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(54) Title: METHOD TO IMPROVE HEALTHY LIFESPAN OF A DOG

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog; said method comprising a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and b) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using the DNA methylation profile.

Method to improve healthy lifespan of a dog

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for determining the health status of a dog using a DNA methylation profile. In particular the invention relates to methods of selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog, or determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention, based on the health status determined from the DNA methylation profile.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

The ability to determine information regarding the health of a dog is desirable to inform about the dog's general health and well-being.

Chronological age is known to be a major indicator of general health status, with increasing chronological age associated with reduced health. However, depending on genetics, nutrition, and lifestyles, individuals may age slower or faster than their chronological age. Chronological age may therefore not always reflect an individual's rate of aging or risk of reduced health. On the other hand, the biological age of an individual (based on e.g. clinical biochemistry and cell biology measures) can vary compared to others of the same chronological age. Methods for determining biological age may be helpful for identifying individuals at risk of age-related disorders earlier than would be expected based on their chronological age (see e.g. WO2019/046725).

However, there is a need for further methods of determining the biological age of a dog and utilising measures of biological age to improve health outcomes for a dog.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for quantifying the health status of a dog based on a DNA methylation profile. The method enables a determination of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for a dog through assessment of a DNA methylation profile from the dog.

Existing methods that assess the health status of dogs determine biological age based on correlations between DNA methylation and chronological age. Calculating the biological age of an animal may comprise determining a DNA methylation profile compared to an expected DNA methylation profile at a given chronological age. Such methods are therefore based on the use of chronological age as the primary indicator of overall health.

In contrast, the present invention takes into account the direct predictive value of the DNA methylation profile on mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan. By way of example, a given DNA methylation marker may not directly correlate with chronological age, but may be indicative of a particular pathological condition and thus an increased mortality risk and/or a probability of a reduced healthy lifespan. The present methods may thus be described as identifying the mortality risk and/or a probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog. As such, the DNA methylation markers and DNA methylation profiles of the present invention do not necessarily correlate with chronological age, but are related to the difference between phenotypic and chronological age of the dog.

In a first aspect, the present invention provides a method for determining a mortality risk of a dog; said method comprising: a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and b) determining a mortality risk for the dog using the DNA methylation profile.

Determining a mortality risk may refer to determining a likelihood that a dog will live for a longer or shorter period of time compared to an equivalent dog of – for example – the same chronological age, sex and breed. Accordingly, the present methods may determine the probability of a lifespan, health span and/or longevity for a dog compared to an equivalent dog of – for example – the same chronological age, sex and breed. In addition, methods for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog may improve the probable lifespan, health span and/or longevity of the dog.

As used herein, ‘lifespan’ may refer to the length of time (e.g. years) for which a subject lives. ‘Health span’ may refer to length of time (e.g. years) of life without disease. ‘Longevity’ may refer to length of time (e.g. years) that a subject lives beyond its expected lifespan.

Suitably, mortality risk may be equated to the probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog; wherein a decreased mortality risk is equated to an increased probability of longer healthy lifespan for the dog or an increased mortality risk is equated to a decreased probability of longer healthy lifespan for the dog. The mortality risk may be represented as the difference between determined age (i.e. biological age) and chronological age of the dog. For example, an increase in the difference between the biological age determined by the present method compared to chronological age may be indicative of an increased mortality risk for the dog. A decrease in the difference between the biological age determined by the present method compared to chronological age may be indicative of a decreased mortality risk for the dog. Suitably, the mortality risk and/or a probability of a healthy lifespan may be described as the biological age of the dog. Suitably, the mortality risk and/or a probability of a healthy lifespan

may be described as the epigenetic age of the dog. Suitably, the present biological clock may be referred to as an epigenetic clock.

Suitably, determining that the biological age of the dog is greater than its chronological age is indicative of a higher mortality risk. Suitably, determining that the biological age of the dog is less than its chronological age is indicative of a reduced mortality risk. Suitably, determining that the biological age of the dog is greater than its chronological age is indicative of a reduced probability of a longer healthy lifespan. Suitably, determining that the biological age of the dog is less than its chronological age is indicative of an increased probability of a longer healthy lifespan.

Suitably, the present methods may be used to determine a biological age for a dog based on its mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan.

Accordingly, in a further aspect the invention provides a method for determining a biological age of a dog; said method comprising: a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and b) determining a biological age for the dog using the DNA methylation profile, wherein the DNA methylation profile is linked to the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog.

In all the present methods, determining or improving a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, also applies to determining or improving a biological age of a dog; wherein the biological age of the dog is determined using a DNA methylation profile that is linked to the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog.

In a further aspect, the invention provides a method for selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog, the method comprising: a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using the DNA methylation profile; and c) selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk determined in step b).

As used herein, 'selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog' may also encompass 'recommending a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog' or 'providing a recommended lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog'.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, said method comprising: a) applying a lifestyle

regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog, wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been selecting according to the previous aspect of the invention; b) after a time period of applying the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; c) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog after the time period of following the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, said method comprising: a) determining a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention selected based on the mortality risk determined in step a) to the dog; c) after a time period of applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; d) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk of the dog between step a) and step c).

Suitably, improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may refer to a reduction in the difference between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is greater than its chronological age. Further, improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may refer to maintaining or further increasing the difference between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is less than its chronological age. Alternatively, a worsening in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may refer to an increase in the difference between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is greater than its chronological age. A worsening in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may also refer to a decrease in the difference between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is less than its chronological age.

Suitably, improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may refer to a reduction in the rate of change between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is greater than its chronological age. For example, a dog's biological age may have been increasing by 1.5 years per 1 year increase in chronological age. Following a lifestyle and dietary regime intervention, a reduction in the rate

of change such that the dog's biological age subsequently increases by 1.25 years per 1 year increase in chronological age may provide an improvement in the dog's mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan.

Improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan may also refer to maintaining or increasing in the rate of change between the biological age and chronological age of the dog, where the biological age of the dog is less than its chronological age. For example, a dog's biological age may have been increasing by less than 1 year (e.g 0.9 years) per 1 year increase in chronological age. Following a lifestyle, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention, the rate of change may alter such that the dog's biological age subsequently increases by, for example, 0.8 years or fewer per 1 year increase in chronological age may provide an improvement in the dog's biological age.

The present methods for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog may advantageously allow ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving or maintaining the health of the dog. The use of such methods may advantageously allow particularly effective lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic interventions to be identified. In contrast, if a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention is determined to be ineffective based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog; an alternative lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may then be implemented.

Accordingly, the present method enables a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to be selected for the dog, based on its mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan as determined from the DNA methylation profile. For example, highly digestible and high-quality protein diets are generally recommended based upon the chronological age of a dog. For example, it may be recommended that a dog is switched to a senior diet around 7 or 8 years old. However, in the context of the present invention, the determination of an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. an increased biological age) for a dog compared to its chronological age may allow a determination to switch the dog to a senior diet at an earlier age. In contrast, a dog with a reduced mortality risk and/or increased probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. reduced biological age) compared to its chronological age may be able to stay on an adult diet for longer.

Suitably, the present methods may comprise selecting and/or applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to a dog following a determination that the dog has

an increased mortality risk and/or decreased probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for preventing or reducing the risk of a dog developing a disease; the method comprising:

- 5 a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; wherein the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined for the dog is associated with an increased likelihood to develop the disease; and
- b) selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on
10 the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step a);
wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention prevents or reduces the risk of the dog developing the disease.

Suitably, the disease is an age-related disease. For example, the age-related disease
15 osteoarthritis, dementia, cognitive dysfunction, pre-diabetic condition, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, obesity, gastrointestinal disorders, incontinence, kidney disease, sarcopenia, vision loss, hearing loss, osteoporosis, cataracts, cerebrovascular disease, and/or liver disease.

The method may optionally further comprise administering the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog. Suitably, the lifestyle regime may be a dietary intervention or a therapeutic modality.

- 20 In another aspect, the invention provides a method for selecting a dog as being suitable for receiving an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; the method comprising: a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) selecting a dog as
being suitable for receiving an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic
25 intervention if it has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

Suitably, whilst an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be effective for dogs based on chronological age, it may be particularly effective when applied to a dog with an increased mortality risk and/or decreased probability of a healthy lifespan
30 compared to its chronological age. As such, the present method may advantageously enable the selection of a dog that has an increased likelihood to respond, or improved magnitude of response, to the anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.

The lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be selected based on a determination that the dog has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. increased biological age) compared to its chronological age.

The lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be a dietary intervention.

5 The dietary intervention may be a calorie-restricted diet, a senior diet or a low protein diet.

The DNA methylation profile may be associated with increased biological age of (i) a tissue; (ii) an organ; or (iii) a physiological system, such as the immune, gastrointestinal, urinary, muscular, cardiovascular, and/or neurological system.

10 The invention further provides a dietary intervention for use in reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is administered to a dog with a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined by the method of the invention.

15 The invention further relates to the use of a dietary intervention to reduce the mortality risk and/or increase the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is administered to a dog with a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined by the method of the invention.

In another aspect the invention provides a computer-readable medium comprising instructions that when executed cause one or more processors to perform the method of the invention.

20 In another aspect the invention provides a computer system for determining a mortality risk of a dog; the computer system programmed to determine a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile of the dog.

25 In another aspect the invention provides a computer system for selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog, the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of: a) determining a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from the dog; and b) selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk determined in step a).

30 In another aspect the invention provides a computer system for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk for a dog, the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of: a) determining a mortality risk of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog before the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention and a sample obtained from the dog after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; and

b) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk of the dog between the sample obtained from the dog before and after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been applied.

5 In another aspect the invention provides a computer system for determining a likelihood that a dog will benefit from an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of: a) determining a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) identifying a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention if it has an increased mortality risk compared to its chronological
10 age.

In another aspect the invention provides a computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to determine a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile of the dog.

15 In another aspect the invention provides a computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to determine a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from the dog; and select a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk determined using a DNA methylation profile.

20 In another aspect the invention provides a computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to a) determine a mortality risk of a dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog before a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention and a sample obtained from the dog after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; and b) determine if there has been a change in the mortality risk of the dog between the sample obtained from the dog
25 before and after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been applied.

In another aspect the invention provides a computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to a) determine a mortality risk for a dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and b)
30 identify a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention if it has an increased mortality risk compared to its chronological age.

Advantageously, the present invention may allow a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan to be determined based on markers of multiple organ systems and functions.

Accordingly, the present methods may advantageously encompassed a range of potential organ dysfunctions.

Evaluating the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog allows one to test several aspects of the animal's wellbeing. First, it can predict whether this animal is more likely to need a dietary or supplement-based intervention. It can also be used to test the efficacy of a dietary or supplement-based intervention on aging.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figure 1 - Identification of blood biomarkers predictive of mortality risk. A cox proportional hazard model was fit for each of the 28 biomarkers assessed, including sex and breed class (small or medium). Values are adjusted for the p.value of each parameter to account for multiple comparison (by false discovery rate (fdr)). Parameters show are those with an adjusted fdr below 0.05.

Figure 2 – Demonstration of biomarkers that contribute to the predictive ability of the multi-parameter model for determining phenoage.

Figure 3 - Validation of an illustrative clock of the present invention in a calorie restriction study. Delta corresponds to the residuals of the regression model of Chronological Age vs predicted phenoDNAMAge. Dogs on a calorie restriction have a significantly lower biological Age (lower delta) compared to dogs on a control diet.

Figure 4 - Validation of an illustrative clock of the present invention in a calorie restriction study at 6 years old. Delta corresponds to the residuals of the regression model of Chronological Age vs predicted phenoDNAMAge. Dogs on a calorie restriction have a lower biological Age (lower delta) compared to dogs on a control diet.

Figure 5 - Adjusting linear mixed effects model (DogID as random effect). Dogs on a calorie restriction have significantly lower biological Age compared to dogs on a control diet.

Figure 6 - Survival between biologically younger and biologically older dogs as determined by an illustrative clock of the present invention

Figure 7 - A Cox proportional Hazard model fitted using sex and delta phenoDNAMAge (residuals from chronologicalAge vs predicted phenoDNAMAge), stratified on breed class (Small or Medium) on the training set. An increase in delta is associated with a higher mortality risk

Figure 8 – Assessment of reproducibility between technical replicates

Figure 9 – An illustrative biological clock comprising the top 3 methylation sites from the full biological clock correlates with chronological age

Figure 10 - An illustrative biological clock comprising the top 5 methylation sites from the full biological clock correlates with chronological age

5 **Figure 11** - An illustrative biological clock comprising the top 10 methylation sites from the full biological clock correlates with chronological age

Figure 12 - An illustrative biological clock comprising the top 20 methylation sites from the full biological clock correlates with chronological age

10 **Figure 13** - An illustrative biological clock comprising the top 50 methylation sites from the full biological clock correlates with chronological age

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various preferred features and embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of non-limiting examples. The skilled person will understand that they can combine all features of the invention disclosed herein without departing from the scope of the invention as disclosed.

It must be noted that as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms “a”, “an”, and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

20 The terms “comprising”, “comprises” and “comprised of” as used herein are synonymous with “including”, “includes” or “containing”, “contains”, and are inclusive or open-ended and do not exclude additional, non-recited members, elements or method steps. The terms “comprising”, “comprises” and “comprised of” also include the term “consisting of”.

Numeric ranges are inclusive of the numbers defining the range.

25 The publications discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that such publications constitute prior art to the claims appended hereto.

The methods and systems disclosed herein can be used by veterinarians, health-care professionals, lab technicians, pet care providers and so on.

Subject

The present methods are directed to canine subjects. Accordingly, the subject of the present invention is a dog.

In an alternative aspect, the subject may be a feline subject. Accordingly, in the alternative aspects of the invention, the subject is a cat. All disclosures herein are equally applicable to a cat, unless stated otherwise.

Breed

The present methods may utilise information regarding the breed of the dog. The dog may be categorised as a toy, small, medium, large or giant breed – for example. Suitably, the dog breed may be categorised based on the weight of the dog. Suitably, the dog breed may be categorised based on the average weight of a dog for a given breed.

Suitably, the dog may be categorised as a small or medium breed. Suitably, the categorisation is determined by the average weight of adult dogs of this breed. Suitably, a breed with an average weight below 10kg is categorised as a small breed and/or a breed with an average weight above 10kg is categorised as a medium breed.

In the alternative aspect where the subject is a cat, the cat may be a domestic cat. Suitably, the cat may be a Domestic Shorthair cat.

Sex

Suitably, the sex of the dog may be classified as male or female.

Chronological Age

Chronological age may be defined as the amount of time that has passed from the subject's birth to the given date. Chronological age may be expressed in terms of years, months, days, etc.

Suitably, the present method may be applied to a dog of any chronological age. In certain embodiments, the dog may be at least about 2 years old. Suitably, the dog may be at least about 2, at least about 3, at least about 4, at least about 5, at least about 6, at least about 7, at least about 8, at least about 9 or at least about 10 years old.

Suitably, the dog may be at least about 7 years old.

Sample

The present invention comprises a step of providing or determining a DNA methylation profile from one or more samples obtained from a subject.

Suitably, the sample is a blood, hair follicle, buccal swab, saliva or tissue sample.

5 Suitably, the sample is a hair follicle, buccal swab or saliva sample. Such sample types are particularly applicable if the sample is to be provided, for example, outside of a veterinarian environment – for example using a kit according to the present invention.

10 Suitably, the sample is derived from blood. The sample may contain a blood fraction or may be whole blood. The sample preferably comprises whole blood. The sample may comprise a peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) or lymphocyte sample. Techniques for collecting samples from a subject and extracting DNA (e.g. genomic DNA) from the sample are well known in the art.

The present methods may be performed on one or more samples obtained from the subject. For example, the method may be performed using a first sample obtained at a given time point and a second sample obtained following a time interval after the first sample was obtained.
15 The method may be performed more than once, on samples obtained from the same dog over a time period. For example, samples may be obtained repeatedly once per month, once a year, or once every two years. Suitably, the samples may be obtained around once per year (e.g. during an annual veterinary health check). This may be useful in determining the effects of a particular treatment or change in lifestyle – such as a dietary intervention or a change in
20 exercise regime.

In one embodiment, the method may be applied to a sample obtained from a subject prior to a change in lifestyle (e.g. a dietary product intervention or a change in exercise regime). In another embodiment, the method may be applied to a sample obtained from a subject prior to, and after the e.g. dietary product intervention or change in exercise regime. The method
25 may also be applied to samples obtained at predetermined times throughout the e.g. dietary product intervention or change in exercise regime. These predetermined times may be periodic throughout the e.g. dietary product intervention or change in exercise regime, e.g. every day or three days, or may depend on the subject being tested.

DNA Methylation

30 DNA methylation is the process by which a methyl group (CH₃) is added covalently to a cytosine base that is part of a DNA molecule. *In vivo*, this process is catalysed by a family of DNA methyltransferases (Dnmts), that generate the modified cytosine by transfer of a methyl group from S-adenyl methionine (SAM). The cytosine is modified on the 5th carbon atom, and

the modified residue is known as 5-methylcytosine (5mC). The DNA methylation may also comprise 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (5hmc).

DNA methylation is an example of an epigenetic mechanism, i.e. it is capable of modifying gene expression without modification of the underlying DNA sequence. DNA methylation can, for example, inhibit the expression of genes by acting as a recruitment signal for repressive factors, or by directly blocking transcription factor recruitment. DNA methylation predominantly occurs in the genome of somatic mammalian cells at sites of adjacent cytosine and guanine that form a dinucleotide (CpG). While non-CpG methylation is observed in embryonic development, in the adult these modifications are much reduced in most cell types. CpG islands are stretches of DNA that have a high CpG density, but are generally unmethylated. These regions are associated with promoter regions, particularly promoter regions of housekeeping genes, and are thought to be maintained in a permissive state to allow gene expression.

DNA methylation has been found to vary with age in humans and other animals. Aged mammalian tissues show overall DNA hypomethylation, which is considered to be due to a gradual loss or mis-targeting of DNMT1 methyltransferase activity, but local hypermethylation of CpG islands. Local hypermethylation can result in repression of certain genes and this can contribute towards age-related disease. The link between epigenetic changes in DNA methylation with age allows the estimation of a “biological age” using “DNA methylation clocks”. Generally, these clocks have been trained against chronological age using supervised machine learning approaches, and deviations of the “clock age” from the actual chronological age for an individual is considered an indicator of “biological” age. This correlates with the chronological age of the individual, but deviations from correlation can indicate potential risk of age-related disease or illness in individuals.

The detection of specific methylated DNA can be accomplished by multiple methods (see e.g. Zuo et al., 2009; Epigenomics. 1(2):331-345) and Rauluseviciute *et al.*; Clinical Epigenetics; 2019; 11(193)). A number of methods are available for detection of differentially methylated DNA at specific loci in samples such as blood, urine, stool or saliva. These methods are able to distinguish 5-methyl cytosine or methylated DNA from unmethylated DNA, and subsequently quantify the proportion of methylated and unmethylated DNA for a particular genomic site.

The present methods may comprise determining a DNA methylation profile for dog using any suitable method. Suitable methods include, but are not limited to, those described below.

Enzymatic Methyl-seq (EM-seq)

Suitably, enzymatic approaches are used to detect 5mC and 5hmC. By way of example, Enzymatic Methyl-seq (EM-seq) may be used.

Typically in EM-seq, in a first enzymatic step, 5mC is oxidized to 5hmC, then 5fC and finally 5caC by the activity of Tet methylcytosine dioxygenase 2 (TET2). In addition, use of a T4-BGT enzyme glucosylates both the pre-existing 5hmC and that produced by TET2 activity. In a second enzymatic step, following denaturation of the double-stranded DNA, the enzyme apolipoprotein B mRNA editing enzyme catalytic polypeptide-like 3A (APOBEC3A) is used to deaminate cytosines, but is unable to deaminate the oxidised or glycosylated forms of 5mC and 5hmC. Only unmethylated cytosines are deaminated to form uracil bases. Prior to the first enzymatic step, the DNA fragments may be generated from mechanical shearing and end-repaired, A-tailed, and ligated to sequencing adaptors, which can be carried out using the NEBNext® DNA Ultra II reagents (NEB), for example. Following the second enzymatic step, the deaminated single-stranded DNA may be amplified by PCR reactions, using polymerase such as NEBNext® Q5U™ which can amplify uracil containing templates, and the resulting library can be sequenced or analysed in an identical manner to the DNA sample generated by bisulfite sequencing. The output of EM-seq is generally the same as whole genome bisulfite sequencing, but with the use of less DNA-damaging reagents, which consequently reduces sample loss, and can outperform bisulfite-conversion prepared samples in coverage, sensitivity and accuracy of cytosine methylation calling. An illustrative EM-seq method is described by Vaisvila *et al.* (Genome Research; 2021; 31:1-10).

Bisulfite Conversion-Based Methods

Bisulfite conversion utilizes the selective conversion of unmethylated cytosines to uracil when treated with sodium bisulfite. Denatured DNA is treated with sodium bisulfite, which converts all unmodified cytosines to uracil, and subsequent PCR amplification converts these residues to thymines. Analysing the produced DNA sequences can be done via many different methods, examples of which include but are not limited to: denaturing gel electrophoresis, single-strand conformation polymorphism, melting curves, fluorescent real-time PCR (MethyLight), MALDI mass spectrometry, array hybridization, and sequencing (e.g. Whole Genome Bisulfite Sequencing WGBS). Recently developed techniques such as SeqCap Epi enrich sequences of interest prior to sequencing that enables deeper coverage over a more focused area). Comparison of the abundance of sequences in a bisulfite-converted sample against those of an untreated control allows analysis of methylation at a target site, where the proportion of converted sequences is indicative of the level of methylation at the target site.

Further variants of the bisulfite conversion method are available that are able to distinguish 5mC from the oxidised form 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (5hmC), which behaves identically to 5mC under standard bisulfite conversion, and to detect the further modification 5-formylcytosine (5fC). These methods, such as oxBS-Seq and redBS-Seq, utilise oxidation and reduction of these markers to modify the susceptibility of each species to bisulfite conversion, and through comparative analysis quantify the amount of each modification at target loci.

