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Many cloned mice

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The nuclei used in cloning may not go through all the changes that normally reset a gamete nucleus, and thus there have been fears of premature aging and shortened telomeres (an age-related phenomenon) in cloned animals. Indeed, shortened telomeres have been seen in [cloned sheep](#), although the reverse is true for [cloned cows](#). Now in the 21 September [Nature](#) Wakayama *et al.* report that mice reiteratively cloned for up to six generations show no signs of premature aging or shortening of telomeres (*Nature* 2000, **407**:318-319). The success rate of cloning does drop in later generations, however, meaning that the team had to inject a total of 3920 enucleated oocytes over the multiple generations to come up with a single sixth generation clone. After all that effort and technology a more basic biology took over, as the lone survivor was cannibalized by its foster mother.

References

1. Analysis of telomere lengths in cloned sheep.
2. Extension of cell life-span and telomere length in animals cloned from senescent somatic cells.
3. Nature, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]