

Long life for my furball

Small dogs live longer but it's realistic to imagine the possibility of prolonging the average lifespan of a person to 100 years and dogs to 20-25 years, says **Evžen Korec**



How would you feel if you could extend your dog's life by a few years? The main question for every dog owner is how long my faithful friend will be alive. An average lifespan was found for almost all breeds. The last determination was made by our research group at Tabor ZOO for Cane Corso Italiano dog breed. Body weight significantly influences longevity. The general rule in the animal kingdom is that larger animals live longer than smaller ones. This rule has few exceptions. One of the exceptions was found in dogs. Small dogs live longer than large dogs. See the table that shows the average lifespan for all breeds, where this value has been determined so far.

Breeds which live the longest are Lakeland Terrier (15.46 years), Irish Terrier (14.83), Cane Corso (14.63), Toy poodle (14.63), Swedish Vallhund (14.42), Tibetan Spaniel (14.42 years), Lhasa Apso (14.33 years), Australian Silky Terrier (14.25 years), Miniature Poodle (14.2 years), Cairn terrier (14 years). Breeds which have the shortest life are Grand Bleu de Gascoigne (4.54 years), Dogue de Bordeaux (5.5 years), Pyrenean sheepdog (5.79 years).

The average lifespan is calculated as the median based on a statistically significant group of dogs. However, this statistic does not exclude that some dogs can live significantly longer. There is also an interesting fact that crossbred dogs live longer than purebred dogs. The longevity of animals, as well as humans, is

Breed	Median Longevity (Years)		Median Longevity (Years)
Affen Pinscher	11,42	German Longhaired Pointer	10,5
Afghan Hound	11,92	German Pinscher	11,38
Airedale Terrier	10,75	German Shepherd Dog	11
Akita	9,92	German Shorthaired Pointer	12
Alaskan Malamute	10,71	German Spitz	11,33
American Cocker Spaniel	10,33	German Wirehaired Pointer	10
Anatolian/Karabash	10,75	Giant Schnauzer	10
Australian Cattle Dog	11,67	Glen of Imaal Terrier	10,42
Australian Shepherd	9	Golden Retriever	12,5
Australian Silky Terrier	14,25	Gordon Setter	11,08
Australian Terrier	12,08	Grand bleu de gascoigne	4,54
Basenji	13,54	Great Dane	6,5
Basset Fauve de Bretagne	10,42	Greenland Dog	8,46
Basset griffon vendeen	12,04	Grey Hound	10,8
Basset Hound	11,29	Griffon Bruxellois	12
Beagle	12,67	Hamilton Stovare	10,13
Bearded Collie	13,7	Havanese	10,25
Bedlington Terrier	13,38	Hovawart	12,92
Belgian Shepherd	12,5	Hungarian Puli	12,42
Bernese Mountain Dog	8	Hungarian Vizsla	12,92
Bichon Frise	12,92	Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla	9,83
Bloodhound	6,79	Irish Red & White Setter	11,42
Border Collie	13,5	Irish Terrier	14,83
Border Terrier	14	Irish Water Spaniel	9
Borzoi	9,08	Irish Wolfhound	7,04
Boston Terrier	10,92	Italian Greyhound	13,5
Bouvier des Flandres	11,33	Italian Spinone	9
Boxer	10,25	Jack Russell Terrier	13,4
Briard	11,17	Japanese Chin	9,25
Brittany	12,88	Japanese Spitz	12,29
Bull Terrier	11,2	Keeshond	12,21
Bulldog	8,4	Kerry Blue Terrier	11,5
Bullmastiff	7,46	King Charles Spaniel	12
Cairn Terrier	14	Komondor	9,13
Canaan Dog	14,63	Labrador Retriever	12,5
Cane Corso Italiano	9,29	Lakeland Terrier	15,46
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	11,38	Lancashire Heeler	11,75
Cesky Terrier	8,42	Large Munsterlander	11,33
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	10,75	Leonberger	7,08
Chihuahua	12,42	Lhasa Apso	14,33
Chinese Crested	10,08	Lowchen	10
Chow Chow	9,38	Maltese	12,25
Clumber Spaniel	10,33	Manchester terrier	12,83
Cocker Spaniel	11,5	Maremma sheepdog	10
Collie	12,67	Mastiff	7,1
Curly coated retriever	10,75	Miniature bull terrier	6,08
Dachshund	12,67	Miniature dachshund	13,5
Dalmatian	13,3	Miniature pinscher	13
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	12,17	Miniature poodle	14,2
Deerhound	8,67	Miniature schnauzer	12,08
Doberman	10,5	Newfoundland	9,67
Dogue de Bordeaux	5,5	Norfolk Terrier	11
English setter	11,58	Norwegian Buhund	12,67
English Springer Spaniel	13,3	Norwegian Elkhound	13,17
English Toy Terrier	12	Norwich Terrier	13,38
Estrela Mountain	9,75	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	8
Field Spaniel	11,63	Old English Sheepdog	10,75
Finnish Lapphund	7,33	Otterhound	10,21
Finnish Spitz	11,13	Papillon/Butterfly Dog	13,08
Flat-Coated Retriever	9,83	Parson Russell Terrier	13
Fox Terrier	13,13	Pekingese	11,42
French Bulldog	9	Pharaoh Hound	11,83
		Pointer	12,42