Selective Restriction Endonuclease Digestion Methods

Methods of analysing DNA methylation patterns exist may involve the use of restriction enzymes. These include, for example, restriction landmark genomic scanning (RLGS) (Costello et al., 2000; Nat Genet.;24(2):132-8), methylation-sensitive representational difference analysis (MS-RDA) (Ushijima et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1997 Mar 18;94(6):2284-9), and differential methylation hybridization (DMH) (Huang et al., Cancer Res. 1997 Mar 15;57(6):1030-4). Restriction endonucleases can be methylation dependent in their digestion activity. This specificity can be used to differentiate methylated and unmethylated sequences. Certain restriction enzymes, for example *Bst*UI, *Hpa*II and *Not*I are sensitive to methylated recognition sequences. Others, such as *Mcr*BC, are specific for methylated sequences.

As an example, differential methylation hybridisation (DMH) (Huang et al., as above]) requires an initial fragmentation of the genome with a bulk genome restriction enzyme, such as *Mse*I, which fragments the genome into lengths of less than 200 bp. Following this step, the genome fragments are digested using a methylation-sensitive restriction endonuclease (MREs), or in some versions of the technique, a cocktail of MREs to improve coverage. Depending on the specificity of enzyme or enzymes used, either the methylated or the unmethylated sequences will be degraded. Digested sequences will not be amplified in a subsequent PCR step. The resultant PCR products are suitable for further processing and analysis by sequencing or microarray hybridisation in combination with fluorescent dyes.

Suitably, the present methods utilise a DNA methylation profile generating by a method comprising the use of one or more MREs.

Suitable comparators can be used to investigate methylation state between conditions. DNA from healthy subjects can be compared with aged or diseased subjects to detect changes in methylation state (Huang et al., Hum Mol Genet. 1999 Mar;8(3):459-70). Alternatively, a methylation-insensitive version of the secondary digest enzyme, such as the *Hpa*II isoschizomer *Msp*I, can be used to generate a control sample, so that intra- or inter- genomic

DNA methylation comparisons can be made (Khulan et al., Genome Res. 2006 Aug;16(8):1046-55).

In some embodiments, methods for detecting methylation include randomly shearing or randomly fragmenting the genomic DNA, cutting the DNA with a methylation-dependent or methylation-sensitive restriction enzyme and subsequently selectively identifying and/or analyzing the cut or uncut DNA. Selective identification can include, for example, separating cut and uncut DNA (e.g., by size) and quantifying a sequence of interest that was cut or, alternatively, that was not cut. Alternatively, the method can encompass amplifying intact DNA after restriction enzyme digestion, thereby only amplifying DNA that was not cleaved by the restriction enzyme in the area amplified. In some embodiments, amplification can be performed using primers that are gene specific. Alternatively, adaptors can be added to the ends of the randomly fragmented DNA, the DNA can be digested with a methylation-dependent or methylation-sensitive restriction enzyme, intact DNA can be amplified using primers that hybridize to the adaptor sequences. In this case, a second step can be performed to determine the presence, absence or quantity of a particular gene in an amplified pool of DNA. In some embodiments, the DNA is amplified using real-time, quantitative PCR.

Suitably, the digestion of nucleic acid is detected by selective hybridization of a probe or primer to the undigested nucleic acid. Alternatively, the probe selectively hybridizes to both digested and undigested nucleic acid but facilitates differentiation between both forms, e.g., by electrophoresis. Suitable detection methods for achieving selective hybridization to a hybridization probe include, for example, Southern or other nucleic acid hybridization.

Suitable hybridization conditions may be determined based on the melting temperature (T_m) of a nucleic acid duplex comprising the probe. The skilled artisan will be aware that optimum hybridization reaction conditions should be determined empirically for each probe, although some generalities can be applied. Preferably, hybridizations employing short oligonucleotide probes are performed at low to medium stringency. In the case of a GC rich probe or primer or a longer probe or primer a high stringency hybridization and/or wash is preferred. A high stringency is defined herein as being a hybridization and/or wash carried out in about 0.1 x SSC buffer and/or about 0.1% (w/v) SDS, or lower salt concentration, and/or at a temperature of at least 65°C., or equivalent conditions. Reference herein to a particular level of stringency encompasses equivalent conditions using wash/hybridization solutions other than SSC known to those skilled in the art.

Affinity Enrichment Based Methods

Distinction of methylated from unmethylated DNA can be accomplished by the use of antibodies, such as anti-5mC, and/or methylated-CpG binding proteins, that contain a methyl-CpG-binding domain (MBD). The antibodies of MBD-domain proteins are able to specifically isolate methylated DNA over unmethylated DNA. Methods that utilize antibodies are commonly referred to as MeDIP, whilst methods utilizing methylated-CpG binding proteins are often known as MBD or MIRA approaches.

These methods require initial fragmentation of the genome, which can be carried out with bulk genome digest with an enzyme such as *MseI*, which cuts frequently, followed by affinity purification of methylated fragments. The input DNA can be compared to the purified methylated DNA by microarray hybridisation or sequencing to obtain comparative analysis of methylation levels at specific sites.

Further variants of affinity enrichment-based methods are available, such as MethylCap-Seq or MBD-Seq. These methods reduce sample complexity by using a salt gradient to elute methylated DNA fragments in a methy-CpG-abundance dependent manner, segregating CpG islands and other highly methylated loci from less CpG dense loci. The fractions can then be sequenced separately improving sequence coverage.

Single molecule sequencing-based approaches

Contemporary sequencing methods are able to sequence single molecules directly. Single-molecule real-time (SMRT) DNA sequencing is available, for example the Sequel systems from Pacific Biosciences and has been shown to be able to identify modified bases such as methylated cytosine based on the polymerase kinetics. Nanopore sequencing devices, such as the MinION nanopore sequencer from Oxford Nanopore Technologies, which are able to individually sequence long strands of DNA, are also able to detect base modifications, including methylation.

DNA methylation sites

Suitably, a DNA methylation site may refer to the presence or absence of a 5mC at a single cytosine, suitably a single CpG dinucleotide.

Suitably, a DNA methylation site may refer to the presence or absence of methylation (i.e. the number of 5mC or percentage of 5mC) across a plurality of CpG sites within a DNA region.

Suitably, a DNA site methylation site may refer to the level of methylation (i.e. the number of 5mC or percentage of 5mC) across a plurality of CpG sites within a DNA region. A “DNA region” may refer to a specific section of genomic DNA. These DNA regions may be specified either by reference to a gene name or a set of chromosomal coordinates. Both the gene

names and the chromosomal coordinates would be well known to, and understood by, the person of skill in the art.

Suitably, gene names and/or coordinates may be based on the “Tasha” dog reference genome (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF_000002285.5; Jagannathan *et al.*; Genes (Bsaal); 2021; 12(6); 847).

The DNA region may define a section of DNA in proximity to the promoter of a gene, for example. Promoter regions are known to be rich in CpG. By way of example, the DNA region may refer to about 3kb upstream to about 3kb downstream; about 2kb upstream to about 2kb downstream; about 2kb upstream to about 1kb downstream; about 2kb upstream to about 0.5kb downstream; about 1kb upstream to about 0.5kb downstream; about 0.5kb upstream to about 0.5kb downstream of a promoter. Suitably, the DNA region may refer to about 1kb upstream to about 0.5kb downstream of a promoter.

Suitably, the DNA region may comprise or consist of CpG sites that are less than about 5000, less than about 4000, less than about 3000, less than about 2000, less than about 1000, less than about 500, or less than about 200 bases apart.

Suitably, the DNA region may comprise or consist of CpG sites that are between about 200 to about 5000, about 200 to about 4000, about 200 to about 3000, about 200 to about 2000, or about 200 to about 1000 bases apart.

Suitably, the DNA region may comprise one or more CpG islands. Suitably, the DNA region may consist of a CpG island.

A “CpG island” may refer to a DNA region comprising at least 200 bp, a GC percentage greater than 50%, and an observed-to-expected CpG ratio greater than 60%.

Suitably, the DNA methylation sites do not comprise X and/or Y chromosome CpGs.

Suitably, the DNA methylation sites do not comprise CpGs known to comprise a SNP at the CpG.

Reference to each of the genes/DNA regions detailed above should be understood as a reference to all forms of these molecules and to fragments or variants thereof. As would be appreciated by the person of skill in the art, some genes are known to exhibit allelic variation between individuals or single nucleotide polymorphisms. Variants include nucleic acid sequences from the same region sharing at least 90%, 95%, 98%, 99% sequence identity i.e. having one or more deletions, additions, substitutions, inverted sequences etc. relative to the

DNA regions described herein. Accordingly, the present invention should be understood to extend to such variants which, in terms of the present applications, achieve the same outcome despite the fact that minor genetic variations between the actual nucleic acid sequences may exist between individuals. The present invention should therefore be understood to extend to all forms of DNA which arise from any other mutation, polymorphic or allelic variation.

In terms of screening for the methylation of these gene regions, it should be understood that the assays can be designed to screen for specific DNA. It is well within the skill of the person in the art to choose which strand to analyse and to target that strand based on the chromosomal coordinates. In some circumstances, assays may be established to screen both strands.

"Methylation status" may be understood as a reference to the presence, absence and/or quantity of methylation at a particular nucleotide, or nucleotides, within a DNA region. The methylation status of a particular DNA sequence (e.g. DNA region as described herein) can indicate the methylation state of every base in the sequence or can indicate the methylation state of a subset of the base pairs (e.g. of cytosines or the methylation state of one or more specific restriction enzyme recognition sequences) within the sequence, or can indicate information regarding regional methylation density within the sequence without providing precise information of where in the sequence the methylation occurs. The methylation status can optionally be represented or indicated by a "methylation value."

Suitably, DNA methylation may be determined using an EM-Seq strategy. In such methods, a methylation level can be determined as the fraction of 'C' bases out of 'C'+ 'U' total bases at a target CpG site "i" following an enzyme and APOBEC3A conversion treatment. In other embodiments, the methylation level can be determined as the fraction of 'C' bases out of 'C'+ 'T' total bases at site "i" following enzyme and APOBEC3A conversion treatment and subsequent nucleic acid amplification. The mean methylation level at each site may then be evaluated to determine if one or more threshold is met.

In some embodiments, in particular when bisulfite conversion and sequencing methods are used, a methylation level can be determined as the fraction of 'C' bases out of 'C'+ 'U' total bases at a target CpG site "i" following a bisulfite treatment. In other embodiments, the methylation level can be determined as the fraction of 'C' bases out of 'C'+ 'T' total bases at site "i" following a bisulfite treatment and subsequent nucleic acid amplification. The mean methylation level at each site may then be evaluated to determine if one or more threshold is met.

Alternatively, a methylation value can be generated, for example, by quantifying the amount of intact DNA present following restriction digestion with a methylation dependent restriction enzyme. In this example, if a particular sequence in the DNA is quantified using quantitative PCR, an amount of template DNA approximately equal to a mock treated control indicates the sequence is not highly methylated whereas an amount of template substantially less than occurs in the mock treated sample indicates the presence of methylated DNA at the sequence. Accordingly, a value, i.e., a methylation value, for example from the above described example, represents the methylation status and can thus be used as a quantitative indicator of the methylation status. This is of particular use when it is desirable to compare the methylation status of a sequence in a sample to a threshold value.

The present invention is not to be limited by a precise number of methylated residues that are considered to indicative of biological age, because some variation between samples will occur. The present invention is also not necessarily limited by positioning of the methylated residue (e.g. a specific methylation site).

In one embodiment, a screening method can be employed which is specifically directed to assessing the methylation status of one or more specific cytosine residues or the corresponding cytosine at position $n+1$ on the opposite DNA strand.

Enrichment and detection methods

Determining a DNA methylation profile may comprise a step of enriching a DNA sample for selected DNA regions. For example, the methods may comprise a step of enriching a DNA sample for DNA regions comprising the DNA methylation sites which comprise the DNA methylation profile.

Suitable enrichment methods are known in the art and include, for example, amplification or hybridisation based methods. Amplification enrichment typically refers to e.g. PCR based enrichment using primers against the DNA regions to be enriched. Any suitable amplification format may be used, such as, for example, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), rolling circle amplification (RCA), inverse polymerase chain reaction (iPCR), in situ PCR, strand displacement amplification, or cycling probe technology.

Hybridisation enrichment or capture-based enrichment typically refers to the use of hybridisation probes (or capture probes) that hybridise to DNA regions to be enriched.

The hybridisation probe(s) may be attached directly to a solid support, or may comprise a moiety, e.g. biotin, to allow binding to a solid support suitable for capturing biotin moieties (e.g. beads coated with streptavidin). In any case, DNA comprising sequence which is

complementary to the probe may be captured thus allowing to separate DNA comprising DNA regions of interest from not comprising the DNA regions of interest. Hence, such a capturing step allows to enrich for the DNA regions of interest. For example, the DNA regions may be DNA regions in proximity to gene promoters.

- 5 An array used herein can vary depending on the probe composition and desired use of the array. For example, the nucleic acids (or CpG sites) detected in an array can be at least 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 0.1 million, 1 million, 10 million, 100 million or more. Alternatively or additionally, the nucleic acids (or CpG sites) detected can be selected to be no more than 100 million, 10 million, 1 million, 0.1 million, 10,000, 1,000, 100 or less. Similar ranges can be
 10 achieved using nucleic acid sequencing approaches such as those known in the art; e.g. Next Generation or massively parallel sequencing.

Suitably, an enrichment step may be performed before or after the step of separating or differentially treating methylated and unmethylated DNA.

- As used herein, the term “enriching” or “enrichment” for “DNA” or “DNA regions” means a
 15 process by which the (absolute) amount and/or proportion of the DNA comprising the desired sequence(s) is increased compared to the amount and/or proportion of DNA comprising the desired sequence(s) in the starting material. In this regard, enrichment by amplification increases the amount and proportion of the desired sequence(s). Enrichment by capture-based enrichment increases the proportion of DNA comprising the desired sequence(s).

- 20 Following processing of the DNA to distinguish methylated and unmethylated sites, the present methods may further comprise the step of identifying the sites which were methylated or unmethylated (i.e. in the original sample).

The identification step may comprise any suitable method known in the art, for example array detection or sequencing (e.g. next generation sequencing).

- 25 A sequencing identification step preferably comprises next generation sequencing (massively parallel or high throughput sequencing). Next generation sequencing methods are well known in the art, and in principle, any method may be contemplated to be used in the invention. Next generation sequencing technologies may be performed according to the manufacturer's instructions (as e.g. provided by Roche, Illumina or Applied Biosystems).
- 30 In a preferred embodiment, the sample is treated by converting DNA methylation using enzymatic reactions, performing whole genome library preparation and measuring the methylation profile by sequencing (EM-Seq).

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the sample is treated by converting DNA methylation using enzymatic reactions, performing whole genome library preparation, hybridizing the whole-genome-converted library preparation to capture probes (preferably capture probes capable of capturing DNA regions in proximity to gene promoters); and measuring the methylation profile by sequencing (EM-Seq).

DNA methylation profile

A “DNA methylation profile” or “methylation profile” may refer to the presence, absence, quantity or level of 5mC at one or more DNA methylation sites. Preferably, “methylation profile” refers to the presence, absence, quantity or level of 5mC at a plurality of DNA methylation sites. Thus, the presence, absence, quantity or level of 5mC at each individual DNA methylation site within the plurality of sites may be assessed and contribute to the determination of the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog. The quality and/or the power of the methods may thus be improved by combining values from multiple DNA methylation markers.

Suitably, the present biological clock comprises the methylation profile from a plurality of methylation sites.

Suitably, presence or absence of 5mC from at least 3, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 50, at least 100, at least 200, at least 500, at least 1000, at least 2000, at least 5000, at least 10000, at least 50000, at least 100000, at least 250000, or at least 500000 DNA methylation sites may be used to determine mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. biological age) of the dog.

Suitably, the methylation profile may refer to the presence or absence of 5mC from at least 100, at least 200, at least 500, at least 1000 or at least 2000 DNA methylation sites.

Suitably, the methylation profile may refer to the presence or absence of 5mC from about 100, about 200, about 500, about 1000 or about 2000 DNA methylation sites.

In order to generate a biological clock for determining mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan, an initial methylation profile may be processed or streamlined to produce a restricted methylation profile which is then used to generate the biological clock.

By way of example, an initial methylation profile may be processed or streamlined by – for example - using DNA regions rather than individual cytosines, by selecting a subset of methylation sites that are associated with a particular physiological or biochemical pathway, performing a correlation analysis and retaining one or more representative DNA methylation

sites per cluster, or performing differential analysis to pre-select DNA methylation sites or retain DNA methylation sites that vary more between young and old dogs,

For example, the DNA region(s) may be any DNA region(s) as defined herein.

Suitably, the methylation profile may refer to DNA methylation sites of genes that are associated with a particular physiological or biochemical pathway. As such, the methylation profile may enable a biological age of a particular tissue, organ, or physiological system to be determined. Determining a biological age for a particular tissue, organ or physiological system may advantageously allow the method to be utilised in a way which focuses on pathologies and diseases of that tissue, organ or physiological system. For example, if a particular breed of dog is known to be associated with muscular or cardiovascular disease, it may be advantageous to determine a biological age for that physiological system.

Suitably, the physiological system may be the inflammatory, muscular, cardiovascular, and/or neurological system.

A biological age for a particular tissue, organ, or physiological system may be determined using a DNA methylation profile comprising, or consisting of, methylation sites from genes that are preferentially or specifically expressed by that tissue, organ, or physiological system. Classifications of genes by a particular tissue, organ, or physiological system are publicly available at, for example, Gene Ontology (<http://geneontology.org/>), the KEGG pathway database (<https://www.genome.jp/kegg/>), or MSigDB (<https://www.gsea-msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/index.jsp>).

In some embodiments, a threshold selects those sites having the highest-ranked mean methylation values for epigenetic age predictors. For example, the threshold can be those sites having a mean methylation level that is the top 50%, the top 40%, the top 30%, the top 20%, the top 10%, the top 5%, the top 4%, the top 3%, the top 2%, or the top 1% of mean methylation levels across all sites "i" tested for a predictor, e.g., a biological clock.

Alternatively, the threshold can be those sites having a mean methylation level that is at a percentile rank greater than or equivalent to 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, or 99. In other embodiments, a threshold can be based on the absolute value of the mean methylation level. For instance, the threshold can be those sites having a mean methylation level that is greater than 99%, greater than 98%, greater than 97%, greater than 96%, greater than 95%, greater than 90%, greater than 80%, greater than 70%, greater than 60%, greater than 50%, greater than 40%, greater than 30%, greater than 20%, greater than 10%, greater than 9%, greater than 8%, greater than 7%, greater than 6%, greater than 5%, greater than 4%, greater than

3%, or greater than 2%. The relative and absolute thresholds can be applied to the mean methylation level at each site "i" individually or in combination. As an illustration of a combined threshold application, one may select a subset of sites that are in the top 3% of all sites tested by mean methylation level and also have an absolute mean methylation level of greater than 5 6%. The result of this selection process is a DNA methylation profile, of specific hypermethylated sites (e.g., CpG sites) that are considered the most informative for mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determination.

Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise at least one methylation site as listed in Table 3.

- 10 Suitably, the methylation site(s) may be defined as the methylation markers present in any one or more of SEQ ID NO: 1-261. SEQ ID NO: 1-261 show the sequence either side of the methylation marker in the "Tasha" dog reference genome (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF_000002285.5; Jagannathan et al.; Genes (Bsaal); 2021; 12(6); 847). The "CG" methylation marker is the 26th and 27th nucleotides in the 15 sequence (i.e. there are 25 nucleotides preceding the methylation marker and 25 nucleotides following the methylation marker).

- Suitably, the methylation sites may be defined as the intervening position in the column labelled "Site" in Table 3. For example, for site chr1:3844418-3844420, the methylation marker is chr1: 3844419. Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise at least 3, at least 5, at 20 least 10, at least 20, at least 50, at least 100, at least 150, at least 200 or preferably each of the methylation sites as listed in Table 3.

Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise the methylation sites chr2.32494387.32494389; chr22.46374563.46374565; and chr6.45773846.45773848. These sites are shown in Table 4.

- 25 Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise the methylation sites chr2.32494387.32494389; chr22.46374563.46374565; chr6.45773846.45773848; chr5.61645225.61645227; and chr3.70831746.70831748. These sites are shown in Table 5.

- Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise the methylation sites chr2.32494387.32494389; chr22.46374563.46374565; chr6.45773846.45773848; 30 chr5.61645225.61645227; chr3.70831746.70831748; chr15.10856498.10856500; chr16.8886545.8886547; chr3.46843750.46843752; chr20.44942213.44942215; and chr20.57347921.57347923. These sites are shown in Table 6.

Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise the methylation sites chr2.32494387.32494389; chr22.46374563.46374565; chr6.45773846.45773848; chr5.61645225.61645227; chr3.70831746.70831748; chr15.10856498.10856500; chr16.8886545.8886547; chr3.46843750.46843752; chr20.44942213.44942215; 5 chr20.57347921.57347923; chr24.21051024.21051026; chr33.26512711.26512713; chr23.37987526.37987528; chr5.32347978.32347980; chr6.60675998.60676000; chr19.44679975.44679977; chr10.7411293.7411295; chr33.26512692.26512694; chr1.121182146.121182148; and chr17.62156690.62156692. These sites are shown in Table 7.

10 Suitably, the DNA methylation profile may comprise the methylation sites chr2.32494387.32494389; chr22.46374563.46374565; chr6.45773846.45773848; chr5.61645225.61645227; chr3.70831746.70831748; chr15.10856498.10856500; chr16.8886545.8886547; chr3.46843750.46843752; chr20.44942213.44942215; chr20.57347921.57347923; chr24.21051024.21051026; chr33.26512711.26512713; 15 chr23.37987526.37987528; chr5.32347978.32347980; chr6.60675998.60676000; chr19.44679975.44679977; chr10.7411293.7411295; chr33.26512692.26512694; chr1.121182146.121182148; chr17.62156690.62156692; chr35.23853863.23853865; chr17.49222883.49222885; chr14.5949013.5949015; chr5.67427228.67427230; chr20.43366718.43366720; chr24.12518910.12518912; chr29.19479611.19479613; 20 chr4.36180013.36180015; chr35.23852932.23852934; chr1.58324050.58324052; chr9.12522577.12522579; chr5.32711703.32711705; chr33.23473772.23473774; chr2.51831832.51831834; chr20.46098568.46098570; chr11.24476652.24476654; chr1.100289525.100289527; chr17.33851462.33851464; chr6.12827818.12827820; chr20.54301453.54301455; chr1.19541665.19541667; chr5.55848493.55848495; 25 chr10.44524681.44524683; chr9.50976682.50976684; chr33.26512695.26512697; chr24.24968751.24968753; chr10.18237423.18237425; chr35.23853763.23853765; chr9.1046331.1046333; and chr20.49940551.49940553

Determination of DNA methylation sites / DNA methylation profiles indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan

30 The present invention comprises utilising a DNA methylation profile to determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog. As such, the present invention comprises utilising a DNA methylation profile to generate a biological clock which is associated with mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan. The present biological clock may also be referred to as an 'epigenetic clock'.

