



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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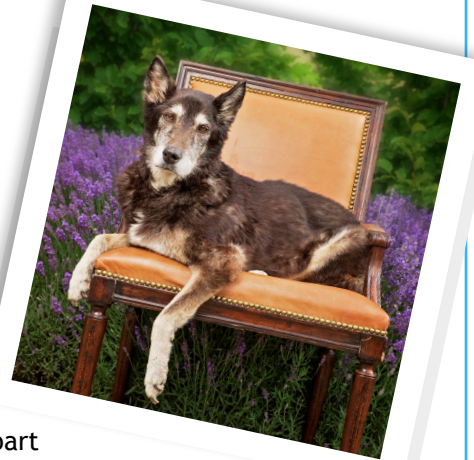
Issue 73

A World of Dogs: Are ‘Dog Years’ Really a Thing?

At some point you may have heard that one human year is the equivalent of seven dog years. This adage has been thrown about for decades, but is there any truth to it? The short answer - not really.

Researchers at the University of California explored this question by creating a formula that more accurately compared ageing in dogs and humans. This formula was based on pattern changes of methyl groups - small molecules made of one carbon and three hydrogen atoms. These are part of an organism’s ‘epigenetic clock’ and provide clues about the age of our genes. By matching and then comparing these patterns, scientists were able to more accurately discern physiological age differences between us and our canine friends.

Ageing in dogs was found to be a lot more complex than the 1:7 ratio we’re all familiar with. Dogs age much faster when young, with the first year of a dog’s life being closer to 30 equivalent years of a human. That’s a lot of growth! By four years, dogs are on par with a human in their 50s. This ageing then tends to slow down as they reach seven years.



Dog quotes

“Dog lovers are a good breed themselves.” - Gladys Taber

cont.

... 'dog years'

While this model may provide a more accurate picture, there still isn't a perfect formula for the ageing rates of dogs. The size of a dog seems to have a big impact, with smaller dogs tending to enjoy a longer lifespan. There isn't much consensus as to why, but all that rapid early growth is considered physiologically demanding, especially for the giants of the dog world. Certain breeds also live longer lives than others, with fewer health issues along the way. Then of course there's lifestyle - access to veterinary care, weight, and diet all play an important role.

We can all agree that the answer to how long dogs live for is "Not long enough." Sharing our lives with dogs is a source of enormous friendship, humour, and pleasure. So, give your dog an extra fuss today. Head outside with them and enjoy every single second of it.



Dog In the Spotlight: Welsh Corgi

One of the oldest British breeds and favoured by late Queen Elizabeth II, the Corgi's ancestry lies in the cattle herding dogs of Wales. They were experts at moving cattle by nipping at bovine heels, and their short stature helped to avoid getting kicked in the process. There are two distinct Corgi breeds: the Pembroke and the Cardigan.

Corgis are low-set and sturdy and possess impressive stamina. Prospective pet parents should be mindful of their natural herding traits, especially in a busy household with children. Due to

the work they were bred to perform Corgis can be quite vocal. On the bright side, you're unlikely to miss a delivery with a Corgi around.



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