Polish lowland Sheepdog	9.58
Pomeranian	9.67
Portuguese Water Dog	11.42
Pug	11
Pyrenean Mountain Dog	9.58
Pyrenean Sheepdog	5.79
Rhodesian Ridgeback	11
Rottweiler	8.92
Rough Collie	12
Saluki/Gazelle Hound	12
Samoyed	12.5
Schipperke	13
Schnauzer (standard)	11.96
Scottish Terrier	12
Sealyham Terrier	12.25
Sharpei	6.29
Shetland Sheepdog	12.5
Shibalnu (Japanese)	7
Shih-tzu	13.3
Siberian Husky	12.58
Skye Terrier	11
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier	12.5
St Bernard	7
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	12.75
Standard Poodle	12
Sussex Spaniel	11.13
Swedish Vallhund	14.42
Tibetan Mastiff	11.92
Tibetan Spaniel	14.42
Tibetan Terrier	12.17
Toy Poodle	14.63
Weimaraner	12.6
Welsh Corgi	12.21
Welsh Springer Spaniel	12.58
Welsh Terrier	12.67
West Highland White Terrier	13.5
Whippet	12.79
Yorkshire Terrier	13



genetically determined. Identifying and analysing genes responsible for longevity is very promising as a way to achieve longevity in both humans and animals. Some genes related to longevity have already been found in mice and humans. Our research group managed to find the relationship between average lifespan and hair colour in Cane Corso Italiano dogs. (Korec, E., Chalupa, O., Han I, M., Korcová, J. and Bydžovská, M. 2017. Longevity of Cane Corso Italiano dog breed and its relationship with hair colour. Open Vet. J. 7(2), 170-173.) This relationship has been detected for the first time in mammals.

Analysis of longevity genes is the subject of research in top scientific teams all over the world. After exact identification and analysis of the genes responsible for longevity, it is realistic to imagine the possibility of prolonging the average lifespan of a person to 100 years and to prolong the average lifespan of dogs to



the age of 20-25 years. Our research group's concern is the study of genes related to longevity of the Cane Corso Italiano breed. In our research programme, we collaborate with approximately 70 breeding stations from 25 countries all over the world. The participants of our programme are dogs who have reached the age of 12 years. We isolate their DNA from cells collected from a mouth buccal swab and then we examine it by molecular genetic methods. We ask all owners, who have 12-year-old and older Cane Corso Italiano dogs, for participation in this research programme. Involving more dogs in the research programme will help us to explain longevity. For more information about the research programme, visit <http://www.koreccorso.cz/en/alms-of-research/>. This article is a popular version of the publication Korec, E., Longevity of Purebred Dog Breeds, published for the first time on the American scientific veterinary journal Approaches in Poultry, Dairy & Veterinary Sciences on November 1, 2017.

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