

ABOUT GENERATION PUP

Dogs play an important role in our families and are irreplaceable in our hearts and lives. It is devastating when they are injured, suffer from disease, or have behaviour problems which impact on their wellbeing. Research is essential to better understand how and why these problems develop, so we can look for ways to prevent and treat them. Generation Pup is a unique type of research project – known as a cohort study – where lots of individual dogs are followed over their lifetime. This has some big advantages over other approaches, as it enables us to investigate whether events or environments early in life influence the development of conditions as dogs get older. The results of the study may suggest preventative measures that can be put in place, or lead to new approaches for therapy or treatment. However, for this type of research to be successful we need to enrol and follow lots of puppies through our study: which is where we need your help!

We would be very grateful if you sign up to the project and tell us all about your puppy as he or she grows up. We will be asking about various aspects of your puppy's life, behaviour and experiences, so that we can look for common trends or themes which occur between dogs. So please help – become part of the Generation Pup community and contribute to the development of an exciting new dog science initiative!



WHO ARE THE RESEARCHERS INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY?

Generation Pup is run by researchers at Dogs Trust (registered charity numbers: 227523 (England & Wales) & SC037843 (Scotland). Please note that Dogs Trust Ireland (<https://dogstrust.ie> registered charity number 20057978) is not involved in running the Generation Pup project, although we are very grateful for help Dogs Trust Ireland provide in terms of promoting Generation Pup within Ireland. Dr Rachel Casey is leading the project and can be contacted via the details at the end of this document. Rachel is a veterinary surgeon, European specialist in veterinary behavioural medicine and an animal welfare scientist.

The other key members of the team are: Dr Jane Murray, Dr Sara Owczarczak-Garstecka, Rachel Kinsman, Ben Rosier and Chloe Maher. The team have a wealth of experience and knowledge that will help ensure that Generation Pup asks, and answers, all the right questions so that this research project is as successful as it can possibly be!

WHO FUNDS THIS STUDY?

- Dogs Trust funds and operates the Generation Pup study. The study has been approved by the University of Bristol Animal Welfare Ethical Research Board (UIN/18/052), the Social Science Ethical Review Board at the Royal Veterinary College (URN SR2017-1116) and the Dogs Trust Ethical Review Board – ERB009.

SIGNING UP TO GENERATION PUP-

We would be grateful to have your help with the project if you are 16 years of age or over, have a puppy under 16 weeks of age, and live in the UK or Republic of Ireland. When you first register, you will be asked to complete an 'informed consent' form, and it is important that you understand about the project before completing this form. As well as the information provided here, there is more information on the project website - www.generationpup.ac.uk. You will also see several different options in the first questionnaire 'about me' which will ask you how much involvement you would like in the project. For the 'basic level' of involvement we will ask you to complete questionnaires regularly for us throughout the life of your dog. However, we would be grateful if you would consider also collecting samples (such as mouth swabs or urine) from your puppy, allowing us to access their veterinary records for your dog and / or agree to help with other aspects of the study. More details about the different levels of involvement are provided below. Please remember you can reduce your involvement if you wish and are free to withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

For over 50 years, Dogs Trust has promised to never put down a healthy dog. We keep our promises, and that includes treating your personal details with care. We will keep the information you provide us with safe and will only use it for research purposes relating to the Generation Pup study to allow us to track your dog's development, and to identify common trends and themes which occur between dogs. We protect data prior to analysis and publication by removing your name and other personal identifiers from the research data and storing them separately (known as "pseudonymisation"). This process means that data is not held in an identifiable form, but enables those authorised to do so to "re-match" the research data with the individual it relates to, if needed. We collaborate with researchers at other institutions (including the University of Bristol), in undertaking the research and share Generation Pup data with them so that they can carry out further analysis of the data. We will only ever share your information with the external researchers who we authorise to access data we hold and which we have entered into a data sharing agreement with. A full list of the institutions that we share or intend to share data with can be found at <https://generationpup.ac.uk/privacy-policy-sharing-data/>, which is updated from time to time. We won't contact you for any other purpose than the Generation Pup study, unless you already receive communications from us. You can opt out of or change your preferences for communications in relation to the Generation Pup study at any time by contacting generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk or phoning +44 (0)7434 843460. For more information on this please see our privacy policy at <https://generationpup.ac.uk/privacy-policy-sharing-data/>.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT IN GENERATION PUP

There are different levels of involvement for Generation Pup which we will discuss below and when you register you can decide how much you would like to commit to. The level of commitment can also be changed in the future.

