



## 10 REASONS TO ADOPT AN OLDER DOG

Some people believe that the dogs in shelters are either genetically inferior and/or behaviorally challenged compared to a puppy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Most of the dogs in our shelters (appx. 60%) are turned in by owners who have undergone a lifestyle change that makes keeping an animal inconvenient or impossible and/ or they do not understand their pets most basic needs and behaviors. None of these reasons are a dog's fault.

Choosing an older rescue may be the best decision, and addition to your family, that you ever make. What is an "older rescue?" Shelter or rescue dogs anywhere from 6 months to 5 years generally but however old you are personally comfortable in accepting. Here is why:

1. With most family members being gone for 8+ hours a day during the workweek, housebreaking is difficult or impossible. Puppies must have opportunities to eliminate. They can only hold "eliminations" one hour for every month of age, as a rule, up to 8 hours (4 months = 4 hours). Older rescues can "hold" it longer and are often housebroken when you get them!
2. Puppies will chew your favorite whatever, be it your comfy shoes and/or that \$10,000 sound system, as they cut teeth and learn which "toys" are theirs and which ones are yours. You will get holes in the carpet (along with the urine stains), pages missing from books, stuffing pulled out of couches, and at least one dead remote control, no matter how closely you supervise them. An older rescue, with rare exceptions, can usually have the run of the house without destroying it.
3. With an older rescue, you can forget the alarm clocks and stumbling around the house and yard in the dark, wee hours of the morning half asleep. Puppies can be very demanding at 2, 4 and 6 am. It misses its littermates and that stuffed animal will not "puppy pile" with it. If you prefer a peace and quiet, and sleep, you should seriously consider an older rescue dog.
4. Serenity. It is impossible to relax with a puppy running amok in your home. Do you really believe the kids are going to feed the dog, clean up its messes, or take it for walks every hour in the freezing rain while it being housetrained? An older rescue dog will be much more willing to sit calmly beside you while your workday stress flows away while your blood pressure lowers as you pet it and most feel the say way you do about getting up in the middle of the night, especially if freezing rain is involved.
5. Cheaper/less frequent vet trips. Puppies need a series of vet visits for all those puppy shots and fecals, another trip for their rabies shot, and yet another to be altered. Of course, most require at least one or two emergency trips when they chew something dangerous or get sick. Those vet visits mount up! Adopting an older rescue should get you an altered, heartworm negative dog with its shots current the best part of the next year! One trip for a check up and heartworm meds and you are set for a while!
6. There is no wondering how big the puppy will get, what its temperament will be, or how active it will get! With an older rescue, what you see is what you get! You can choose what you want and you get it NOW! Shelters and rescues are full of puppies who became the "wrong" choice as they got older!
7. When a puppy isn't chewing on things, it will chew on you or your children. Puppy teeth are sharp and can hurt, maybe even cause scarring. Unless one is knowledgeable enough to train bite inhibition, puppies can become nippy. Those nips can turn into bites as the pup grows into an adult dog. With an older rescue, you can screen it to insure it puppy learned bite inhibition as a puppy like it should have.
8. Puppies trap you into making an emotional choice rather than a reasoned decision. They are so cute it distracts you from making a reasoned and intelligent decision into one based on looks and feelings. This decision will effect your life for many years to come, maybe up to the next 20 years. A "cute" puppy that grows to be hyperactive when you wanted couch companion, or that is a bed buddy when you wanted a tireless running mate, or that wants to be an only "child" when you wanted children and/or more animals can be very unsatisfying as a pet. Mismatches are why people "divorce" their dogs! Pick an older rescue that fits your personality and lifestyle to insure you and your dog pet are a "good" match.
9. Older rescues usually bond deeply with their new owners, its like they want to please as much as possible to insure they never become "homeless" again. Given them a month or so to settle in and get to know you and learn what is expected and, in a loving environment, they will become devoted and loyal companions.
10. With an older rescue, you get what you want NOW. There is no waiting while a puppy grows up. There is no hoping it will be the dog you want it to be. You select a compatible dog NOW and you get it.