The provision of DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile that is indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan may be achieved through training datasets and machine learning approaches, for example. Suitably, the machine learning approaches may be supervised machine learning approaches.

- 5 By way of example, DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile may be trained against a dataset comprising dogs of a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age. Suitably, the DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile may be trained against a dataset comprising dogs of a known mortality outcome and chronological age in combination with known breed and/or sex.
- 10 For example, models for DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan may be provided by training a dataset of methylation status at a plurality of DNA methylation sites against a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age using a machine learning framework, and testing against a with-held cohort to validate the veracity of the model.
- 15 The machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised model to a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age (and optionally breed and/or sex); for example using glmnet R package.

Suitably, the penalised model may be a penalized Cox regression, a Least Angle Regression path of solution (LARS) Cox regression or a penalized survival model; for example.

- 20 The machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalized Cox regression to a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age (and optionally breed and/or sex); for example using glmnet R package.

Suitably, the machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised model, preferably a penalized Cox regression, of known mortality outcome (alive or dead)/survival explained by a DNA methylation profile and chronological age, (and optionally breed and/or sex).

25

Suitably, the machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised model, preferably a penalized Cox regression, of known mortality outcome (alive or dead)/survival explained by a DNA methylation profile, chronological age, breed and sex.

As used herein 'known mortality outcome (alive or dead)' may also be referred to as 'survival'.

Suitably, the machine learning framework may be used to determine a model comprising a set of DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile that is indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan.

- 5 The model may comprise the methylation status at a plurality of DNA methylation sites; wherein the methylation status at each site is considered in the model by multiplying by a coefficient value.

Suitably, sex is may be coded as a numerical value with 0 for female and 1 for male.

Suitably, breed may be coded as a numerical value with 0 for small breeds and 1 for medium breeds.

- 10 The biological age of the dog may be expressed in terms of years, months, days, etc.

- The coefficient value for each parameter typically depends on the measurement units of all the variables in the model. As would be understood by the skilled person, the value for each coefficient value will therefore depend on, for example, the number and nature of the different parameters used in the model and the nature of the training data provided. Accordingly, routine statistical methods may be applied to a training data set in order to arrive at coefficient values. Such methods include, for example, computation of two gompertz or weibull functions on a training set (e.g. where the status of the dog (alive or dead) is known), one that models survival as a function of the methylation profile, chronological age, breed class (small or medium dog) and sex (model 1) and a second function that only considers chronological age, breed class and sex (model 2). These models may be fit using the flexsurv package (v 2.1) in the R software environment.

The biological age may be defined as the time variable ("chronological age") at which the survival probability of the animal given by model 2 is equal to the survival probability at their chronological age given by the model 1.

- 25 Models for DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan may be provided by training a dataset of methylation status at a plurality of DNA methylation sites against a PhenoAge predicted at the age of DNA sample collection, and testing against a withheld cohort to validate the veracity of the model.

- 30 Methods for determining the PhenoAge of a dog or cat are described in PCT/EP2023/061058 and PCT/EP2023/061059; respectively. Calculation of PhenoAge takes into account the direct predictive value of blood biomarkers on mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan. By way of example, a given biomarker may not directly correlate with chronological age, but

may be indicative of a particular pathological condition and thus an increased mortality risk and/or a probability of a reduced healthy lifespan.

Determining the PhenoAge of a dog may comprise determining the level of one or more biomarker(s) in one or more samples obtained from the dog, wherein the one or more biomarker(s) is selected from white blood cell count, serum albumin, serum alkaline phosphatase, serum creatine kinase, haemoglobin, haematocrit, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, serum glucose, mean red cell volume, serum globulin, serum calcium, platelet count, and/or red blood cell count.

Suitably, the PhenoAge of a dog may be provided by

- 10 a. determining the level of the following biomarkers; white blood cell count, serum albumin, serum alkaline phosphatase, serum creatine kinase, haemoglobin, haematocrit, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, serum glucose, mean red cell volume, and serum globulin in one or more samples obtained from the dog; and
- b. determining a phenotypic age (Phenoage) of the dog using formula (1):

$$15 \quad \text{Phenoage} = \ln \left(\frac{\gamma_{\text{breed}} * e^{x_b * \{\gamma^{\text{age}} - 1\}}}{e^{\{\text{breed} * \beta_{\text{breed}2}\} + \{\text{sex} * \beta_{\text{sex}2}\} + \beta_{02} * \gamma}} + 1 \right) * \frac{1}{\gamma_{\text{breed}}}$$

where x_b is the sum of the value of each biomarker(s), sex and breed multiplied by their respective coefficients according to formula (2):

$$x_b = \sum_{u=1}^p x_u \beta_u + \beta_0$$

- 20 wherein sex is coded as a numerical value with 0 for female and 1 for male, wherein breed is coded as a numerical value with 0 for small breeds and 1 for medium breeds, and wherein the phenotypic age is used to determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog.

The coefficient value for each parameter typically depends on the measurement units of all the variables in the model. As would be understood by the skilled person, the value for each coefficient value will therefore depend on, for example, the number and nature of the different parameters used in the model and the nature of the training data provided. Accordingly, routine statistical methods may be applied to a training data set in order to arrive at coefficient values for use in above formula. Such methods include, for example, computation of two gompertz

or weibull functions on a training set (e.g. where the status of the dog (alive or dead) is known), one that models survival as a function of the selected biomarkers, chronological age, breed class (small or medium dog) and sex (model 1) and a second function that only considers chronological age, breed class and sex (model 2). These models may be fit using the flexsurv package (v 2.1) in the R software environment.

Suitably, a negative coefficient for a given biomarker means that a higher level of the biomarker has a positive effect on reducing mortality risk and/or a lower level of the biomarker has a negative effect on reducing mortality risk. Suitably, a positive coefficient for a given biomarker means that a higher level of the biomarker has a negative effect on reducing mortality risk and/or a lower level of the biomarker has a positive effect on reducing mortality risk.

Illustrative coefficients and γ and γ_{breed} values are provided in the following table.

	Coefficient
γ	0.491790219
β_0	-6.036261473
β White blood cells count	0.091862564
β Hemoglobin	-0.009131623
β Mean Red Cell Volume	-0.007486146
β Hematocrit	-0.018418391
β Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin	-0.128195615
β Serum Glucose	0.009169677
β Serum Globulin	0.132755858
β Serum Creatine Kinase	0.332818902
β Serum Albumin	-0.744060565
β Serum Alkaline Phosphatase	0.262594338
β breed	1.138018960
β Sex	0.151826455
γ_{breed}	0.5668399
β_{02}	-9.5204440
β_{breed2}	1.2299804
β_{sex2}	0.2678798

The phenotypic age may be defined as the time variable ("chronological age") at which the survival probability of the animal given by model 2 is equal to the survival probability at their chronological age given by the model 1.

The phenotypic age (i.e. phenoage) of the dog may be expressed in terms of years, months, days, etc.

The biomarkers used to determine PhenoAge can be determined using standard methods in the art and are typically measured as part of standard blood tests to determine the disease status of an animal. For example, the biomarkers are commonly determined as part of a standard clinical complete blood count (cbc) and standard clinical blood chemistry analysis.

- 5 Suitably, a model for DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan trained against a PhenoAge may be provided in a two-step process.

10 In a first step, a machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised model of a phenotypic age (PhenoAge) explained by one or more blood biomarkers as described herein and chronological age (and optionally sex and/or breed); for example using glmnet R package. Preferably, the machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised model of a phenotypic age (PhenoAge) explained by one or more blood biomarkers as described herein, chronological age, sex and breed.

15 Suitably, the penalised model may be a penalized Cox regression, a Least Angle Regression path of solution (LARS) Cox regression or a penalized survival model; for example.

The machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised Cox regression of a phenotypic age (PhenoAge) explained by one or more blood biomarkers as described herein, chronological age, sex and breed.

20 In a second step, the machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised regression of PhenoAge explained by a DNA methylation. Suitably, the machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised regression of PhenoAge explained by a DNA methylation profile.

The penalised regression may be an elastic net regression.

25 The term “one or more biomarkers” as used herein may include at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least ten, at least eleven, at least twelve or at least thirteen biomarkers.

The term “one or more biomarkers” as used herein may include one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve or thirteen biomarkers.

30 Suitably, DNA methylation sites or a DNA methylation profile may be combined with the level of one or more blood biomarkers described herein in order to generate a model indicative of mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan. For example, a model comprising a combination of a DNA methylation profile and the level of one or more blood biomarkers

described herein may be provided by training a dataset of methylation status at a plurality of DNA methylation sites and the level of one or more blood biomarkers against a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age, and testing against a with-held cohort to validate the veracity of the model.

- 5 The machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalised regression to a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age (and optionally breed and/or sex); for example using glmnet R package.

The machine learning framework may comprise fitting a penalized Cox regression to a training dataset of dogs with a known mortality outcome (alive or dead) and chronological age (and
10 optionally breed and/or sex); for example using glmnet R package.

Suitably, the machine learning platform may comprise one or more deep neural networks. Neural Networks are collections of neurons (also called units) connected in an acyclic graph. Neural Network models are often organized into distinct layers of neurons. For most neural networks, the most common layer type is the fully-connected layer in which neurons between
15 two adjacent layers are fully pairwise connected, but neurons within a single layer share no connections. One of the main features of deep neural networks is that neurons are controlled by non-linear activation functions. This non-linearity combined with the deep architecture make possible more complex combinations of the input features leading ultimately to a wider understanding of the relationships between them and as a result to a more reliable final output.
20 Deep neural networks have been applied for many types of data ranging from structural data to chemical descriptors or transcriptomics data.

Suitably, the machine learning platform comprises one or generative adversarial networks. Suitably, the machine learning platform comprises an adversarial autoencoder architecture. Suitably, the machine learning platform comprises a feature importance analysis for ranking
25 DNA methylation site by their importance in biological age determination.

The biological age of the dog may be expressed in terms of years, months, days, etc.

Preferably, the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan is represented as the difference between biological age and chronological age of the dog.

Comparison to a reference or control

- 30 The present method may further comprise a step of comparing the difference in DNA methylation at one or more sites in the test sample to one or more reference or controls. The presence or absence of DNA methylation at one or more sites in the reference or control may

be associated with a pre-defined mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. biological age). In some embodiments, the reference value is a value obtained previously for a subject or group of subjects with a known mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan (i.e. biological age). The reference value may be based on a known DNA methylation status at one or more sites, e.g. a mean or median level, from a group of subjects with known mortality status (alive or dead), chronological age, breed, and/or sex.

Combining the biomarker levels with further measures and/or characteristics

Suitably, the present method further comprises combining the DNA methylation profile with one or more of the chronological age, breed and/or sex of the dog. By combining this information, a biological age may be determined which is associated with mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan.

Subject stratification

The biological age determined by the method of the present invention may also be compared to one or more pre-determined thresholds (i.e. difference to chronological age). Using such thresholds, subjects may be stratified into categories which are indicative of determined risk, e.g. low, medium or high determined risk. The extent of the divergence from the thresholds is useful to determine which subjects would benefit most from certain interventions. In this way, dietary intervention and modification of lifestyle can be optimised.

Method for selecting/monitoring a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention of a subject

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a subject. The modification in lifestyle may be any change as described herein, e.g. a dietary intervention and/or a change in exercise regime. The modification in lifestyle may be administration of a therapeutic modality.

The lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be applied to the dog for any suitable period of time. After said period of time, the dog's mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan may be determined again using the present method in order to determine the efficacy of the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog. By way of example, the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be applied for at least 2, at least 4, at least 8, at least 16, at least 32, or at least 64 weeks. The lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be applied for at least 3, at least 6, at least 12, at least 24, at least 36, at least 48 or at least 60 months.

The lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may be referred to as an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.

Preferably the modification is a dietary intervention as described herein. By the term “dietary intervention” it is meant an external factor applied to a subject which causes a change in the subject’s diet. More preferably the dietary intervention includes the administration of at least dietary product or dietary regimen or a nutritional supplement.

The dietary intervention may be a meal, a regime of meals, a supplement or a regime of supplements or combinations of a meal and a supplement, or combinations of a meal and multiple supplements.

The dietary intervention or dietary product described herein may be any suitable dietary regime, for example, a calorie-restricted diet, a senior diet, a low protein diet, a phosphorous diet, low protein diet, potassium supplement diet, polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) supplement diet, anti-oxidant supplement diet, a vitamin B supplement diet, liquid diet, selenium supplement diet, omega 3-6 ratio diet, or diets supplemented with carnitine, branched chain amino acids or derivatives, nucleotides, nicotinamide precursors such as nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN) or nicotinamide riboside (NR) or any combination of the above.

Suitably, the dietary intervention or dietary product may be a calorie-restricted diet, a senior diet, or a low protein diet. Suitably, the dietary intervention or dietary product may be a calorie-restricted diet. Suitably, the dietary intervention or dietary product may be a low protein diet.

A dietary intervention may be determined based on the baseline maintenance energy requirement (MER) of the dog. Suitably, the MER may be the amount of food that stabilizes the dog’s body weight (less than 5% change over three weeks).

By way of example, it is generally understood that younger, growing dogs benefit from a high energy/high protein diet; however, older dogs may have a lower energy requirement and therefore diets can be appropriately modified. In particular, many manufacturers produce a ‘senior’ range of dog food which is lower in calories, higher in fibre but has suitable levels of protein and fat for an older dog.

Suitably, a calorie-restricted diet may comprise about 50%, about 55%, about 60%, about 65%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, or about 90% of the dog’s MER. Suitably, a calorie-restricted diet may comprise about 60% or about 75% of the dog’s MER.

Suitably, a low-protein diet may comprise less than 20% protein (% dry matter). For example, a low-protein diet may comprise less than 19% protein (% dry matter).

These diets are generally recommended based upon the chronological age of a dog. For example, it may be recommended that a dog is switched to a senior diet around 7 or 8 years old. However, in the context of the present invention, the determination of an increased mortality risk for a dog compared to what would be expected given its chronological age may allow a determination to switch the dog to a senior diet at an earlier age. In contrast, a dog with a reduced mortality risk compared to its chronological age may be able to stay on an adult diet for longer.

The dietary intervention may comprise a food, supplement and/or drink that comprises a nutrient and/or bioactive that mimics the benefits of caloric restriction (CR) without limiting daily caloric intake. For example, the food, supplement and/or drink may comprise a functional ingredient(s) having CR-like benefits.. Suitably, the food, supplement and/or drink may comprise an autophagy inducer. Suitably, the food, supplement and/or drink may comprise fruit and/or nuts (or extracts thereof). Suitable examples include, but are not limited to, pomegranate, strawberries, blackberries, camu-camu, walnuts, chestnuts, pistachios, pecans. Suitably, the food, supplement and/or drink may comprise probiotics with or without fruit extracts or nut extracts.

Modifying a lifestyle of the subject also includes indicating a need for the subject to change lifestyle, e.g. prescribing more exercise. Similar to a dietary intervention, the determination of an increased mortality risk for a dog compared to what would be expected given its chronological age may allow a determination a switch the dog to an appropriate exercise regime.

Modifying a lifestyle of the subject also includes selecting or recommending a therapeutic modality or regimen. The therapeutic modality or regimen may be a modality useful in treating and/or preventing – for example – arthritis, dental diseases, endocrine disorders, heart disease, diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, prostate disorders, cancer and behavioural or cognitive disorders. Suitably, prophylactic therapies may be administered to a dog identified as being at risk of such disorders due to increased mortality risk and/or on the basis of particular biomarkers which are known to be associated with disease-relevant pathways. In other embodiments, dogs determined to be at risk of certain conditions (due to increased mortality risk) and/or on the basis of particular biomarkers which are known to be associated with disease-relevant pathways) may be monitored more regularly so that diagnosis and treatment can begin as early as possible.

The present invention is also directed to monitoring and/or determining the efficacy of an anti-ageing therapy or developing an anti-ageing therapy. The anti-ageing therapy may comprise, for example, a "rejuvenation" intervention. A rejuvenation intervention aims to cause a reduction in the epigenetic or biological age of the subject. Suitably, the rejuvenation intervention may reprogram epigenetic age to that of a very young dog. Examples of such rejuvenation interventions include, but are not limited to, a gene therapy that reprograms epigenetic age, suitably to that of a very young dog. The present methods to monitor and/or determine the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention or develop a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to reduce biological age are particularly applicable to this aspect.

The present invention may thus advantageously enable the identification of dogs that are expected to respond particularly well to a given intervention (e.g. lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention). The intervention can thus be applied in a more targeted manner to dogs that are expected to respond.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, said method comprising: a) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog, wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been selecting according to the method of the invention; b) after a time period of applying the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; c) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk of the dog after the time period of following the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.

In a further aspect the invention provides a method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, said method comprising: a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention selected based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step a) to the dog; c) after a time period of applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; d) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog between step a) and step c).

Suitably, the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention may have been applied to the dog for a period before the first mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan is determined; however, the effectiveness of the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog (i.e. reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan) may still be monitored by determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan at two or more times during the application of the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.

Suitably, the present methods may comprise an 'ecosystem'; in particular a digital ecosystem.

Suitably, the present methods may comprise providing a sample obtained from the dog, optionally using a kit according to present invention; and (b) providing the sample (e.g. by mailing) for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile.

The DNA methylation profile may then be used according to any of the present methods; preferably using a computer system or a computer program product according to the present invention.

The computer system or computer program may then prepare and share a report detailing the outcome of analysis/method in the form of e.g. selecting or recommending a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog or any other outcome of the present methods.

Suitably, the sample may be a sample that can be obtained at home by a dog owner (e.g. not requiring a veterinarian or health-care professionals). Suitably, the sample may be a hair follicle, buccal swab or saliva sample.

Use of a dietary intervention

In one aspect, the present invention provides a dietary intervention for use in reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is administered to a dog with a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined by the present method.

In another aspect, the present invention provides the use of a dietary intervention to reduce the mortality risk and/or increase the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is administered to a dog with a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined by the present method.

As described herein, the dietary intervention may be a dietary product or dietary regimen or a nutritional supplement.

Computer Program Product

5 The present methods may be performed using a computer. Accordingly, the present methods may be performed *in silico*.

Suitably, the computer may prepare and share a report detailing the outcome of the present methods.

10 The methods described herein may be implemented as a computer program running on general purpose hardware, such as one or more computer processors. In some embodiments, the functionality described herein may be implemented by a device such as a smartphone, a tablet terminal or a personal computer.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to determine the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog as described herein.

15 In one embodiment, the user inputs into the device levels of one or more of DNA methylation markers as defined herein, optionally along with chronological age, breed and sex. The device then processes this information and provides a determination of a biological age for the dog. Alternatively, the device then processes this information and provides a determination of a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the
20 biological age.

The device may generally be a server on a network. However, any device may be used as long as it can process biomarker data and/or additional parameters or characteristic data using a processor, a central processing unit (CPU) or the like. The device may, for example, be a smartphone, a tablet terminal or a personal computer and output information indicating the
25 determined biological age for the dog or a determination of a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the biological age.

Those skilled in the art will understand that they can freely combine all features of the present invention described herein, without departing from the scope of the invention as disclosed.

EXAMPLES

The invention will now be further described by way of examples, which are meant to serve to assist the skilled person in carrying out the invention and are not intended in any way to limit the scope of the invention.

Example 1 – Illustrative method for generating an epigenetic biological clock

5 **Identification of DNA methylation sites**

Whole blood samples from a canine cohort were analysed by performing DNA extraction, converting DNA methylation by using enzymatic reactions, performing whole genome library preparation, hybridizing the whole-genome-converted library preparation to capture probes directed against gene promoters and measuring the methylation profile by sequencing (EM-Seq).

The capture probes were directed against approximately 40,000 targets (promotor regions – approximately 1kb upstream and 0.5 downstream the promoter). These target regions comprise potential methylation sites of interest (individual cytosine residues that may be methylated).

15 The following bioinformatics steps are performed after sequencing and before further analysis:

Quality check of fastq using fastQC - <https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>

Adapter trimming using trimGalore -

https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/

Align to dog genome using bwa-meth (<https://github.com/brentp/bwa-meth>) or Bismark -

20 <https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/>

Mark Duplicates using Picard - <https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us/articles/360037052812-MarkDuplicates-Picard->

Call methylation using Methyldackel - <https://github.com/dpryan79/MethylDackel>

25 **Approaches for filtering sites to generate a restricted DNA methylation profile for training the biological clock**

Following determination of the methylation status of methylation sites in each sample, the initial methylation profile may be filtered/processed in order to generate a restricted methylation profile comprising fewer discrete methylation sites. The goal of this filtering is to provide a restricted methylation profile comprising e.g. between 50000 and 500000 methylation sites that can be used to train the biological clock.

Methods for filtering the initial methylation profile include:

- 1) Removing sites that are (un)methylated in all samples
- 2) Removing sites that do not have at least 5 counts in at least 90% of the samples
- 3) Removing chromosome X and/or Y sites

Further potential filtering steps to reduce the number of discrete methylation sites include:

- 5 1) Defining methylation sites as DNA regions (CpG islands, sites that are less than e.g. 1000bp apart are considered as the same)
- 2) Restrict targets to e.g. inflammatory sites, for example genes associated with inflammation from GO/KEGG pathway and select the sites on these genes
- 3) Correlation analysis and retention of a representant(s) per cluster (e.g. Weighted
10 correlation network analysis (WGCNA) (Langfelder & Horvath; BMC Bioinformatics; 9(559); 2008 or EBModules (Zollinger *et al.*; Biostatistics, 19(2), 153-168; (2018)).
- 4) Differential methylation analysis to pre-select DNA methylation sites (e.g. using logistic regression) or identify sites that vary more between young and old dogs (e.g. using variance analysis). Normalization (quantile) is performed before the filtering step if
15 differential methylation analysis is performed (using function preprocessQuantile in R).

