

## DNA My Dog Introduces New Canine DNA Test That Identifies Both Genetic Age and Breed of Dogs

*DNA My Dog's novel new NextGen Canine Genetic Age Test is the world's first commercially available test that uses telomeres to pinpoint a dog's genetic age, plus identifies the breed through an easy at-home cheek swab*

**TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA** – Nov. 20, 2018 – DNA My Dog just announced the launch of a new DNA breed identification service: the NextGen Canine Genetic Age Test. DNA My Dog NextGen offers the same breed identification service as DNA My Dog's standard test with the addition of the only commercially available canine telomeres test, which provides owners with the true genetic age of their dog.

“By providing the cellular age of their dog, the DNA My Dog Canine Genetic Age Test allows dog owners to take control of the aging process and recognize any signs of potential disease. The genetic age of a dog differs from its chronological age, and provides a unique look into the animal's health based on a dog's telomere length. Telomere length is an excellent indicator of health; having a telomere length shorter than what it should be for a particular breed and age can offer insight into health problems before they are diagnosed,” said DNA My Dog's Mindy Tenenbaum. “This test can be used to identify potential health risks including heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other illnesses and conditions, allowing these diseases to be identified and treatment options considered months - or even years - before they might be diagnosed in routine veterinary testing.”

This novel test is the first of its kind in the world and is an excellent tool in caring for the health of any dog. It provides a genetic age for a dog when the actual age is not known, a common issue with many rescue and shelter dogs.

A [telomere](#) is a region of repetitive nucleotide sequences at each end of each chromosome, which protects the end of the chromosome from deterioration or from fusion with neighboring chromosomes. Telomere testing has long been a scientific tool used to get information on cellular age for humans, and now this test is available for dogs.

“Age- and breed-adjusted telomere length is the [best method](#) available to date to assess biological age,” Tenenbaum explained. “Numerous [studies](#) have shown that telomere length is strongly associated with cardiovascular disease risk, nutritional deficiencies, cancer and other health problems. DNA My Dog's easy at-home tests provide useful biomarkers for risk assessment. Additional diagnostic testing can help determine whether any lifestyle and dietary changes or medical treatments have slowed down the aging process once potential health factors are recognized and actions are taken to heal.”

DNA My Dog's tests are sold in more than 15 countries throughout the world. Simply use a swab to painlessly collect cells from the inside of a dog's mouth and use the postage-paid shipping envelope provided with the test to send it to the company's lab.

“After we receive your samples, they are processed and run through DNA My Dog's extensive genetic database of certified dog breeds. All DNA matches from the unique cheek cells of your dog are recorded, and you get to discover the breeds found in your dog's unique canine heritage. We provide you with percentages of all the breeds found in your dog's DNA, along with the genetic age of your pet,” said Tenenbaum.

To learn more or to order the new NextGen breed identification and genetic age test, visit [www.dnamydog.com](http://www.dnamydog.com). DNA tests start at \$68.99, including free shipping, and results are available in two weeks.

### **About DNA My Dog**

DNA My Dog has been performing DNA breed testing in dogs since 2009, and offers a variety of genetic testing options for canines. Through its breed identification testing, DNA My Dog sponsors programs to assist rescues and shelters throughout North America in raising funds and getting dogs adopted. Find details on all the tests available, testimonials from satisfied customers and full information on DNA My Dog's shelter assistance program at [www.dnamydog.com](http://www.dnamydog.com). The new DNA My Dog NextGen Genetic Age Test (patent pending) is licensed to DNA My Dog from Dog Years Inc.

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### **LINKS**

Description and function of telomeres - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telomere>

Cell Reports content on telomere relationship to canine cellular aging - [https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247\(12\)00418-4?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2211124712004184%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247(12)00418-4?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2211124712004184%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

Telomeres, lifestyle, cancer, and aging, US National Library of Medicine - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3370421/>