance Cross Council Initiative. For more information visit:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/vetscience/research/projects/ohstar/>

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 Generation Pup dashboard on our website or by contacting us!

New researchers join Generation Pup team...



Fiona Dale

Fiona is a first year PhD student at the RVC. She is interested in investigating how the early-life experiences of Generation Pup dogs might affect the development of behaviours such as destruction, excessive vocalisation, and

inappropriate toileting. These behaviours are often referred to collectively as separation-related behaviours (SRBs) and some dogs appear to show these behaviours when left home alone.

While there is some understanding of the risk factors influencing the development of such behaviours, there has been no research into the potential effects of early-life experiences of dogs on the development of these behavioural problems.

Fiona will be using information from Generation Pup questionnaires to investigate if there are particular characteristics of dogs or their early experiences which influence the occurrence of this distressing condition. She will also be looking for extra help from some of you, to video your puppy when he or she is left alone. Fiona's PhD is funded by Dogs Trust.



Megan Vickers

Megan started a PhD at the RVC in April. She is looking at how communication between dogs develops over time using information you provide in Generation Pup questionnaires.

Domestic dogs are a social species and many interact with other dogs on a daily basis. It is therefore important that dogs can communicate with each other effectively and safely. Megan will also be looking for help from some owners to help her collect more information. This will be to make detailed video recordings of interactions between puppies and older dogs, to help us understand better the complex way in which dogs 'talk' to each other using body language. Megan's PhD is funded by Dogs Trust.

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!

Can you help us advertise Generation Pup?

We are looking to find veterinary practices, dog breeders, trainers, behaviourists, members of dog groups that are willing to help us recruit new puppies. If you think you can display our posters or give out flyers, please get in touch via email, our website or call us on 07434 843460.

Need to get in touch?

Email us at generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk

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