

## Extending dog lifespans? Next wave of longevity drugs aim to add years to pet lives

“When you adopt a dog, you’re adopting future heartbreak,” said Emilie Adams, a New Yorker who owns three Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

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In recent years, scientists have been chasing after drugs that might stave off this heartbreak by extending the lives of our canine companions. On [28 November 2023], the biotech company [Loyal](#) announced that it had moved one step closer to bringing one such drug to market.

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More are in the pipeline. A team of academic researchers is currently conducting [a canine clinical trial of rapamycin](#), which has been shown to extend the lives of lab mice. And Loyal is recruiting dogs for [a clinical trial](#) of another drug candidate, dubbed LOY-002.

These developments are a sign of the accelerating pace of the science and the seriousness with which researchers and regulators are taking a field that once seemed like science fiction. They also raise questions about what it might mean to succeed, said Daniel Promislow, a biogerontologist at the University of Washington and a co-director of the [Dog Aging Project](#), which is conducting the rapamycin trial.

“What if it works?” he said. “What are the implications?”

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the full article here\*\*](#)