Generating a biological clock

A dataset including information on the mortality status (alive or dead), chronological age, breed and sex of a cohort of dogs is split into training and testing sets (e.g. 2/3 data for training and 1/3 for testing, ensuring a good split with regards to metadata; for example similar proportion
20 of each breed/each sex in the training and in the testing set).

A penalized Cox model is fitted to survival using methylation sites, breed/breed class, sex and chronological age as predictors. Parameters of the model as well as the penalty parameter is estimated using the glmnet package in R.

Computation of two gompertz or Weibull functions are performed, one that models survival as
25 a function of the methylation profile, chronological age, breed class (small or medium dog) and sex (model 1) and a second function that only considers chronological age, breed class and sex (model 2). The models are fit using the flexsurv package (v 2.1) in the R software environment.

The mortality risk and/or probability of healthy lifespan age may be defined as the time variable
30 ("chronological age") at which the survival probability of the animal given by model 2 is equal to the survival probability at their chronological age given by the model 1.

The penalization parameter is selected to provide a reasonable number of DNA methylation sites (e.g. max 1000) with a good model fit for mortality risk and/or probability of healthy lifespan.

The model for biological age based on DNA methylation sites is then assessed on the testing set.

In the present example, the following steps were performed:

- 1) All methylation sites with less than 15 counts coverage were set as “missing”;
- 2) Imputation was performed using the “Boostme” algorithm (Zou *et al.*; BMC Genomics 19, 390 (2018)) and the training, testing and validation sets size was set to 200,000 randomly chosen sites;
- 3) ChrX sites were removed;
- 4) Site filtering was performed using EBmodule (Zollinger *et al.*; Biostatistics, 19(2), 153-168; (2018)); the dataset was separated into blocks of about 5000 sites by grouping the sites per target (1500bp around the TSS) and per chromosome. A correlation matrix was then calculated on which EB modules were applied – as described by Zollinger *et al.* Each module was then represented by the medoid site. Some sites do not belong to any modules and are called scattered sites (defined as described in Zollinger *et al.*);
- 5) Sites present on the mammalian CpG array were removed (Arneson *et al.*; Nature Communications; 13; 783; 2022);
- 6)_ Elastic net regression was adjusted on the 500K sites using phenoAge_pred (predicted value of PhenoAge at the age of DNA collection) as the response variable, this selects 261 sites as forming the biological clock (see Table 3).

The clock was validated using a range of assessments. Figure 3 shows a validation of the clock in calorie restriction where dogs on a calorie restriction have a lower biological Age (lower delta) compared to dogs on a control diet. Delta in Figure 3 corresponds to the residuals of the regression model of Chronological Age vs predicted phenoDNAMAge.

Further validation is shown in Figure 4, where there is a difference in delta (phenoDNAMAge) between the two diets, with dogs on a restricted diet being biologically younger at 6 years old.

Figure 5 shows there is a significant difference between the two diets when adjusting a linear mixed effects model (DogID as random effect).

Figure 6 shows a significant difference in survival between biologically younger and biologically older dogs.

- 5 Figure 7 shows an increase in delta phenoDNAMAge is significantly associated with an increase in the risk of mortality when a Cox proportional Hazard model was fitted using sex and delta phenoDNAMAge (residuals from chronologicalAge vs predicted phenoDNAMAge), stratified on breed class (Small or Medium) on the training set.

Figure 8 shows that the biological clock is highly reproducible between technical replicates.

- 10 A univariate analysis was performed to determine if each of the 261 sites alone was statistically significant in respect of associated with biological age (see Table 3).

Further biological clocks were also generated using only the top 3, top 5, top 10, top 20 and top 50 sites from the complete list of sites shown in Table 3; and each was shown to correlate with biological age (see Figures 9-13). These clocks were generated by selecting the top-n sites based on the absolute value of the coefficients of the full clock (in decreasing order, taking large coefficients first). A linear model explaining chronological age respectively was fitted using the topn sites as predictors. Details of the top 3, top 5, top 10, and top 20 clocks are shown in Tables 4-7.

15

Example 2 – Determination of blood biomarkers associated with mortality risk in dogs

- 20 Predictive blood biomarkers were determined from a biomarker panel consisting of a standard clinical complete blood count (cbc) and standard clinical blood chemistry analysis. Serum samples were taken after overnight fasting and measured using standard veterinary clinical practice.

Table 1 - Clinical complete blood count (cbc) and clinical blood chemistry analysis

<u>Parameter name</u>	<u>Unit of measure</u>
Hematocrit	%
Hemoglobin	g/dL
Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin	pg
Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin concentration	g/dL
Mean Red Cell Volume	fL
Platelet	10 ³ /uL
Red blood cells	10 ³ /uL
White blood cells	10 ³ /uL

Serum Albumin Plus	g/dL
Serum Alkaline Phosphatase *	U/L
Serum ALT *	U/L
Serum AST *	U/L
Serum Calcium	mg/dL
Serum Chloride	mmol/L
Serum Cholesterol	mg/dL
Serum Creatine Kinase *	IU/L
Serum Creatinine, Jaffe Method *	mg/dL
Serum GGT *	g/dL
Serum Globulin	g/dL
Serum Glucose	mg/dL
Serum Magnesium	mg/dL
Serum Phosphorus	mg/dL
Serum Potassium	mmol/L
Serum Sodium	mmol/L
Serum Total Bilirubin *	mg/dL
Serum Total Protein	g/dL
Serum Triglycerides *	mg/dL
Serum Urea Nitrogen *	mg/dL

* value were log-transformed using natural logarithm.

We used a longitudinal study of dogs for which we have repeated measurement of these parameters as well as information about the status of the dog (alive or dead), their sex and their breed. We first categorized breeds as small or medium based on the average weight of adult dogs of this breed (below 10kg or above 10kg, respectively). Then we organized the data using the R programming language. For each dog, we recorded the biomarkers as time dependent covariates using time intervals open on the left and closed on the right (i.e. (tstart, tstop]), where the biomarker information corresponds to the start of the interval and the event (alive or dead) is recorded as the last tstop value. For this purpose, we used the tmerge function of the survival package in R (v. 3.2-13). Then, we fit a cox proportional hazard model to this data individually for each of the 28 biomarkers, including sex and breed class (small or medium). We then adjusted the p.value of each parameter to account for multiple comparison (by false discovery rate (fdr)) and selected features with an adjusted fdr below 0.05 (Figure 1).

Using this method, we identified 13 biomarkers that are individually predictive of the survival probability in dogs:

White blood cells count (10^3 per ul)

Serum Albumin (g/dL)

Serum Alkaline phosphatase (U/L, ln-transformed)

Serum creatine Kinase (IU/L, ln-transformed)

Hemoglobin (g/dL)
 Hematocrit (%)
 Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin (pg)
 Serum Sodium (mmol/L)
 5 Mean Red Cell Volume (fL)
 Serum Globulin (g/dL)
 Serum Calcium (mg/dL)
 Serum Platelet Count ($10^3/\mu\text{L}$)
 10 Red Blood Cell Count ($10^3/\mu\text{L}$)

Example 3 – Multi-parameter model for predicting mortality risk

Next, we constructed the best model that would consider multiple parameters simultaneously, as this is more likely to cover a wide range of organ dysfunctions that occur with age. However, selecting several features that might be correlated with each other is subject to bias. To avoid
 15 this issue, we used a penalized regression method using the glmnet package (v4.1-3). We fit a LASSO-penalized cox proportional hazard model on data and used 20-fold cross validation to compare different values of the penalization parameter lambda. This approach leads to the selection of the top 10 most predictive blood biomarkers for survival, by order of importance as shown below:

- 20 • White blood cells count (10^3 per μL)
- Serum Albumin (g/dL)
- Serum Alkaline phosphatase (U/L, ln-transformed)
- Serum creatine Kinase (IU/L, ln-transformed)
- Hemoglobin (g/dL)
- 25 • Hematocrit (%)
- Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin (pg)
- Serum Glucose (mg/dL)
- Mean Red Cell Volume (fL)
- Serum Globulin (g/dL)

30 We also found that the first 3 biomarkers from this list are the most predictive and that the performance can be increased by incorporating each of the next 7 biomarkers.

To extract the phenotypic age of the animal, we computed two different gompertz functions on our training set, one that models survival as a function of the selected biomarkers, age, breed class (small or medium dog) and sex (model 1) and a second function that only
 35 considers age, breed class and sex (model 2). These models were fit using the flexsurv package (v 2.1). The phenotypic age was defined as the time variable ("age") at which the survival probability of the animal given by model 2 is equal to the survival probability at their

chronological age given by the model 1. This leads to a mathematical function connecting the blood biomarkers to the phenoage and is given by the following formula:

$$Phenoage = \ln \left(\frac{\gamma_{breed} * e^{xb} * \{e^{\gamma * age} - 1\}}{e^{\{breed * \beta_{breed2}\} + \{sex * \beta_{sex2}\} + \beta_{02} * \gamma}} + 1 \right) * \frac{1}{\gamma_{breed}}$$

5

Where xb is the sum of the value of each biomarkers, sex and breed multiplied by their respective coefficients. Sex and breeds are coded as numerical value with 0 for female and 1 for males and 0 for small breeds and 1 for medium breeds. The coefficients are given by the two gompertz function trained on our training sets.

- 10 As an example, the coefficients, as well as the γ and γ_{breed} values have been measured from our training set for the complete list of biomarkers and are given in Table 2.

$$xb = \sum_{u=1}^p x_u \beta_u + \beta_0$$

Table 2 – Coefficients and γ and γ_{breed} values have been measured from training set

	Coefficient
γ	0.491790219
β_0	-6.036261473
β White blood cells count	0.091862564
β Hemoglobin	-0.009131623
β Mean Red Cell Volume	-0.007486146
β Hematocrit	-0.018418391
β Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin	-0.128195615
β Serum Glucose	0.009169677
β Serum Globulin	0.132755858
β Serum Creatine Kinase	0.332818902
β Serum Albumin	-0.744060565
β Serum Alkaline Phosphatase	0.262594338
β breed	1.138018960
β Sex	0.151826455
γ_{breed}	0.5668399
β_{02}	-9.5204440
β_{breed2}	1.2299804
β_{sex2}	0.2678798

- 15 Further, by reducing the set of 10 biomarkers by systematically removing one biomarker, starting for the top of the list, we observed a reduction in the strength of the survival prediction

(p value). The drop was most pronounced with the first parameters, confirming their biggest contribution, but we observed a change in quality of prediction by each reduction of the set, showing that each parameter contributes to the overall prediction (Figure 2).

All publications mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference.

- 5 Various modifications and variations of the disclosed methods, compositions and uses of the invention will be apparent to the skilled person without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Although the invention has been disclosed in connection with specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the disclosed modes
- 10 for carrying out the invention, which are obvious to the skilled person are intended to be within the scope of the following claims.

Table 3

Site	Co-efficient	Univariate Analysis (p-value)	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
Intercept	12.3247852 8	NA	NA	
chr1:3844418-3844420	-1<x<0	2.98E-26	GCCTGGGGCAGCAGGACCGGGGCTCGGCCCTCCAGTTGGGCATTTCTG	1
chr1:19541665-19541667	0 < x < 1	3.01E-24	GGTGCCCGTGCCACACGGGATCCCGACTTGCTGCAAAAGACCTTCGTTA	2
chr1:2213697-2213699	0 < x < 1	1.15E-65	TGACCCGAGGGAGCCGACCCCGGCGCGGACGTTACCTCCGGGGGCGC	3
chr1:108982935-108982937	-1<x<0	5.96E-55	CTGAAGTCACTCCAGGCTAGAGGGGGGGGCAATCCCCCTCCCTGCAATCC	4
chr1:112673186-112673188	-1<x<0	0.000323576	CCCTTCCTTTACCCCTCATCTAACTCGAAGCAGCCGAGGGGGGATCTTCTGG	5
chr1:121182146-121182148	>1	2.29E-14	CTGGCCGGAAGGCGCAGGGCATCTCGATGTCGTCTCCTCCCGGACTGTCA	6
chr1:58324050-58324052	0 < x < 1	1.82E-36	CTGCCGAGGGCCGGGGAAGGCTCCCGGACTCTCGAAAGCATCTCGCACCG	7
chr1:97456109-97456111	0 < x < 1	3.39E-13	AAGTACAACCGCTTCAGGAATGACTCGGTGACATCGGTGACGACGACCTTCTGC	8
chr1:98084469-98084471	-1<x<0	1.04E-37	ACTTGTGTTTTTGTCAACATCCTTCGATGATATGCACCTTCTTAGAATCAC	9
chr1:98433022-98433024	0 < x < 1	7.27E-19	GCGCAGAAAGCAGGCTGTTGTCGGGGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGTCC	10
chr1:100289525-100289527	0 < x < 1	2.33E-47	TTCACAGACCGCACACTGAGGCTCGGGGCTCGACCTACTCAGGCCCTTCC	11
chr1:107216628-107216630	-1<x<0	1.54E-24	AACCTGATGAATGAGGCCAGACGGCCGGAAGAACGGCAGAAATAAATGCAGG	12
chr10:801511-801513	0 < x < 1	1.39E-49	GGCCGCGCCAGGACGATGGAGTTGCCGGAGAGAGAGGGGAGCGGCGCTCTC	13
chr10:7411293-7411295	>1	1.96E-58	CAGCACGGGCATCTGGACAGCAACCGGAGAGAGCGAGCGGTGTTTCTCCTGGT	14
chr10:18237423-18237425	0 < x < 1	1.50E-12	CCGGGGCGGTGCGGAACCAAGCCTCCGCAAGAGCCCTCCAGGCCCTACACGCG	15
chr10:19851621-19851623	-1<x<0	4.61E-13	AGTGGAGGCCCTGGAGACTGCGCAGCGCTTGTTCTCAGGGGGCCATGCCCT	16
chr10:44524681-44524683	-1<x<0	1.40E-16	CCAAGAGCGAGACGATCCCATTCAGCGCTTCTGGGTACTGTGCTTGAGGAT	17
chr10:40787376-40787378	-1<x<0	4.45E-53	CATCTTGTGACCAGACTGACCCCTCGGAGCTAAACCCCGAGCGGGGCC	18
chr10:49526790-49526792	0 < x < 1	1.95E-16	GCCTCATCTCTCTCCAGACAGGGCGGGCTGCGGGGGGGGGCTCCG	19
chr10:62719946-62719948	0 < x < 1	2.78E-62	CTACGAGGGTCTTTTACCCATTCCACGCTGAGAAGAGGCCATGACGATCCA	20
chr11:19910066-19910068	0 < x < 1	1.00E-44	CCCGTCGGCCCCCGGAGCGCGGAGCCCCCGGGGGTCCCGCCCCAGC	21
chr11:33523800-33523802	0 < x < 1	7.25E-40	TGTAAGAGGGCTTCGGAGTGGTCTCTGGGCAAGCGCTACCAAGCACCGCAAAA	22
chr11:24476652-24476654	-1<x<0	2.19E-11	ACTGTTCCAGGGGTGTACAAATCCACGCCCAACATCCAAATAATGGCAATA	23

chr11:49947821-49947823	-1<x<0	2.35E-06	GTGGATTCAAGGATTATACCCCTACCCGACCCAGACTGTGAGCTGCGGGAGA	24
chr11:49987374-49987376	-1<x<0	1.06E-11	CAGCAACCGACAGTGAGTGTAGCCCCGGGTGAATCTCTGGGCAAGCCGGAGT	25
chr11:50642620-50642622	-1<x<0	4.31E-36	TAGGAGAAAGCCCTGGGTGCGTCCCGCCCTTCCCCTCACCCCTGCGCGCTGG	26
chr11:51974516-51974518	0 < x < 1	4.46E-20	CACGTTCAATTGACAAACGCGCGGGGCGAAGGCTAGTGAGCGCGGGTGGGG	27
chr11:533577274-533577276	0 < x < 1	9.73E-30	GGCGAGCCCGGAGCGGGGTCCCGGCGGAGGCGCGGGGCGCGCGGGCG	28
chr11:53577353-53577355	0 < x < 1	5.21E-23	GCGGAAAGCCGCCCTACAGCTACATCGCGCTCATCGCATGGCCATCGCGCA	29
chr11:53576970-53576972	0 < x < 1	3.53E-60	GTCCGGCAGCAGCGCGCACCGGGCCCGCCCGCGCTCCGGGACGCGAGCGG	30
chr11:66137549-66137551	-1<x<0	2.47E-29	AAGACATTTTGTGCTAGTAGAGTTCTCGGCAGTAACCTAGCTGGGTTTTTGT	31
chr11:66814981-66814983	0 < x < 1	1.79E-16	CGGGTCCCCCCCACCGGCTGGGCGGCCCTCTTGCGCCCTTGGGTGCTCT	32
chr12:10418644-10418646	-1<x<0	5.33E-36	CCCCAAAATATCTCTCTGCGGTCCGGAATCCCTCCCAACCCCTCTCCGAG	33
chr12:11605135-11605137	-1<x<0	9.20E-10	TTATCTATTACTATGCTTGGCTTACGATTGGTGTGCTATCAGTTACTATTGAA	34
chr12:14294419-14294421	-1<x<0	1.16E-98	GTGAGCCAGCCTGGTCAGGGGCGCGGAGCCAGCAAGGACCCCGTGGCTCCCTCA	35
chr12:48113683-48113685	-1<x<0	2.04E-20	ACATTCTACTGGAGACTTTAGGTCGCCACCACTGCTGGGTGCTTTAAGC	36
chr13:10113845-10113847	-1<x<0	3.57E-41	CGGGGCACTCCCTGGACAACAGGGACGCGCTGGCCCCAACGTTAGGCGCAAT	37
chr13:27910113-27910115	0 < x < 1	4.23E-18	GGGAAGACTTTGGTGCCCCCGGTGCGGTGCGCCCTCTCCGCGGGGCGCCAGCG	38
chr13:36969021-36969023	0 < x < 1	2.13E-11	CAACAGCCAATGAGAAGCAGGCCCTCGGGGCGGCGGCCCCAGGAGATGGGT	39
chr13:37474592-37474594	-1<x<0	3.38E-35	TTCGGGCTCCCGAACCAAGGTGCGCGAGCCAGGCCTCTGCCCTCCGGGGTCTC	40
chr13:37665667-37665669	-1<x<0	1.92E-25	CCCTGTGGGGGCTTAGGCAAAAACGGGTAGCCGCAAGCAGGACGACGACGCG	41
chr13:37877786-37877788	0 < x < 1	2.89E-40	AGCTCGCACCTGTGGCCTCCCGCCCGGAGCCACCCGTGATGTGCTTCTCTCT	42
chr13:37877759-37877761	0 < x < 1	2.10E-28	TGCAGCCGGGCTCTGGGGCAGGGCGAGCTCGCACCTGCTGGCCTCCCCCGC	43
chr13:37906098-37906100	0 < x < 1	4.78E-48	TGACGCTCCCGCGCGGGCTCCCGCCCGAGCCACGCGCTCCGGCCCCCA	44
chr14:345761-345763	-1<x<0	2.19E-05	GGGGCAGCCCTGGACTGTGGCTGGCGTCTGCTGTGAGGTGGCCTGTGGGGT	45
chr14:368735-368737	-1<x<0	2.43E-08	GTGAGACCCAGCAGCCCTGCCACCCGTTTGACACCCCCACGCTGGGAGCTGC	46
chr14:5949013-5949015	>1	1.78E-30	AAGTTTCTCGGACTCCGCGGACACCGCGCTGGGGAGGACGAGGGGGCGG	47
chr14:5949450-5949452	0 < x < 1	4.24E-65	CCGGCGGTGCCAGCATGTCCGCGCGCGTGGCGTGCCTGGACTACTTCGCCGC	48
chr14:26285429-26285431	0 < x < 1	2.51E-11	TCGGTGTGTGATTTATCTGTAAAGCGGGGCTTCTGAATTACTTTATGTGG	49
chr14:39846247-39846249	0 < x < 1	2.23E-34	TGTTTCCAGGCCTCCGCGGGCGCGGACTTCACTCCCTTTGCGAATTAC	50
chr14:39735273-39735275	-1<x<0	1.58E-08	TGGTAGCTGGGGCCCCCGCTGGGCGCGCGTCTCCGCGCGCGGGGCGCGCTGT	51

