Adopting the Older Dog

From the PAWS *Happy, Healthy, and Safe* Education Series

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- Picking that special dog; the one that will match you perfectly, becomes instantly easier when you choose an older dog. Puppies are cute but imagine being able to immediately know exactly what your companion animal's personality will be.

- When it comes to training you will find that mature dogs find it much easier to focus on your commands. Remember they already have experience pleasing people. You will like your results.

- We find that one of the more rewarding parts of finding new homes for all our animals is hearing from their adoptive parents. The stories that follow finding homes for the older animals always seem to have a special feel to them. What could be more rewarding than caring for an older dog that shows you undying gratitude for your generosity? Rescuing any sheltered animal is a huge act of kindness, but the reality is that often the older animals are the last to be chosen for adoption. This leaves them exposed to the alternative(s). Sadly this means they are often the first to be euthanized. So in many cases you have literally saved its life.

- As if what's just been said isn't enough; think of how senior canines won't require nearly as much of your energy as the younger ones will. This stuff adds up, doesn't it? So here's another good reason: Whether you're retired or just plain ' tired ' (at the end of your busy work day) older dogs need less exercise.

- Their life skills mean they won't require your attention day and night.

- They are sure to know how to fit in and will become an important part of your family right away.

- Usually older dogs are already housetrained and that will definitely make your life easier. Along with that, they are beyond all the teething problems associated with puppies. You floors will be happy and your furniture will smile.

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Protecting Animals Worth Saving

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