QUESTIONNAIRES



We ask all owners registered with Generation Pup to complete questionnaires about their puppy. When you register, we will ask you to fill in questionnaires about yourself, your household, and your new puppy. Following this you will be asked to fill in a questionnaire one week after bringing your puppy home, and then again when your puppy is 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months and 18 months of age. The questionnaires are more frequent early in your puppy's life because things change rapidly as your puppy grows up, and lots of new things are happening. When your puppy reaches 18 months of age, we ask you to complete questionnaires at a maximum of every six months. It is easier for you if you can complete questionnaires online because only those questions relevant to you and your puppy will be asked. However, if this is a problem, we are happy to post paper copies of the questionnaires to you. The time it takes to complete a questionnaire depends on the responses you choose. You are welcome to leave any questions blank that you would prefer not to answer, and you can always 'save and come back later' if you are short of time.

Please note that the online surveys have been created for completion on a PC/laptop/tablet. Completing surveys on a mobile phone is not recommended.

EXTRA INFORMATION AND PERMISSIONS

When you register with Generation Pup you are asked to complete an informed consent form. This asks you for your permission for the research team to store the data that you provide and use it for future research analysis. All the information that you provide about yourself and your puppy for the Generation Pup research project will be treated in the strictest confidence. Any sensitive information, including names and addresses will be stored in an encrypted form, and will be removed from datasets used for analysis. If you have any questions about the safety of your information, then please contact the Generation Pup team on generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk.

When you complete the consent form, we will also ask you if you might be interested in helping us to promote the study through the media. We would be very grateful if you could tick this option if you are willing for us to contact you about your puppy potentially becoming a 'media star'. We understand that this is not for everyone, so this is entirely optional. Finally, we will ask if you might be interested in taking part in further studies linked to Generation Pup. This might be, for example, studies where we ask you to film aspects of your dog's behaviour, or have a researcher call you to ask additional

questions. If you have time and are interested in helping us further, then please let us know in the consent form: we are very grateful for any help that you can give us to make Generation Pup a success.

Once you reach the 'About Me' questionnaire, you will be given more options about the level of involvement in Generation Pup. We will ask you if you are willing to give us permission to access the veterinary records for your dog. Access to veterinary records is an important part of the study, as it will allow us to investigate how often commonly occurring diseases are diagnosed by vets. For example, we can look at whether particular dog 'life-styles' are associated with the development of problems such as bowel disease, arthritis or diabetes. This is entirely optional, and we will respect your wishes should you prefer us not to access these records. We will also ask if we can send you Vet Cards, which are specifically designed cards for you to take with you when your dog visits the vet. These cards are quick and simple for your vet to fill in and will provide us with extra information about your dog.

SAMPLE COLLECTION

Owners will also be asked if they are willing to help the research project by collecting samples at various time points in the study. The samples are all non-invasive and simple to collect. Samples of hair brushings, urine (wee), faeces (poo), skin swabs and/or mouth cell swabs will help the team investigate a wide range of important diseases which impact on the wellbeing of dogs and the genetic influences on both disease and behaviour. Owners who are willing to help with this part of the project will be sent out sample packs with full instructions on how to take each type of sample and video tutorials will also be available on the website. Remember that you can opt 'in' or 'out' of sample collection by ticking the options offered in the 'About Me' questionnaire. Unfortunately, if you live in the Republic of Ireland, we won't be able to send you sampling kits to collect samples from your puppy, as current regulations make return of samples from the Republic of Ireland difficult.



BENEFITS FOR YOU AND YOUR PUPPY

We are hoping that you will enjoy being part of the Generation Pup community. We have a project web-site which we will update with information about the study, provide regular newsletters to participants, have a profile across different social media (e.g. Facebook and Instagram) and mainstream media, and run competitions such as 'Dog of the Month' and prize draws for the star questionnaire-completers! We will also feedback to participants the outcomes of the study and have some fantastic Dogs Trust goodies for dog and owner participants!

HOW RESULTS WILL BE PRESENTED

The findings of Generation Pup will be reported in scientific journals, as oral and poster communications at scientific meetings, in magazines aimed at dog owners and through newsletters that will be circulated to owners of Generation Pup dogs. Please note that individual dogs and their owners will not be identifiable in any results.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES

Please contact us. The Generation Pup team members have a mobile number to make sure we can answer as many queries as possible even if we are out and about so please call on [+44 \(0\)7434 843460](tel:+44207434843460). Alternatively, you can e-mail us at generationpup@dogstrust.org.uk. The Generation Pup mobile number and email address should usually be used and will often result in a quicker response. However, more detailed queries can be directed to Rachel or Jane using the contact details below:

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