chr14:58424689-58424691	-1<x<0	1.92E-61	TTTCTAGGACTACGTGTGTGCACCTCGTGTGGCAATAAAACTATGCTAACA	52
chr15:2611795-2611797	0 < x < 1	3.97E-27	CCTTAGACCCCAACCTTCGAGGTCGGTCTCAGGTCCGGTCTCAGGTCTCG	53
chr15:7297280-7297282	0 < x < 1	2.78E-64	AATAACTCGTCAAGTCCCTGGGCTCCGAGGCAGCCTGCCTCCCAACCAAGCCC	54
chr15:10856498-10856500	>1	7.98E-14	CCCCAGCCGGCCGGCTCGGTTTCCGACGGAGGGCGGGCTGCGGGCGGTC	55
chr15:10856620-10856622	0 < x < 1	1.84E-40	GGGACGGGAGGCGTGCAGCGCCGGCGAGGAGGACCCGCGGCCAGCAGG T	56
chr15:18190829-18190831	0 < x < 1	0.019356242	CACCGCTGAGCTTCCCGCCGCTGCGCAGCGCAGCCCTCTCGCCGCTTATA	57
chr15:20380665-20380667	-1<x<0	1.19E-06	AGTTTCTTTTGGGAAGATGAACCCCGACGGAGGCAGCTGCGGGGGTGTGT	58
chr15:51319029-51319031	-1<x<0	1.01E-30	GAGTTTCTGTGCACGAGGTCTCTCGGTCAAGTATTATCCACCCGCTCTC	59
chr15:51319050-51319052	-1<x<0	1.03E-19	TCCTCGGTCAAGTATTATCCACCCGCTCTCCCTTCTCTCCATGCATCTTTG	60
chr16:8886545-8886547	>1	8.35E-87	GGCGGGTCCCCGTGCGCGCACGGCCGGCCGACCTCTCCGCGGGGCTCC	61
chr16:15770977-15770979	0 < x < 1	1.59E-51	GGTCCGTGCGCCCGCCGGCCCGCCCGCCCTGGGCCAGCCGCGCGCCCT	62
chr17:33851462-33851464	0 < x < 1	5.12E-101	ACAGCAGGATGAAGCCGAAAGCCTCCGAGTGCCGGTGCAAGAACTACTCGTT	63
chr17:34115428-34115430	-1<x<0	6.79E-40	TCCTGGCCCGGGCGCTGGCCCTCGGGCTCGCTGAAAGCCCTTGTTCC	64
chr17:39172251-39172253	0 < x < 1	0.004509682	TCTCAAGCGGCTCGGGCCTGGCGGGCGGCGAGACTCCCTCGTGTCTTCCTC	65
chr17:48274513-48274515	0 < x < 1	1.48E-38	ATGCTACTGCAGGCACTGGCTGCTTGGCGTGGCTCTGTGCGGTAGTGTCTC	66
chr17:48369176-48369178	-1<x<0	5.43E-12	AAAAAGCCAAATGCCATTACGTACGTTTGTTGTTAATTTACACTCCCATCG	67
chr17:48538075-48538077	0 < x < 1	1.58E-35	AGATGCTCAGCCGAACGTCCCTCGGCGCCCGCGGAGCCGGGCGGCCCC	68
chr17:49222883-49222885	>1	1.31E-26	GAAAGCAGGAGCCGCTCCCGAGGCCGGTCCCGGCGAGCAAGGGCGCCTCGG	69
chr17:58961294-58961296	0 < x < 1	2.10E-19	AAATATGCACTTCAGCGAGTGTACCCTAATGAAGCCTTCATCTGCCATGA	70
chr17:60022289-60022291	-1<x<0	1.02E-57	ACAATCCTTTTAAGGCAACGTGTCCCGCCTCTCCTAACCATATAAGTGCAAC	71
chr17:60438944-60438946	-1<x<0	2.77E-33	AAC TTGTTCTTAGTGAATGCATCGCGTTTCCCTCTCTCTCCCATTTATTT	72
chr17:62156690-62156692	>1	0.086414775	CGGCAGAGGAGCTGGGCTTGGGTGCGGCTGACCTTGGGGAAGTAGGTTTCC	73
chr18:5425112-5425114	0 < x < 1	5.52E-53	CAGACGCGAGCGAGGCCGTTGGAGGGGGGTGGCTGGACGGGACGG G	74
chr18:31999739-31999741	0 < x < 1	1.62E-17	GGTGCCGTCGGCGAAGCGGGCCAGCCGGTTGGAGCTGCGCCCGCAGCCGCCG	75
chr18:38129770-38129772	-1<x<0	3.08E-63	GGGGAAGCTTGGTCTCTGATAAAAGCCGCGAGAGACCAAACTGTGCTCAGGG	76
chr18:44686312-44686314	-1<x<0	1.01E-30	GAAGGGCAGCAGCGCCGGCCCTGCCCGGCGAGCCAGGCAGGCCCAAGCCCC	77
chr18:45473750-45473752	-1<x<0	0.008692376	GGGACCGGGTGCAGACACCTCTCCCGCCTCCGCTTGGCCACTCCAGGCTTG	78

chr18:47074292-47074294	0 < x < 1	3.88E-20	GGAGCCGAGGCGAGGGGCGGGGACGCGTTGTCTCCTTTATTGCTTTATAA	79
chr18:46990963-46990965	0 < x < 1	3.35E-38	GGCGGATCGGGGCGGCGGCGGCGGTCTACGAGCACCTCGGCGGGCGCC	80
chr18:44679236-44679238	-1<x<0	7.48E-29	TCCGGAAAGTCTGCTCAACTAGCCCGGCTGGCGGCCGGTGTACCCCGTG	81
chr18:44686394-44686396	-1<x<0	1.73E-66	GTCCACCATCCCCGGGTTGAAGGACGGGTTCCGAGTGAGCCAGGAACACC	82
chr18:48681702-48681704	-1<x<0	9.82E-09	GGATCCGTCAATTGACCCCTTGAGAACGGAAGATTCTGGGGGCTCAAAGGAGT	83
chr18:50257730-50257732	-1<x<0	1.96E-27	CCTTCGAGCTGACCCCTCTCCGGCTGTAGCCTGGGAAGGGGCCAG	84
chr18:50259206-50259208	-1<x<0	2.83E-46	CCAACATGACGCTCATCGGAGAGAACGGCCACAGCACCGACACGCTCACGGG	85
chr18:51374197-51374199	0 < x < 1	6.02E-85	CCCACAGCCCTCGCGTCCCGGAGCGCGACGCCCGCAGCGGTGCAAACTG	86
chr19:44679975-44679977	>1	2.92E-14	GCCATCGCTGCGGCTCGGTCTCCGGGAGAGGGAAGTAACTCCGGAGC	87
chr2:25678434-25678436	-1<x<0	0.818276235	GGGAAGGTGGGTGGAGTTGCCAGAGCGGGGAGGCCCGGGCGCACGGTCTCT	88
chr2:32494387-32494389	>1	0.049615576	TTGGAAGCTCGGGGGCGGAGATCCCGCGCCCGCGCGGCTCGGGGCGG	89
chr2:31655107-31655109	-1<x<0	4.80E-39	CTGCACAGCCCTGCTCCGCCCTGCGGGCCCTGCACGGTGTCTCGGTGCT	90
chr2:51831832-51831834	0 < x < 1	2.84E-32	TCCGGCCGTGACCCCTCCTGGGTGCGGCCCTGCTTGTGCTGCTCTGCT	91
chr2:64665545-64665547	-1<x<0	4.33E-08	CTTCACAGTAAGCCTAAAGAGTAGGCGTTATCTCCGTTTATGGTGAAGTGG	92
chr2:72450823-72450825	0 < x < 1	3.75E-51	GCCTGTCCGAACGACGCTGGCCATCGCGCGGGGCGGCAAGGGCCCCGGC	93
chr20:905463-905465	-1<x<0	0.259671131	CTGAGGGCATCCGGGTGAGCGGGGCGCGCGCGCGCGCGAGCGAGCGCGG	94
chr20:3395529-3395531	-1<x<0	1.93E-16	AAAAGCCAGGGGAGAGGGGAGGCGCGGCTCCACAGGCCACTGTAAGTCCC	95
chr20:3833805-3833807	-1<x<0	7.58E-41	AGTAAGGAGCTGCTCTCATGACTGTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTTTC	96
chr20:32463049-32463051	-1<x<0	3.95E-24	TTTTACTATTTGTATTCAATTAAGCTCGGAGCATGTATTGAGTGCCTACTGTG	97
chr20:37906191-37906193	0 < x < 1	1.04E-24	GCCGGGGGCGCAGGGTCCAGCTCTCGCTCAGTGGCTTGTCCCTCGCTCAG	98
chr20:40194554-40194556	-1<x<0	2.50E-11	CTGTAGTAGCGTCTCTCCAGGCTCGGAGTCAGCCTGAATGTACCCCTT	99
chr20:43366718-43366720	0 < x < 1	0.013883014	GCCGCATCGCGCGGCTGGAGGTGCGGGGGAACTCCGCGGGCGGCTCGGG	100
chr20:44942213-44942215	>1	6.74E-26	GGCAGGGCCGCCAGGCGCGGCCCGCGGTGAAGAAGTCTCTCGGCGCTCGCT	101
chr20:46098568-46098570	0 < x < 1	5.41E-54	TCGGTGCAGCGCTCGGGCTGTGCGCGGCGCCAGCGCTGCGGGGTGACAGA	102
chr20:49086890-49086892	-1<x<0	1.65E-84	CTGGCACACACGCCACGACCCACGCGTTGACAGGCACACGCGGCCACCGTC	103
chr20:49844561-49844563	-1<x<0	3.24E-27	TGAAATTTTCGAGTCTCGGAGACGGGTGGATGCTGGGGGTCTCTGAAAGCCT	104
chr20:49940551-49940553	-1<x<0	9.74E-50	ACCTGCCATGGGGGATAATAATACGTTAATGAAACCCCTTGACAGAGTACTC	105
chr20:49972926-49972928	-1<x<0	4.55E-08	CAGCACCGTCTCACTTAATCTCTACGCCGACCCCTACGTAGGTACTATTAT	106
chr20:54301453-54301455	0 < x < 1	7.23E-89	ACCACGCCCGGGGCGCAGCGTCCGGGGGTGCGACGCCGAGCAGCTGCCG	107

chr20:53921003-53921005	-1<x<0	1.50E-09	CCCTCAGGAATCCTCCAGGTCCAGCGTCCCGCTGCCATCACGGTCCAGCG	108
chr20:57347921-57347923	-1<x<0	1.02E-54	ACCAGCCGCCAGCCGTACCTTCCGGGCCTGTTCTCGGGCTGCGGCGC	109
chr20:57621119-57621121	-1<x<0	8.85E-13	AGCGAGGACACCCCTGCACGTGCGGCGCGGGGGTGCACAGGTCTCTGGG	110
chr21:31923268-31923270	0 < x < 1	4.88E-17	GGCGCAGGCGCGGTGGAACCTGCGGGTCACTAGGCTGCGGAAGGCGA	111
chr21:43490796-43490798	0 < x < 1	1.07E-75	ACGCGTGGCCCGCGCTGCCGCGCGCTCGGGAGAGCATCCCTGCCGCTGC	112
chr22:46374563-46374565	>1	9.37E-07	TTGACGCGGAGGCCGTCCGGGCGCCGAGCAACGAGCAGCACAGCAGGTGG	113
chr23:4004092-4004094	0 < x < 1	2.33E-19	TTAGGTATCCCGCCCGCTCCGCGGAGCCGTCGTGCAATGCTATCCGA	114
chr23:29966538-29966540	-1<x<0	2.55E-29	AGGGGAGGTGACATGGGAATTAAACGCCCTTCCCTCAGCCAGTGCCAAAT	115
chr23:31144202-31144204	-1<x<0	7.13E-08	GAACCCCACTGCTCACGCCAGCGGCCACCCTTGAATTGCCCTGTTATT	116
chr23:31144337-31144339	-1<x<0	1.68E-29	GAGCCACCGAACTACTTGAATCACCCGCGGGCAGGCGCTCTGTCCAACATTT	117
chr23:37987526-37987528	-1<x<0	0.102124346	CGGGCGGGAATCCGCCGCCGCTCGCCCGCGCCTAGACCCGGGGCGC	118
chr23:50123623-50123625	0 < x < 1	2.15E-99	CCCAGAACTACGGCAAACTCGCGCCGGTGCAGCTGGAAGGGGAGTCCG	119
chr24:12518910-12518912	0 < x < 1	9.79E-97	CTCTTCTCGAGATCCATGCTCGCCGTGCAGCGAAGGAGCCAGATGTGCT	120
chr24:17354043-17354045	-1<x<0	5.21E-41	TGGTAGGTGAGAGCAGGGCAGGGGCGCCAAAGTTCGGGCTGCCAGACTGCT	121
chr24:21051024-21051026	>1	1.16E-98	ACGTTGCTCTCGTGTCTGCTGCCCTCGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTCAGCTTCC	122
chr24:24968751-24968753	-1<x<0	9.40E-88	GTCCTTGGCGAGGGAAGTTACAGACGCCAAAGCCAGAGTCTGGGGTGCCCA	123
chr24:43790837-43790839	0 < x < 1	2.77E-39	CGCCGGCCCCAGGAGCGCCGTCACGACCCGCGCTCGCTAGCGCCTCCG	124
chr24:45869679-45869681	0 < x < 1	1.98E-82	AACAAAGGCGACGTGCGCGCGCGCACGCGGTCTCAACACTGCTTTTGTCT	125
chr24:46167206-46167208	-1<x<0	4.99E-21	CTAATGGTGACCCGATGGCGGTGGCCGCCCGGGGGGTGCATCCGTACGGTCA	126
chr25:16764068-16764070	-1<x<0	6.84E-40	CGCTCGAGCATCTACTTACTGCGGCGAATTTAATCCACATTTCTCTGCA	127
chr25:18016409-18016411	0 < x < 1	1.39E-49	AGAGCCAGGCGCGGCCCGCGAGGCCGGGTGCACGTGCACACGAGGGCGCC	128
chr25:47511184-47511186	0 < x < 1	4.90E-64	CCGGGACCCGGAACGACGAGGCGCGCCGACCCTCAGTCCCGGGCCGCTGCAT	129
chr26:1578502-1578504	-1<x<0	7.75E-09	TCCGATGCTCCCCCGCCAGCACCCCTCGAGCTCAGAGTGAATGTCCAGAAAGG	130
chr26:5490242-5490244	-1<x<0	1.62E-87	TCCAGCGTTTCAGCTCTGAGTGTGCGGTGGAAGCCCGCAGGGTTACCAT	131
chr26:6348316-6348318	-1<x<0	2.12E-06	GGAGGTGCAGACGCTTGCCGAAGGCCGCACAACTAGAAAGCGATGGGATCAA	132
chr26:6353216-6353218	-1<x<0	2.32E-10	ATCCAAAATAGCTGGCACAGCTACCGACTAAATGGATCAGAGGATGAACCT	133
chr26:9207175-9207177	-1<x<0	1.03E-07	CCCGGCACTAGGCTCTTCGCCCGGAGCACCCCGCAGCCAGCGCCGCTGCG	134
chr26:10691576-10691578	-1<x<0	1.57E-17	TGATTAACCTCAATAATGTATACGGGATAGAAAGGACCTGCCCTGTCTCC	135
chr26:16852803-16852805	-1<x<0	7.42E-21	CGGTGGGGCTGCAGCCACTGAGCCACGAAGGAGTCCAGCTTGAGGCAGGGG	136

chr26:22918623-22918625	-1<x<0	3.70E-22	TAATTCATTCTGGTTGTAGAAATTCGTCTGCAGGGCTATTGTGGATAGGATA	137
chr26:30413129-30413131	-1<x<0	5.47E-11	AGAGCCAGGTGGCTGACTGCTGAGTGGTTGACGCCAGGGCAGCAGAGCCCTCCTGT	138
chr27:1856425-1856427	0 < x < 1	1.16E-19	CTCAGAGGCACGGTCTGAGGCCACCCGGTTGCTAAGGCTTCACGCGTTACGC	139
chr27:9830220-9830222	-1<x<0	0.000162475	TTGGAGTCTGCGCCTTCTAGAACTCGGTTCAAATGCTTTTGTCTCTGGGAG	140
chr27:28156834-28156836	0 < x < 1	9.27E-45	GAAATCGTTGCTGAAGATGCTCCAGCGGAGCGGGGCGCGCGGCACGTCG	141
chr27:29250528-29250530	0 < x < 1	4.00E-55	AGGGACCCCCCGCGCCGCTGCGCGGCCCTTACCGCCAGCTCGTCGGGCT	142
chr27:29307058-29307060	-1<x<0	1.72E-26	CTCGCCCTTCTGTCTCCGCACTGGCGTCCCCCAGGCACAAACATGCAACTC	143
chr27:29307097-29307099	-1<x<0	2.72E-25	CAACATGCAACTCGGGGTTGTTCTGCGGATGTGTTTAAAGCCAATGTAATTC	144
chr27:41569781-41569783	-1<x<0	3.06E-39	TCTCGTGTCAATAGGAAGAAATCCGGAAGGAGATAGAACAGCAGTCATTT	145
chr27:45037864-45037866	0 < x < 1	2.77E-85	CCAGCGGCCCGCAGCCCTGCGCCGCCGCGACACAAAGAGTGGGGCGATTCC	146
chr28:5936067-5936069	-1<x<0	6.92E-08	CCTGGGATGGCACTTTGAACGCTGCGTGAGGACAGAAAAACAATCGGAGAAG	147
chr28:8994532-8994534	0 < x < 1	6.45E-45	GAGCCGCCAAAGTTAGAAGACTGGTCGGTCGGGGCCACACGGGTGTCGGGG	148
chr28:13976453-13976455	-1<x<0	3.48E-34	GCTCTGTCTCCACCTCTTGGGTCGCTGTTTATGGTCTCTGCGGAATGG	149
chr29:9541477-9541479	-1<x<0	3.89E-12	ACTAGATTTGAATTCATATGATGACCGGGACTACTACTACTCTACCTTTGC	150
chr29:19479611-19479613	0 < x < 1	3.87E-66	TGGGAGGTGGGGAATCGCGTACCACGGTGGCAGCTTGCTGTACCAGGGCAG	151
chr29:32189910-32189912	-1<x<0	2.42E-54	GCAGGTGTGGGACAGCCATTGGGCCGTGTAGAACCGAGGTTCCACAGTTTG	152
chr29:35629270-35629272	-1<x<0	1.54E-14	TGCGGTATCCCTTTTAGGAATCCCGATGATGGTGATGATCATATTACGAGG	153
chr29:35629292-35629294	-1<x<0	4.54E-41	TCCCGATGATGGTGATTGATCATATTACGAGGACGGTAATAAGATTGTTACCCG	154
chr3:31677748-31677750	0 < x < 1	1.40E-89	GCTGAGCCCGAGCTGCGGCGGGACGCCGCTGCACGCCCGGGGGGGCTGG	155
chr3:46852141-46852143	0 < x < 1	7.92E-18	CTATGGGCGATATTGCAAAGCAAGACGACCCGAGGCACAGCCAAATCCACT	156
chr3:46852146-46852148	0 < x < 1	3.80E-11	GGCGATATTGCAAAGCAAGACGACCCGAGGCACAGCCAAATCCACTGTTTG	157
chr3:46843750-46843752	>1	1.05E-109	CCAGGGCCACAGACTGGAAGTCGCCGGGAGCCCGGCGAGCCTCTCTCAAG	158
chr3:61539374-61539376	-1<x<0	0.000110942	AGATTCAGGGCCCTTAGCCTGGGCCGAGTCATCTCTGAACTTTATGTGTCC	159
chr3:70831746-70831748	>1	5.57E-17	CTACCTGTGCGGGGAGGCGAGACCGGGGCGCCGACGTCGCGCGGGCGGG	160
chr3:72353348-72353350	-1<x<0	3.36E-46	GGGACACCTACTCTGGGCCCCCGGCACGGCCGAGACAGACAGGTGCCTGCAAA	161
chr30:8031058-8031060	0 < x < 1	8.37E-45	GGCCGTGCGGGCGGGGCCGGCTCACCGCGCGCGCTGGGAGGGCGCGGCC	162
chr30:8031060-8031062	0 < x < 1	4.70E-34	CCGTGCGGGCGGGCGCGGCTCACCGCGCGCGCTGGGAGGGCGGGCGCGC	163
chr30:8640557-8640559	-1<x<0	1.10E-14	CGGGGACGGGATTGTGGCATCACACGCTGGACGAAAGTTGGGGTGGCGGTAG	164

chr32:10044870-10044872	-1<x<0	3.77E-08	GTGAGACGGAATGTGTGAGTATGTACGTAAACAGGTTTAAAGAAATTGTGTAC	165
chr32:17605966-17605968	-1<x<0	2.27E-18	TAAAAGATTAAATATCAGAAAGCCACCGTTTCCTTTAGCCTCCCGTGCAGGAA	166
chr32:35345144-35345146	0 < x < 1	5.23E-46	GTGAAACGAGGCCCTTCCACCCCGGATGAAAGAAATGGCAGTTGTCTGA	167
chr32:29642986-29642988	-1<x<0	4.41E-42	CCTCTGTTGGGATGAGATGTTGACGGGATTCGTCCTTACTTTCTGGGAG	168
chr32:39585142-39585144	-1<x<0	0.108871384	GAGGCTGTGCGAGGTGAGGCTGTGGCGGGGAGGGCGGCCCGGGGACCC G	169
chr32:40571018-40571020	-1<x<0	1.37E-64	TTTGGGTTAGCCAAAGGTACACATCGGCGTTTGTGTTTGTGATCTA	170
chr33:18234603-18234605	0 < x < 1	0.04858715	GAGGAGCCGCGATGGAGGGCGCCCGCGGCCCGCAGGTAAGCGGCGCTC	171
chr33:23247947-23247949	-1<x<0	8.71E-28	GACAAGGGTATGGAATACCTACAAACGGTGATTCTGATTCCTTTCAAGGGTG	172
chr33:23473772-23473774	0 < x < 1	5.14E-07	ACAGGCAACATCGTGGGCCCTTCTACCGGGGCACCTCCTTCTCTGCCCCGA	173
chr33:23473856-23473858	0 < x < 1	1.85E-12	GCCCAGAGGTATCCACAGCCCAAGCTCGCTGTGGTCTCACACACAGCGTCTCA	174
chr33:26512692-26512694	>1	3.95E-49	CGGCTGCCGCGCCCGCAGTCGTGCGCCGCGCGCTCCTGCCAGGCCGACCTGG	175
chr33:26512695-26512697	0 < x < 1	2.71E-54	CTGCCGCGCCGCGAGTCGTGCGCCGCGCGCTCCTGCCAGGCCGACCTGGAGC	176
chr33:26512711-26512713	>1	7.18E-24	CGTCGCCGCGCGCTCCTGCCAGGCCGACCTGGAGCGGAAGCTGAAGCCGAA	177
chr33:19810904-19810906	0 < x < 1	3.02E-58	GCGCTCTCGCCGCTCTCGTGGCCCGGAGAACAAAAGCCCCCGGCGCTGGCC	178
chr33:28241609-28241611	-1<x<0	7.57E-60	GGAGGCGAGCTGGGAGTACTTCCACGCCACATGAGCCTTTGTGTGAAAAT	179
chr33:28241833-28241835	-1<x<0	1.89E-67	AATTACTTCACITTTGTGTGAGGTGCTGCTGTCTGTGTACCCCCAGG	180
chr33:29201592-29201594	-1<x<0	8.73E-65	CTGGTCCCCGACGGAATAGGAGGCCGCGCAGCCTGCCAGAGTGGGACAGTCC	181
chr33:29201578-29201580	-1<x<0	7.87E-56	GTGGCCCTGTACCTGGTGCCGACGGAATAGGAGGCCGCGCAGCCTGCCA	182
chr34:20742132-20742134	-1<x<0	1.32E-18	TCATCTACGCTGGGAGAATGAATATCGGTCTGTACAGACCGGAGGCTGGAACT	183
chr35:23852932-23852934	0 < x < 1	7.91E-33	ACACGCCGCTGCGCTCCTTGGACGACGACACGCGCCTGGACGATCAGCTCCGA	184
chr35:23853673-23853675	0 < x < 1	1.12E-17	CCACCTTCCCGGCGACGCCAGGACGCGGGCGGGGTCCATAGCTCTGAC	185
chr35:23853863-23853865	>1	1.01E-15	CGCTCACGGGCTCCTGGTGCCCTCCGCGGCGCTCCAGCGCAGCCACAGCAG	186
chr35:23853763-23853765	0 < x < 1	1.66E-57	GCTGACGCCGCTCTCACGCGGGGGGCGACGTTGTGAAAAACGACGCGCGCA	187
chr36:641903-641905	-1<x<0	2.02E-46	GAGAAAGGGGAAGAATGTGGTCCCTCGAGTTCCTTTTGCACTTCTAGTTCTA	188
chr36:8405088-8405090	0 < x < 1	1.18E-47	CGGCTCCGCGCGGACGCGGGGACCGCCCGCAGCGCGCTCCGAGCGGAGAG	189
chr36:18662589-18662591	-1<x<0	1.78E-29	CCCGTGGTCTCCAACACAGCCAGGCGTGGGTTTTGTGCGGGATGGTGACG	190
chr37:2007181-2007183	-1<x<0	4.37E-40	TTCATCATTTGGATGATAGTTTTTTCAGGACCTTGAGAGTCTCCTTTGTAATACT	191
chr37:26349705-26349707	0 < x < 1	2.71E-23	GCAACGCAATCGGAGAAACCTTCTCCGAAGGGCGGGACCCCCCGACGGC	192

chr37:26735403-26735405	-1<x<0	2.68E-24	CCCTTTTACACATGAACAAACGCGCTACAGAGAGGAATAACCTCCCCAG	193
chr38:14762928-14762930	0 < x < 1	7.07E-51	GCCACGCGCGCGCCAGCCCCACGCACACGACGACGAGGTCCGACAGCA	194
chr38:21317970-21317972	-1<x<0	4.36E-17	GGAGTCTAGGATGGCAGTGTGACTCCGAGAAGGTAGGACAGCGCGGAGAGG	195
chr4:8252080-8252082	0 < x < 1	7.58E-11	CCGGGCTCCAGCGGGGCGCGGTGCGGGGGGACGCGGCGGCTACTG	196
chr4:23880514-23880516	-1<x<0	0.034364027	CGCCCGACCCCGGAACCCCGGTGGCGTCACTGTCGCGCTCCGCGCGAGCA	197
chr4:25509815-25509817	-1<x<0	9.11E-34	ATGGCCTCTGTCTATCTGGGACCCGTCTCACCCCATCAGAGCCCAATGA	198
chr4:36661557-36661559	-1<x<0	2.89E-22	TATTACAGTGTCTGAGTCAACACGCGCTTTTCACTCAATGGAAATTCCTCT	199
chr4:36180013-36180015	0 < x < 1	2.94E-96	GCGGCTGGGGGCGCGAGGGGCGCGCTCGCACCGCGGACGCTGCAGTTT	200
chr4:43217432-43217434	0 < x < 1	2.41E-62	GTGCTGTCAGCTTAGCGTGGCGACGGCGTGGTGGGCCCTGGGCGCAAGC	201
chr5:21480151-21480153	0 < x < 1	2.64E-26	TTGAGCTGCTGGAGCAGCAGCCGTCCGCCACCTAGCAGGAGTGTCTCGCA	202
chr5:32347978-32347980	-1<x<0	0.375939729	ACACGATAGCCCTGGCCCGGTCCCGGGCCACCCCGCCAGCAGCCCGATGC	203
chr5:32711703-32711705	0 < x < 1	0.161513412	GGTATCCGTCCTCGGCTCGGCTCGGCTCGGCTCGGCTCGGCTCGGCGGCCG	204
chr5:32884319-32884321	-1<x<0	1.10E-34	CCAGCTTTGTTGGGTCTCCACACCGCTGTGTATGAATGGGACTAAATTT	205
chr5:55848493-55848495	-1<x<0	8.10E-13	GACCTGTGCCCTCAGCTGGCCTCAGTGCATGGAATGGTGTGTCCTGT	206
chr5:56981423-56981425	-1<x<0	3.11E-54	CTGCCGGGCTGCGCGGGGCGCTTCGTGGTCTGCACTTACCCACAGTGCCA	207
chr5:61645225-61645227	>1	4.38E-60	TAAAGGGCGATCCGCGACCCAGCGCTGGCGTGGGTCCACCGGCGTGC	208
chr5:67427228-67427230	0 < x < 1	3.63E-14	CGCGCCCCCGAGCGCGGGGCCCCGGGGGACCCCGCGCGCGCGGCCCC	209
chr5:81484511-81484513	-1<x<0	3.60E-10	GGTTGCTGAGAGAGAATGTCTGACCGGATCTTCTATATTCTAACTTG	210
chr6:8915114-8915116	-1<x<0	5.73E-49	TCCAGACCTAGCAGTTGGAGGATCCGAGTTCGAAATTCGTCTTTGCCATTC	211
chr6:9019848-9019850	-1<x<0	3.88E-05	CGTATCCTAACTGATCCCAAGCCTGCGCTGACTGGAAGTCTTTGTTCTCA	212
chr6:10398666-10398668	0 < x < 1	1.45E-24	GGAGCGAGCGAGTCGCCCAAGAGCGCGCGGACCCAGCTGAGCCCAACCCACT	213
chr6:12827818-12827820	-1<x<0	6.58E-07	GGCTCTCCCTCACACCCACTGACTCGGCTCCTGAACTCAGGATGGTCCCTT	214
chr6:26928260-26928262	-1<x<0	0.100532489	ACGCCGTCCTCAGTCTCACGAGACGACCGCGAGATTTCAAAGGAGCTTTT	215
chr6:29756505-29756507	0 < x < 1	7.43E-20	TGCACGACCCGCGAGCGTCCCAACCGTGGTCTCTGGCCCTGGCTCCCTCCT	216
chr6:38452376-38452378	-1<x<0	3.46E-13	CAGGGTCTGCGCTGCTTCCCATCACGTCCACCCAGTTGCCCTAGTACTGT	217
chr6:40186467-40186469	0 < x < 1	1.66E-20	TGGACCCCTTCCCTGTACCCCTCCGTGCGCGCGGCTCTCTCTGAAGAGGG	218
chr6:41080691-41080693	-1<x<0	3.21E-15	CAGCGGTACAAGTCTCAAGGAGCGGCGTGTACCAAGGCCTATCTGGCT	219
chr6:41485415-41485417	-1<x<0	1.57E-05	GGCCGTCCATGGCAGTCCCGGGCCACGAGGCGGGGGGAGATAAGGGGGCCG	220
chr6:41661247-41661249	-1<x<0	2.79E-41	TCTCTGGCGCAATAAAAGAGACCCCGTGAGGAAGCCCCCCCAGCACTCATA	221

chr6:45773846-45773848	>1	3.10E-187	GAGAAGGACGTCCCTGTGCGGAAGCCGTTCCGACGCGCGGCCCTGGGGGCG	222
chr6:60675998-60676000	>1	1.33E-31	GATAGCTTCTCGGCTCGGTGCGGGGCGGCTGCTGAGCGGAGCGGCGCGG	223
chr7:8160746-8160748	-1<x<0	6.40E-06	TGTCAGATCCTCAGAGTAACCAAAACGAAGTTGTGAGTTGGTAAATGGTTG	224
chr7:9749742-9749744	-1<x<0	7.07E-22	GATGAAATAGCAACAGGTTGTTGGCAGCACCATGAAGGCAAACTCACCAGGG	225
chr7:29867181-29867183	-1<x<0	7.92E-16	TTGAGAGGTCCAGCACCAAAATGTTACGTGATTACAGAAAGTGGACATCTAACA	226
chr7:38420583-38420585	0 < x < 1	6.92E-09	CAGGACCTCGGCCCTCCCTCCAGCGGCGGGACCAGACTCCGGGTGCCT	227
chr7:38136719-38136721	-1<x<0	1.80E-10	GCGTCCCGGAGGTGTTTACCGACCCGCGCACACACCCCGCTACGTGCCA	228
chr7:41785316-41785318	-1<x<0	5.87E-19	AGGGCTGGGAAGATTGGCAGCCCTTCGGAGTTTATGCGTGAAGGGAGTCCAT	229
chr7:41980137-41980139	-1<x<0	1.81E-39	CCACAGCATCAGCCCCAGGAGAGGCACGGTTTATTGACAGGTTACACCCCAGG	230
chr8:14259939-14259941	-1<x<0	9.05E-30	ATTTAGATGCCAATTTCTTTGAAGCGTTGGATGTAACACCCCTTCATTCC	231
chr8:4122009-4122011	0 < x < 1	2.05E-33	CTCAGGAAACGGGTGCGGACCGGGCGAGCACAAGGGGTACAGTCGGGAG	232
chr8:15508656-15508658	-1<x<0	7.24E-09	ACCTTGCCTCCTTGGCAGGCCAGCGCTCCGGGAGGCCCTAAAGAACGGAC	233
chr8:17226001-17226003	-1<x<0	6.70E-31	AAGCATCTGCTGCTCTTTTCGTGTCGCTGCTGTAAGGGCTTGTAGGAGGCC	234
chr8:33509086-33509088	0 < x < 1	2.46E-82	GGCCAGTAGTCGGGCTGCGCGGCCGGGAGGGCGGGCGGCCCGCGGGG C	235
chr8:67527837-67527839	0 < x < 1	2.39E-96	GCGTGGCGCCGAAGCGCTGCCACTCGCGCGCAGCTTGCGCCCTTCTGCC	236
chr8:67627712-67627714	-1<x<0	9.60E-76	ATTCTGAGTGCCCACTCTGTGCCCGACATGGGTACACAGCTCCCCCAGG	237
chr9:933885-933887	-1<x<0	9.12E-21	CACCTGTGCTAGTCCAGCCTGATGGCGCAGGTGCAGCCCACTCAGGGGG	238
chr9:1046331-1046333	-1<x<0	1.35E-20	AGGAAGGGGGGCGAGGGCATGCTTCGAGTTTGATCCGAGGTCTTCAGGGG	239
chr9:2360284-2360286	0 < x < 1	1.95E-08	CGGAGCCCAGCGACCCGGGAAACCGATGTTAAGATGAAGGTATTTTCATT	240
chr9:3516451-3516453	-1<x<0	6.18E-49	CGCAGCCCGTGCCCGCTTCGACTGCGTGCTCAAGCTGGTGCATCACTACAT	241
chr9:4719064-4719066	0 < x < 1	5.92E-33	TTCTCGTGAACCCGGCGCGGTGCGGTGAGTGGCGGGGTCGCGGGCAC	242
chr9:5338779-5338781	-1<x<0	0.159924272	TCCCGCCCTTCCCTACCTTCTCGCCGACCTGTCAAGGGCGTGGCGGGCCT	243
chr9:5481047-5481049	-1<x<0	0.359052165	GCCTTCCCACTCAGGCGCGCGCGGCTTCCCGCCCCACGGCCCGGCCA	244
chr9:10371698-10371700	-1<x<0	1.46E-18	GGAAGGTGCCTGAGAGCATCTGGCGGGGGGTGGGCTGTCCCAAGCTGGT	245
chr9:12522577-12522579	0 < x < 1	0.261625965	TACGGGAGGAGATTAGGTTGATTCCCGTTGGCTCTGGCCAGGCCGTCAGGCC	246
chr9:12642800-12642802	0 < x < 1	1.38E-29	GCGAGGTGCGAGGCTGCGAGGCTGCGAGGCGGCGGCCCGTGGTGTAC	247
chr9:18277673-18277675	0 < x < 1	2.12E-34	GCCTCGCAGCCCTGGCGCGCGCTCGCAGATGGAGCGGCACGGCGGATGG	248
chr9:19654152-19654154	0 < x < 1	0.005118485	AAGTGTGAGTCCACCACCGTGTCCGGGAGGTCTCCTCGGGGATCTCCACCA	249

chr9:19703027-19703029	-1<x<0	4.28E-20	AAGCCCCTCCCCAAGCCAAAGGACCCGGTCACCCATCCCCTCCACCTCCCTA	250
chr9:25415871-25415873	0 < x < 1	2.46E-50	GTGAGGATGCTGCTGAGCTTGCATCGAAGGAGCCACTCATCTTGCGGAGCG	251
chr9:24344496-24344498	0 < x < 1	1.12E-83	AATTAAAAGGGTTATGGGCAGACAGCGTGC GGGTCTCAGAAAGGAAAA TTG	252
chr9:34421146-34421148	0 < x < 1	3.96E-39	GACTCGGGGGCCCTGCAGACAGACCGACGACGCCGACCTCTGCCCGACGG	253
chr9:35986072-35986074	0 < x < 1	7.61E-27	CAGCCAGGAGCAGTGACCGAGCCATCGGAGCTGGGGAGAGACGCGCCAGGGC	254
chr9:35999030-35999032	0 < x < 1	0.109805996	GGCAGCGCAGACAGCGGCCGCCACCGGGCTCGCCGCTGGCCCACTCGGC	255
chr9:47196375-47196377	0 < x < 1	4.17E-30	CCATAGCGGCTGCCAGCTCGTCCCCGAAGCGGACCATGTTCCCGGGCGCC	256
chr9:47612682-47612684	-1<x<0	5.29E-27	GCTCTGGGCTGGGGACTCAGCAGACGCGCTCCCCACCCGCTAGCAGGACCT	257
chr9:50976682-50976684	0 < x < 1	1.00E-43	CCGGAGTGATGACGCTGATTGGCTCCGGCCGATTTTGGGGGTGATGTCACGG	258
chr9:49248845-49248847	-1<x<0	2.14E-28	GGTCACTGAGCTCTGGTTTCATCAGCGAGGGAACTTACTCAGCTCGAGGGAA	259
chr9:54685917-54685919	-1<x<0	1.65E-21	CTCTGGCCGCTGTGGCCTCCTCTGGCGTCTCCGAGACAAGCAGGCTCGCATT	260
chr9:54993941-54993943	-1<x<0	1.24E-27	CTGCCCTGTCCCACAAGCTACCTCCCGAGTGAATAACCCATGCGCTGAGCCCC	261

Table 4 – Top3 Clock

Site	Clock Co-efficient	p-value (Pr(> t))	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
(Intercept)	-0.737834998	0.000221316		
chr2.32494387.32494389	37.1425602	1.55E-05	TTGGAAGCTCGGGGGGCGGAGATCCCGCGCCCGCCCGCGCCCTCGGGGCGG	89
chr22.46374563.46374565	25.17478169	1.08E-09	TTGGACGCGGAGGGCGTCCGGGGCGCCGAGCAACGAGCAGCAGCACGCGTGG	113
chr6.45773846.45773848	20.26108043	1.13E-193	GAGAAGGACGTCCTGTGCGGAAGCCGTTCGACGCGCGGCCCTGGGGGCGG	222

Table 5 – Top5 Clock

Site	Clock Co-efficient	p-value (Pr(> t))	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
(Intercept)	-0.727254445	0.000153021		
chr2.32494387.32494389	37.1612328	6.43E-06	TTGGAAGCTCGGGGGGGGAGATCCCGCGCCGCCGGCCCTCGGGGCGG	89
chr22.46374563.46374565	22.39755562	1.62E-08	TTGGACGCGGAGGCCGTCCGGGGCCGAGCAACGAGCAGCACAGCACGGTGG	113
chr6.45773846.45773848	17.93314936	1.51E-140	GAGAAGGACGTCCCTGTGCGGAAGCCGTTGCGAGCGCGCGCCCTGGGGGCG	222
chr5.61645225.61645227	13.1422123	3.10E-09	TAAAGGGCGATGCCCGGACCCAGGCGCTGGCGTGGGTCCACCGGCGTCGC	208
chr3.70831746.70831748	16.98136108	3.58E-06	CTACCTGTGCGGGGAGGGGAGCACCGGGGCGCCCGCACGTGCGCGCGGCGGG	160

Table 6 – Top10 Clock

Site	Clock Co-efficient	p-value (Pr(> t))	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
(Intercept)	3.098969668	1.79E-15		
chr2.32494387.32494389	43.24386632	3.39E-12	TTGGAAGCTCGGGGGGGGAGATCCCGCGCCGCCGGCCCTCGGGGCGG	89
chr22.46374563.46374565	18.0837229	1.05E-09	TTGGACGCGGAGGCCGTCCGGGGCCGAGCAACGAGCAGCACAGCACGGTGG	113
chr6.45773846.45773848	9.927654715	6.75E-58	GAGAAGGACGTCCCTGTGCGGAAGCCGTTGCGAGCGCGCGCCCTGGGGGCG	222
chr5.61645225.61645227	8.930766415	7.00E-08	TAAAGGGCGATGCCCGGACCCAGGCGCTGGCGTGGGTCCACCGGCGTCGC	208
chr3.70831746.70831748	13.04994007	1.98E-06	CTACCTGTGCGGGGAGGGGAGCACCGGGGCGCCCGCACGTGCGCGCGGCGGG	160
chr15.10856498.10856500	16.51970306	4.70E-10	CCCCAGCGGGCGGCTCGGGTTTCCGACGGAGGGCCGGGCTGCGCGGCGTC	55
chr16.8886545.8886547	9.736863844	1.16E-14	GGCGGGTCCCCGTGCGCGCACGGCCCGCGCCGACCTCTCCGCGGGGCTCC	61
chr3.46843750.46843752	6.421789458	7.38E-22	CCAGGGCCACAGACCTGGAAGTCGCCGGGAGCCCGGACGACTCTCTCAAG	158
chr20.44942213.44942215	6.783887287	8.61E-09	GGCAGGGCCGACAGGCGCGGGCCCGGTTGAAGAAGTCTCGGGCGTCGCGT	101
chr20.57347921.57347923	-10.03483995	3.52E-40	ACCAGCGGCCAGCCGTGACCTTTCCGGGGCTGTTCTGCGGCTCTGGGGCGC	109

Table 7 – Top20 Clock

<u>Site</u>	<u>Clock Co-efficient</u>	<u>p-value (Pr(> t))</u>	<u>Sequence</u>	<u>SEQ ID NO:</u>
(Intercept)	1.705577846	9.79E-05		
chr2.32494387.32494389	41.01314123	1.17E-12	TTGGAAGCTCGGGGGCGGAGATCCGCGCCGCCGGCCGCTCGGGGCGG	89
chr22.46374563.46374565	14.42030898	1.59E-07	TTGACGCGGAGGCCGTCCGGGGCGGAGCAACGAGCAGCAGCAGCGGTGG	113
chr6.45773846.45773848	8.210986049	9.42E-44	GAGAAAGACGTCCCTGTGCGAAGCCGTTGCGAGCGCGCGCCCTGGGGCGG	222
chr5.61645225.61645227	6.475736938	3.13E-05	TAAAGGGCGATCCCGCAGACCCAGGGCGTGGCGTGGGGTCCACCGGCGTCCG	208
chr3.70831746.70831748	9.913046295	0.000100547	CTACCTGTGCGCGGGAGGCGAGCACCAGGGCGCCCGCAGCTCGCGCCGCGGG	160
chr15.10856498.10856500	12.95145963	1.72E-07	CCCAGCCGGCCGGCTCGGGTTCCGACGGAGGGCCGGGCTGCGCGGCGTC	55
chr16.8886545.8886547	7.761075839	4.37E-11	GGCGGGTCCCGTGGCGGCGACGGCCGGCGGCGACCTCTCCGCGGGGCTCC	61
chr3.46843750.46843752	5.373772366	5.08E-17	CCAGGGCCACAGACCTGGAAAGTCGCCGGGAGCCCCGGCAGCACTCCTCTCAAG	158
chr20.44942213.44942215	4.217839864	0.000131313	GGCAGGGCCGCGCAGGCGCGGCCGCCCGGTGAAGAAGTCTCGGCGCTGCGCT	101
chr20.57347921.57347923	-9.131635543	3.73E-38	ACCAGCCGCCAGCCGTGACCTTTCGGGGCTGTTCCCTCGGCTCTGGGCGC	109
chr24.21051024.21051026	2.892412963	3.58E-05	ACGTTGCTCTTGTGCTCCTGCCCTCGCTGGTGTGAGTGTCTCAGCTTCC	122
chr33.26512711.26512713	3.736067928	0.052011151	CGTCGCCCGCGCTCTGCCAGGCCGACCTGGAGCGGAAGCTGAAGCCGAA	177
chr23.37987526.37987528	-9.998502923	0.005079137	CGGGCGGGGAATCCGCCCGCCGCTCGCCCCCGGCGCCTAGACCCGGGGCGC	118
chr5.32347978.32347980	-7.154140717	0.034125216	ACACGATAGCCCTGGGCCCGGTCCCGGCCACCCCGCCAGCAGCCCGATGC	203
chr6.60675998.60676000	4.070607232	0.00085343	GATAGCTTCTCGGCTCGGTGCGGGGGCGGTGCTGAGCGCGGAGCGGCGCGG	223
chr19.44679975.44679977	5.332567614	0.01743534	GCCCATCGCCTGCGGCCTCGGTCTCCGGGGAGAGGGAAGTAACTCCGGAGC	87
chr10.7411293.7411295	2.93908127	2.87E-07	CAGCACGGGCATCTGGACAGCAACCGGAGAGCGAGGCGTGTCTCTCTGGT	14
chr33.26512692.26512694	2.029402014	0.057498714	CGGCTGCCGCGCCGCGAGTCGTGCGCCCGCGCTCTGCCAGGCCGACCTGG	175
chr1.121182146.121182148	5.132841728	6.00E-05	CTGGCCCGAAGGCGCAGGGCATCTCGATGTCGTCTCCCTCCCGGACTGTCA	6
chr17.62156690.62156692	13.76171543	0.02258792	CGCAGAGGAGCTGGGCTGGGTGCCGCTGACCTGGGGGAAGTAGCGTTTCC	7

CLAIMS

1. A method for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog; said method comprising:
 - a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and
 - b) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using the DNA methylation profile.
2. A method for determining a biological age of a dog; said method comprising:
 - a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and
 - b) determining a biological age for the dog using the DNA methylation profile, wherein the DNA methylation profile is linked to the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog.
3. A method for selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog, the method comprising:
 - a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
 - b) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using the DNA methylation profile; and
 - c) selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step b).
4. A method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk of a dog, said method comprising:
 - a) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog, wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been selecting according to the method of claim 3;
 - b) after a time period of applying the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
 - c) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog after the time period of following the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention.
5. A method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, said method comprising:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
- b) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention selected based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step a) to the dog;
- c) after a time period of applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
- d) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog between step a) and step c).

6. A method for developing an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; the method comprising;

- a) determining a first mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
- b) applying a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog;
- c) after a time period of applying the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention to the dog; determining a second mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a second sample obtained from the dog;
- d) determining if there has been a change in the first and second mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog after the time period of following the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention;

wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention is determined to be anti-ageing if it decreases the mortality risk and/or increases the probability of a healthy lifespan; and/or reduces the rate of increase of mortality risk and/or increases rate of reduction in the probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog.

7. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of a dog developing a disease; the method comprising:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; wherein the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined for the dog is associated with an increased likelihood to develop the disease; and
- b) selecting a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step a);

wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention prevents or reduces the risk of the dog developing the disease; preferably wherein the disease is an age-related disease.

8. A method for selecting a dog as being suitable for receiving an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; the method comprising:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
- b) selecting a dog as being suitable for receiving an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention if it has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the method for determining the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog further comprises combining the DNA methylation profile with one or more of the chronological age, breed and/or sex of the dog.

10. A method according to any of claims 3 to 9 wherein a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention is selected based on a determination that the dog has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

11. A method according to any of claims 3 to 10 wherein the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention is a dietary intervention.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the dietary intervention is a calorie-restricted diet, a senior diet or a low protein diet.

13. The method according to any preceding claim wherein the sample is a blood sample.

14. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3 or 5-8, wherein step a) further comprises determining a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog.

15. The method according to any preceding claim, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises at least one methylation site as listed in Table 3.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises at least 3, at least 5, at least 10, at least 20, at least 50, at least 100, at least 150, at least 200 or each of the methylation sites as listed in Table 3.
17. The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises the methylation sites as listed in Table 4.
18. The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises the methylation sites as listed in Table 5.
19. The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises the methylation sites as listed in Table 6.
20. The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA methylation profile comprises the methylation sites as listed in Table 7.
21. The method according to any of claims 14 to 20 wherein DNA methylation is determined using a method which comprises one or more of the following steps: (a) treating the sample DNA with APOBEC to deaminate cytosines; (b) a capture-based enrichment; and/or (c) high throughput sequencing.
22. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the DNA methylation profile is associated with a morbidity or predicted morbidity of (i) a tissue; (ii) an organ; or (iii) a physiological system, such as the immune, gastrointestinal, urinary, muscular, cardiovascular, and/or neurological system.
23. A method according to claim 22, further comprising applying to the dog a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention which is suitable for improving the morbidity or predicted morbidity of the tissue; organ; or physiological system identified in claim 22.
24. A dietary intervention or therapeutic modality for use in reducing the mortality risk and/or increasing the probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is administered to a dog with a mortality risk determined by the method of any of claims 1, 7-10 or 13-23.
25. Use of a dietary intervention therapeutic modality to reduce the mortality risk and/or increase the probability of healthy lifespan of a dog, wherein the dietary intervention is

administered to a dog with a mortality risk determined by the method of any of claims 1, 7-20 or 13-23.

26. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that when executed cause one or more processors to perform the method of any of claims 1, 2, 3, 7 to 16 or 23.

27. A computer system for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog; the computer system programmed to determine a mortality risk for the dog using a DNA methylation profile of the dog.

28. A computer system for selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for a dog, the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from the dog; and
- b) selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined in step a).

29. A computer system for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for a dog, the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog before the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention and a sample obtained from the dog after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; and
- b) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog between the sample obtained from the dog before and after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been applied.

30. A computer system for determining a likelihood that a dog will benefit from an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; the computer system programmed to perform one or more of the steps of:

- a) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog;
- b) identifying a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention if it has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

31. A computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile of the dog.

32. A computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile from the dog; and select a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined using a DNA methylation profile.

33. A computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to a) determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog before a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention and a sample obtained from the dog after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention; and b) determine if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog between the sample obtained from the dog before and after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been applied.

34. A computer program product comprising computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to a) determine a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for a dog using a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; and b) identify a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention if it has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age.

35. A method for creating an epigenetic clock to determine a mortality risk and/or probability of healthy lifespan of a dog; said method comprising: a) providing a DNA methylation profile from a sample obtained from the dog; b) computing two gompertz or weibull functions, (i) a first one gompertz or weibull function that models survival as a function of the methylation profile, chronological age, and optionally breed class and/or sex; and (ii) a second gompertz or weibull function that that models survival as a function of chronological age, and optionally breed class and/or sex only; wherein the mortality risk and/or probability of healthy lifespan is determined based on the time variable at which the survival probability of the dog given by the second gompertz or weibull function is equal to the survival probability at their chronological age given by the first one gompertz or weibull function.

36. A computer system or computer program product according to any of claims 27 to 35; wherein the computer system or computer program prepares and shares a report detailing the outcome of step (b).

37. A kit for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of healthy lifespan of a dog, comprising means and reagents for collection and, optionally, stabilizing of a sample from the subject; and instructions for collection and, optionally, stabilizing of the sample, and wherein the sample is for mailing for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile.

38. A method for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a DNA methylation profile of the dog; the method comprising (a) providing a sample from the dog, optionally using a kit according to claim 37; (b) providing the sample for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile; (c) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for the dog using a computer system according to claim 27 or a computer program product according to claim 31; wherein the computer system prepares and shares a report detailing the outcome of step (c).

39. A method for determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan for a dog using a DNA methylation profile from the dog; and selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog based on the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan determined using a DNA methylation profile; the method comprising (a) providing a sample from the dog, optionally using a kit according to claim 37; (b) providing the sample for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile; (c) determining a mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan and selecting a suitable lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for the dog using a computer system according to claim 28 or a computer program product according to claim 32; wherein the computer system prepares and shares a report detailing the outcome of step (c).

40. A method for determining the efficacy of a lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention for improving mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of a dog using a DNA methylation profile, the method comprising: (a) providing a sample obtained from the dog before the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention and a sample obtained from the dog after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic

intervention, optionally using a kit according to claim 37; (b) providing the samples for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile; (c) determining if there has been a change in the mortality risk and/or probability of a healthy lifespan of the dog between the sample obtained from the dog before and after the lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention has been applied using a computer system according to claim 29 or a computer program product according to claim 33; wherein the computer system prepares and shares a report detailing the outcome of step (c).

41. A method for identifying a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle regime, dietary regime or therapeutic intervention using a DNA methylation profile; the method comprising: (a) providing a sample obtained from the dog; optionally using a kit according to claim 37; (b) providing the sample for subsequent DNA extraction for the measurement of DNA methylation in the extracted DNA from the sample to obtain a DNA methylation profile; (c) identifying a dog as likely to respond to an anti-aging lifestyle or dietary if it has an increased mortality risk and/or reduced probability of a healthy lifespan compared to its chronological age using a computer system according to claim 30 or a computer program product according to claim 34; wherein the computer system prepares and shares a report detailing the outcome of step (c).

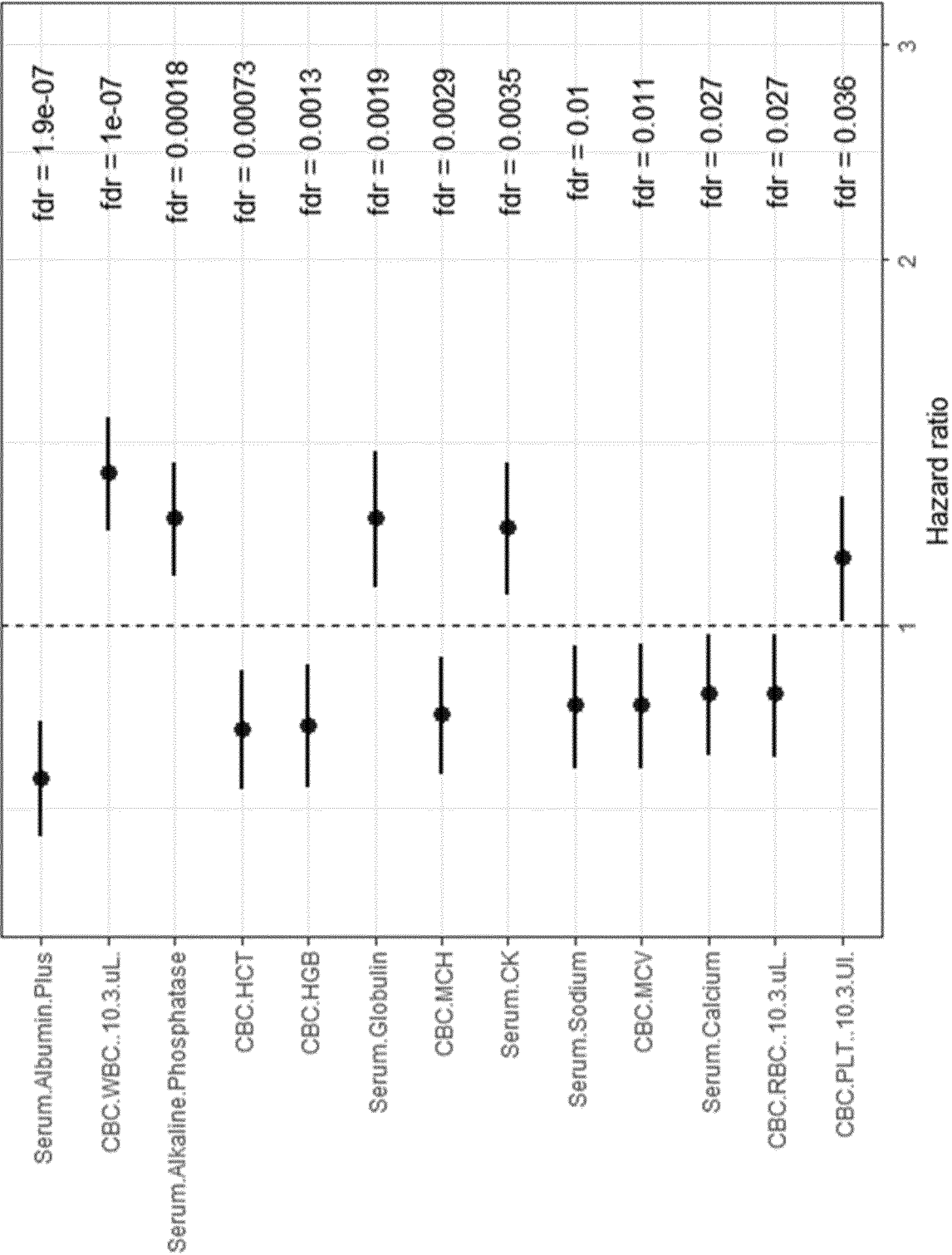


Figure 1

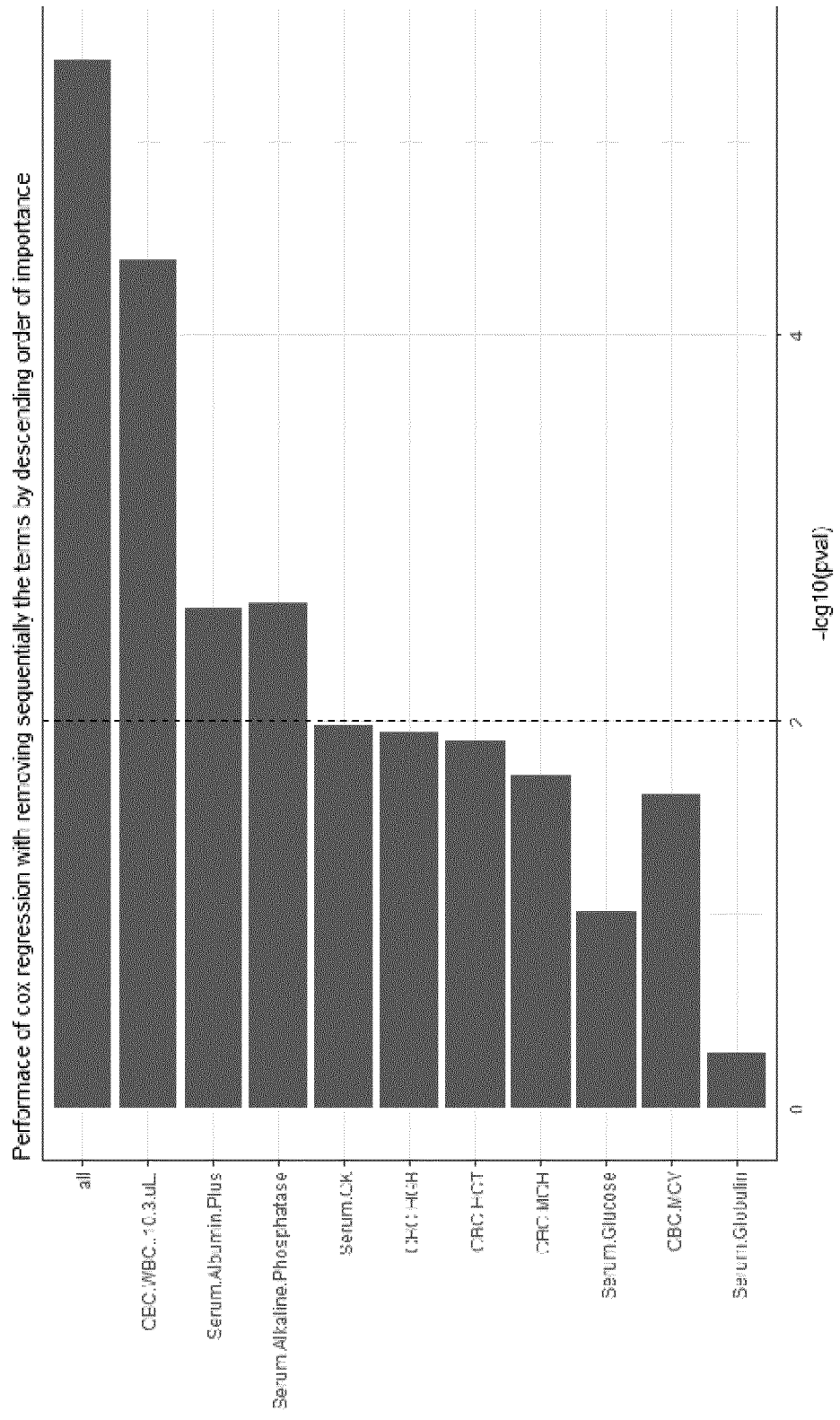


Figure 2

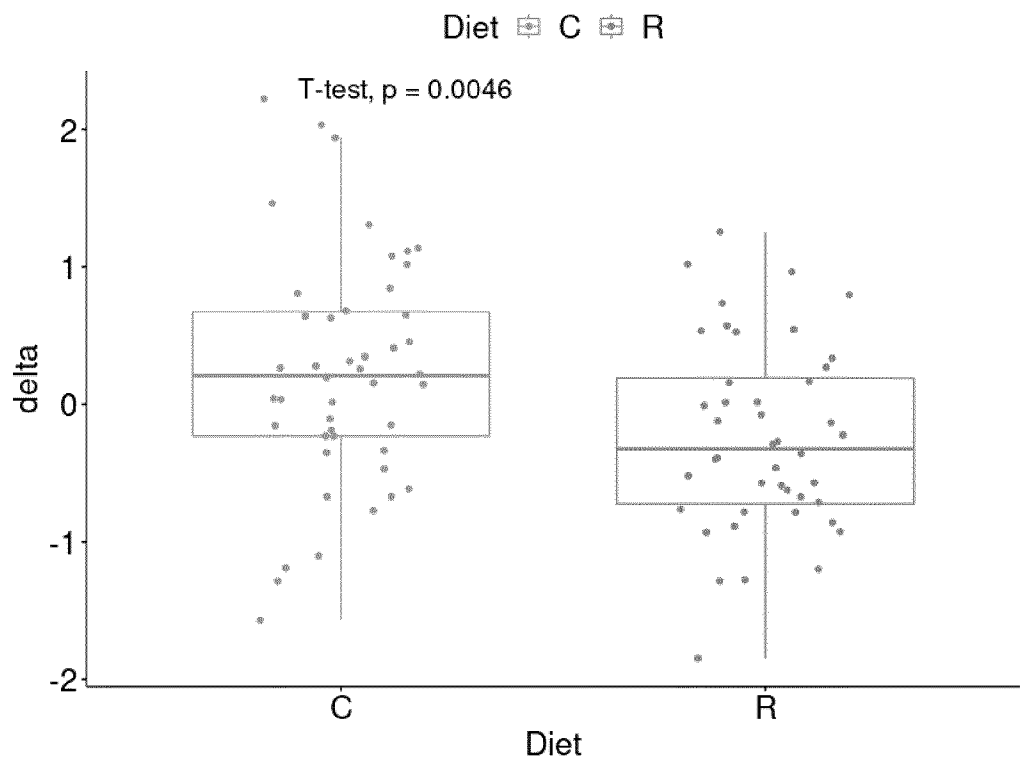


Figure 3

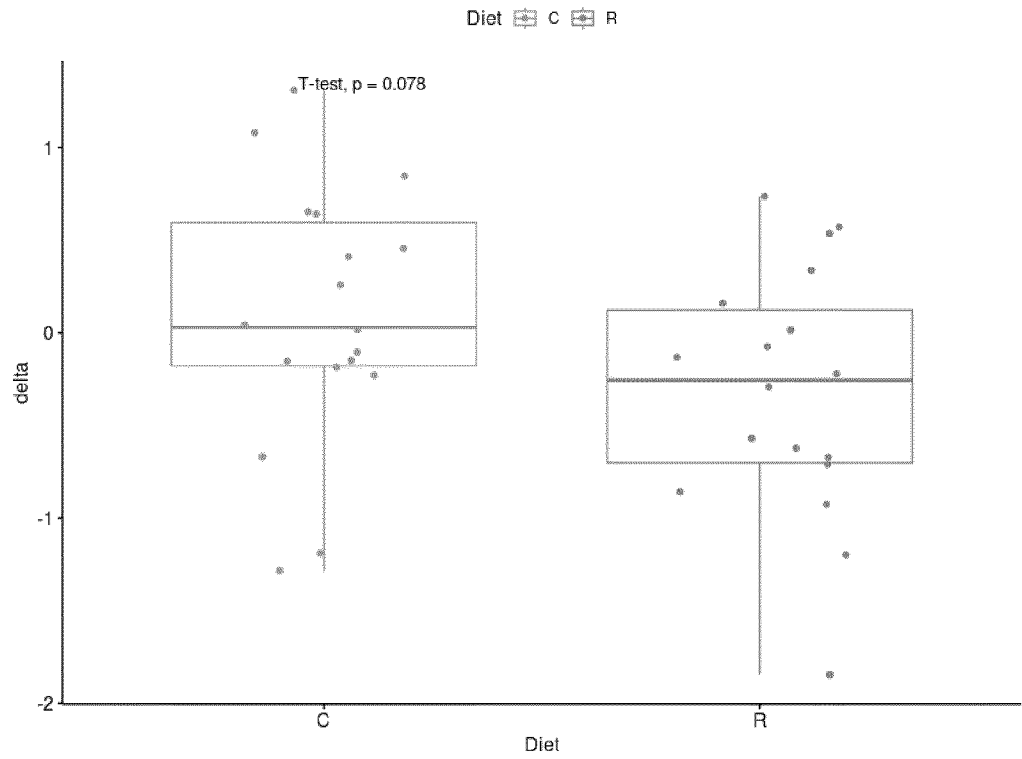


Figure 4

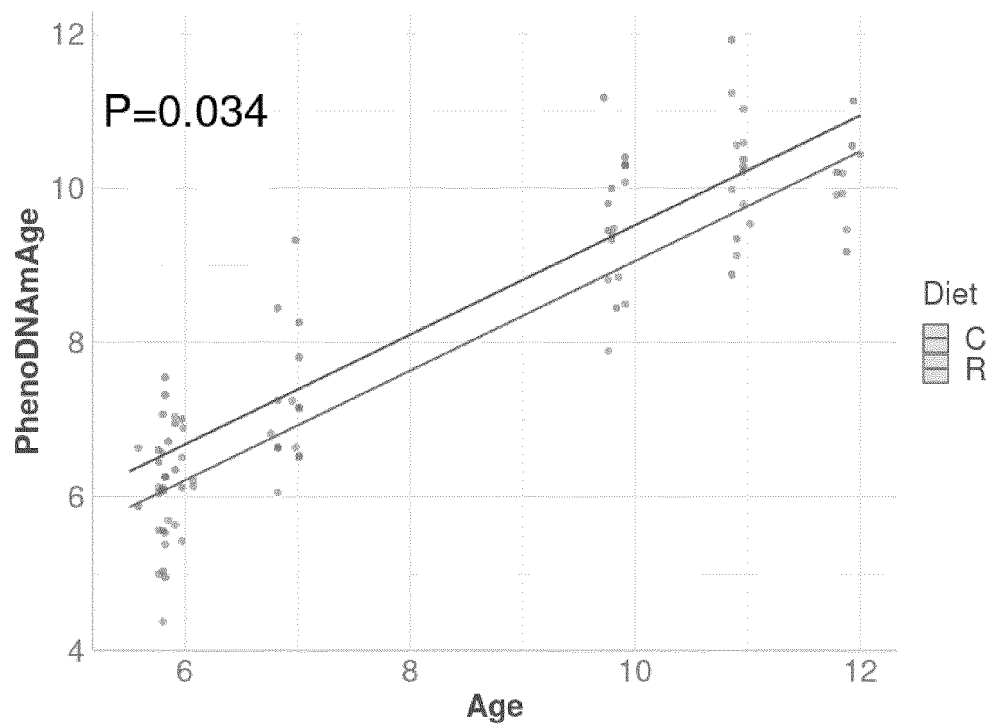


Figure 5

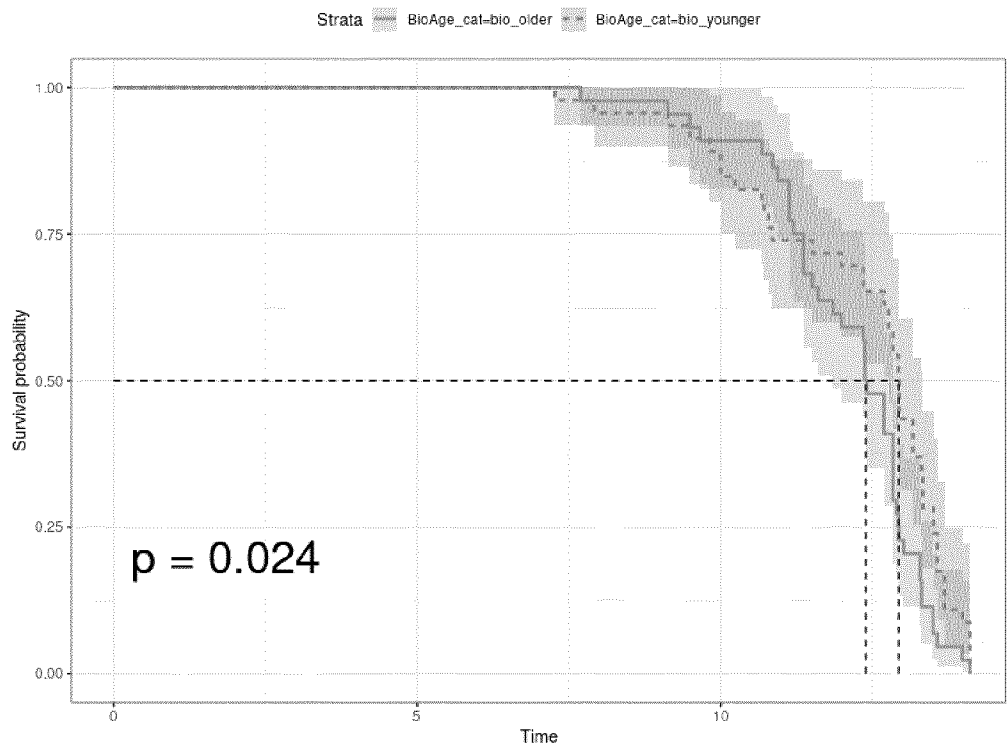


Figure 6

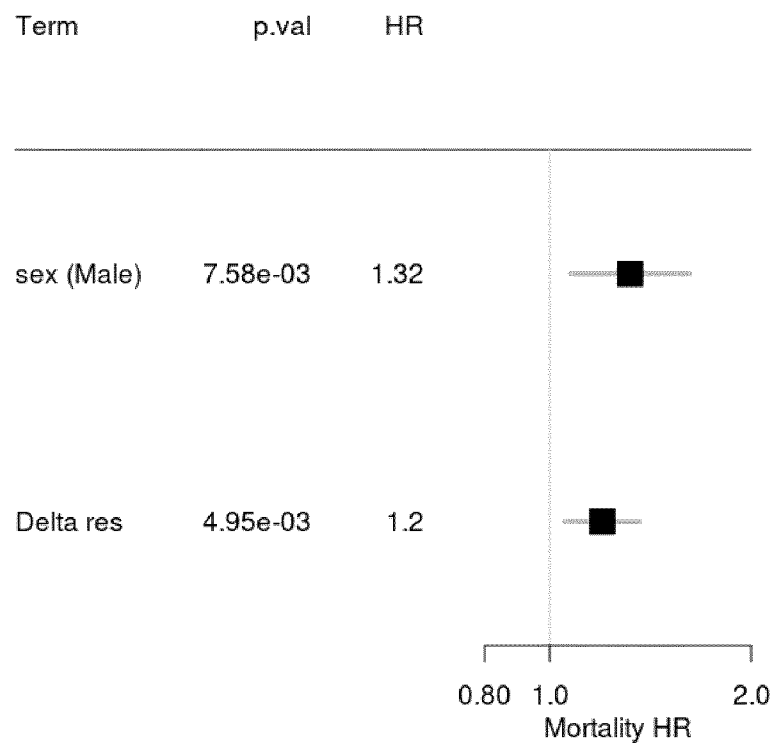


Figure 7

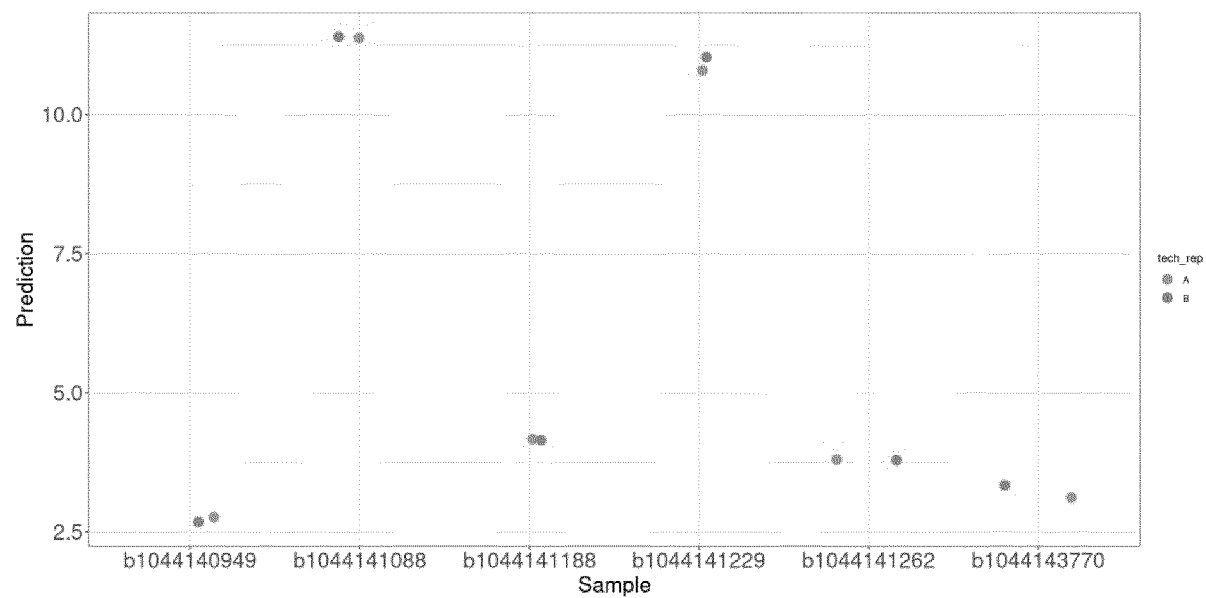
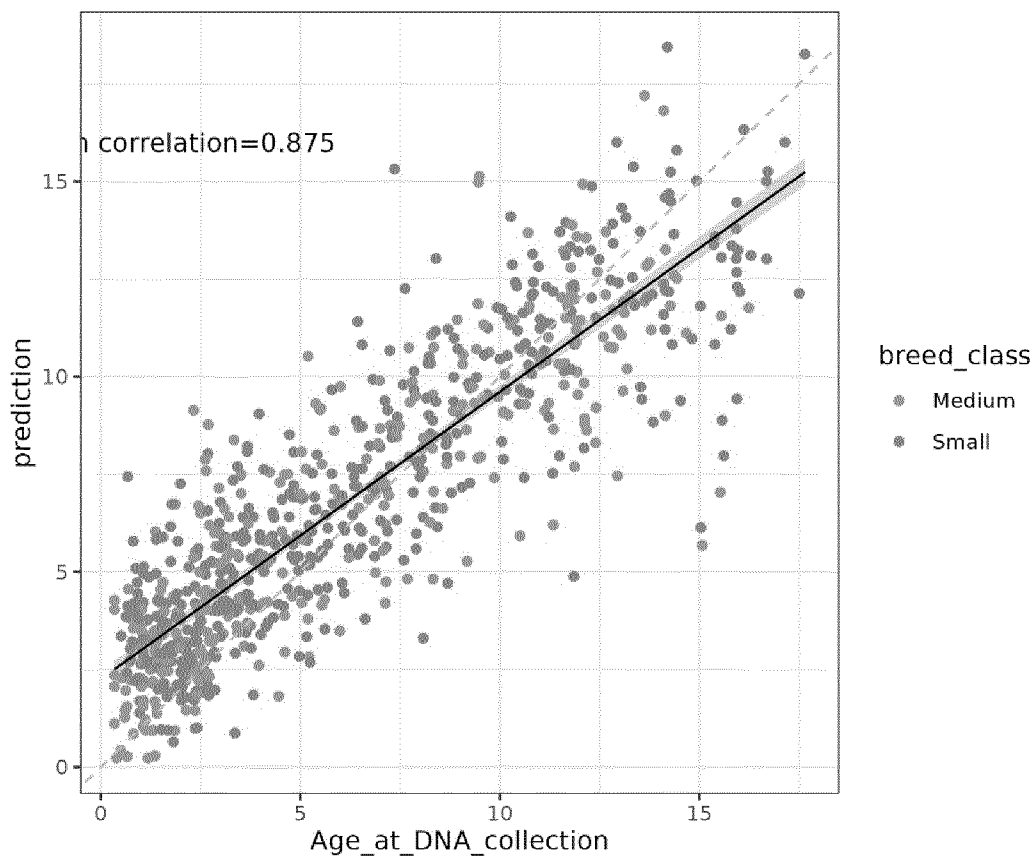
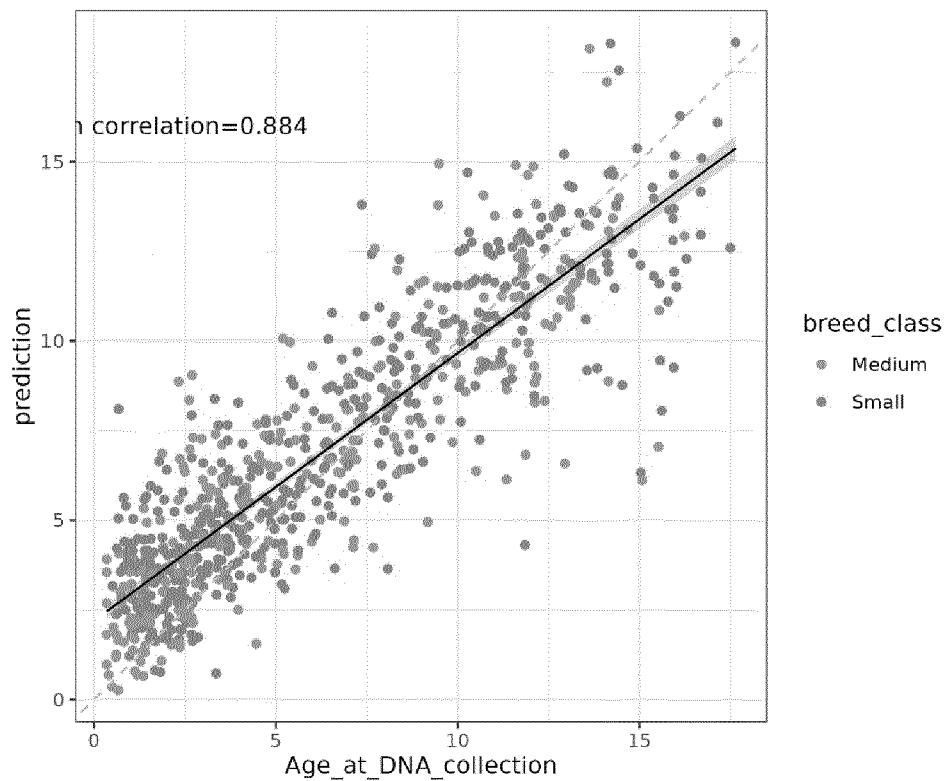
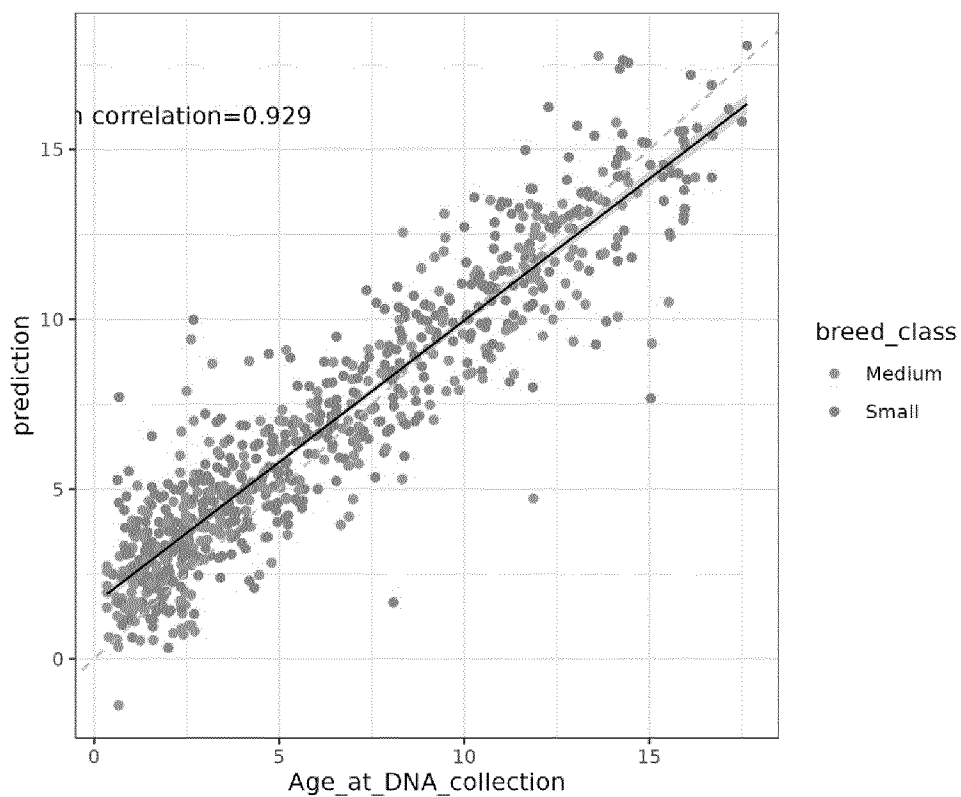
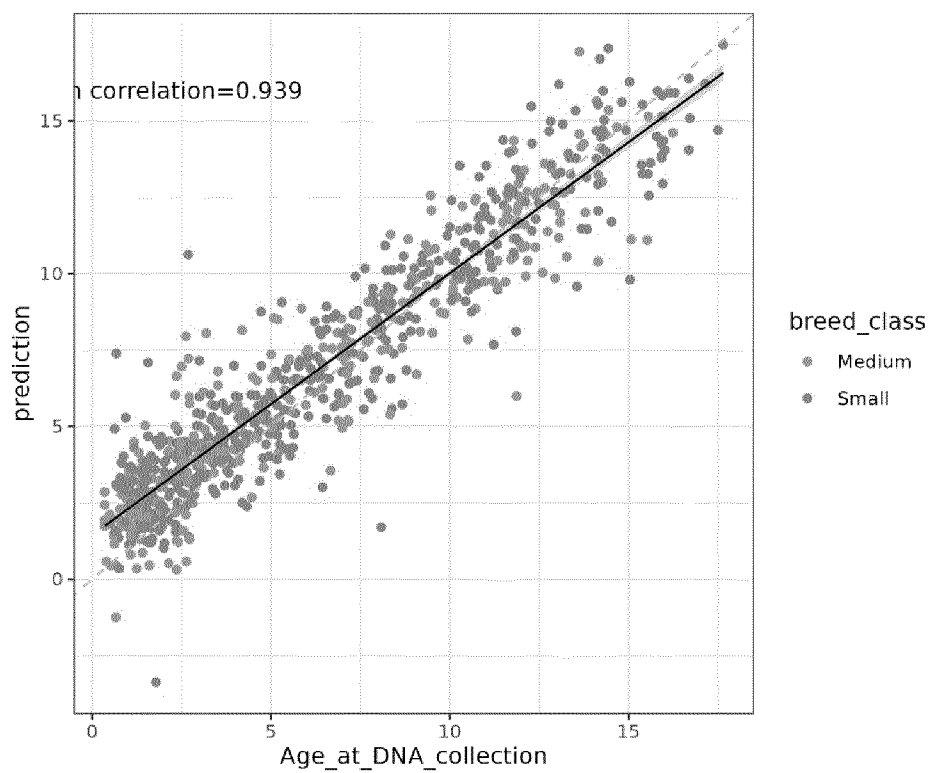


Figure 8

**Figure 9****Figure 10**

**Figure 11****Figure 12**

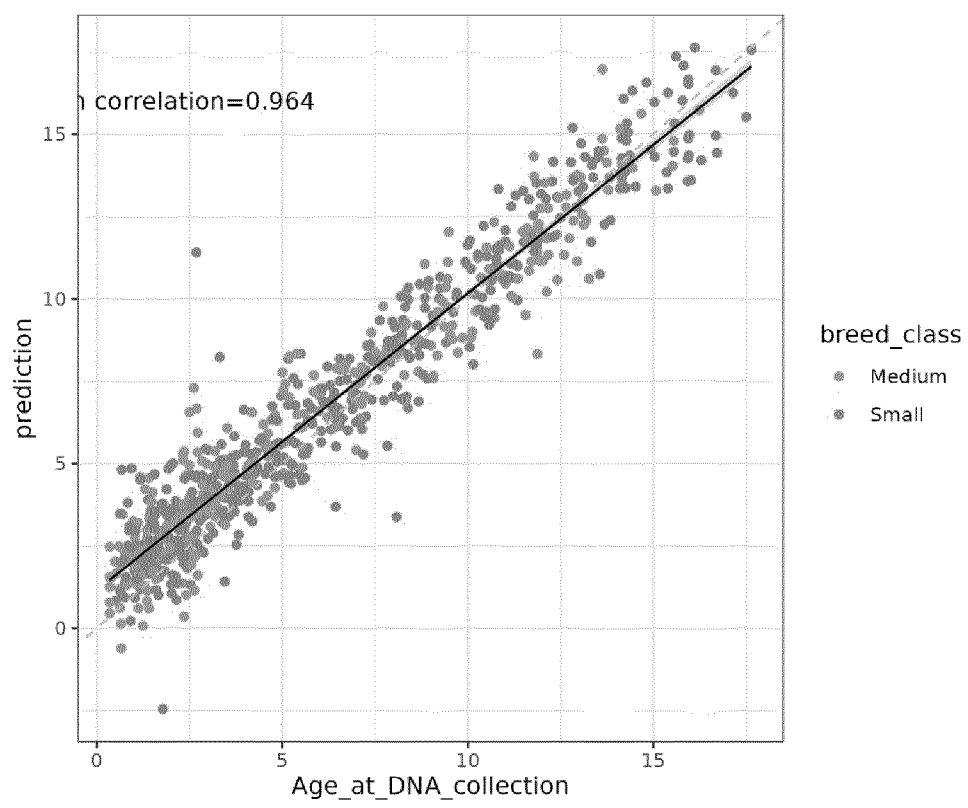


Figure 13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2023/064443

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C12Q1/6876 C12Q1/6883
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, EMBASE, FSTA, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Horvath Steve ET AL: "Epigenetic clock and methylation studies in dogs", bioRxiv, 30 March 2021 (2021-03-30), XP093075639, DOI: 10.1101/2021.03.30.437604 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.30.437604v1.full.pdf [retrieved on 2023-08-22]	1-16, 21-34, 36, 38-41
Y	abstract; p. 4, 2nd para.; p. 5, 2nd-3rd para.; p. 10, 4th para.; p. 11, 3rd para.; p. 12, 2nd-3rd para.	35
A	----- -/--	17-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 August 2023

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/09/2023

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ripaud, Leslie

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2023/064443

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	THOMPSON MICHAEL J. ET AL: "An epigenetic aging clock for dogs and wolves", AGING, vol. 9, no. 3, 28 March 2017 (2017-03-28), pages 1055-1068, XP093076090, DOI: 10.18632/aging.101211 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://www.aging-us.com/article/101211/pdf>	1-16, 21-34, 36,38-41
Y A	abstract; p. 1056, left-hand col., 2nd para.; p. 1059, left-hand col., 1st para.; p. 1059, para. bridging left- to right-hand col.; p. 1064, left-hand col., 1st para.; p. 1064, right-hand col., last para.; fig. 3 -----	35 17-20
X	EP 3 162 899 A1 (RHEINISCH-WESTFÄLISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE AACHEN [DE]) 3 May 2017 (2017-05-03) para. 34, 83, 94, 95, 99 -----	37
Y	Morgane Levine ET AL: "An epigenetic biomarker of aging for lifespan and healthspan", AGING, vol. 10 17 April 2018 (2018-04-17), pages 573-591, XP055766769, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5940111/pdf/aging-10-101414.pdf [retrieved on 2021-01-19] abstract; p. 574, right-hand col., last para. - p. 575, left-hand col., 1st para.; p. 585, right-hand col., last para. -----	35
Y	LIU ZUYUN ET AL: "A new aging measure captures morbidity and mortality risk across diverse subpopulations from NHANES IV: A cohort study", PLOS MEDICINE, vol. 15, no. 12, 1 January 2018 (2018-01-01), page e1002718, XP093057615, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1002718 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002718&type=printable> abstract; p. 5, 3rd para.; p. 6, last para - p. 8, 1st para. ----- -/--	35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2023/064443

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2019/046725 A1 (THE REGENT OF THE UNIV OF CALIFORNIA [US]) 7 March 2019 (2019-03-07) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-41
A	WO 2018/150042 A1 (DEUTSCHES KREBSFORSCH [DE]) 23 August 2018 (2018-08-23) the whole document -----	1-41

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2023/064443

Box No. I Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.c of the first sheet)

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of a sequence listing:
 - a. ☒ forming part of the international application as filed.
 - b. ☐ furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search (Rule 13*ter*.1(a)).

☐ accompanied by a statement to the effect that the sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
2. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, this report has been established to the extent that a meaningful search could be carried out without a WIPO Standard ST.26 compliant sequence listing.
3. Additional comments:

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2023/064443

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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