

# Why Should I Adopt an Older Dog? Common Questions and Answers:



## Will I be adopting someone else's problems?

Some reasons why older dogs lose their homes are:

- death of a guardian
- not enough time for the dog
- change in work schedule
- new baby
- need to move to a place where dogs are not allowed
- kids going off to college
- allergies
- change in "lifestyle"

Most cases are not a direct cause of the dog but usually due to circumstances of the person or family.

## What advantages do older dogs have vs. puppies/younger dogs?

- Older dogs generally have had some training, both in obedience and house manners. Due to the confusion and upset of being in a temporary fostering environment, sometimes they may "forget" this, and a refresher course might be needed.
- Older dogs have learned what "no" means and how to behave in a home.
- They have been "socialized" and know what it takes to be part of a "pack" and to get along with family members and other pets.
- Older dogs generally have a lower energy level than puppies and are ideal for working families and seniors.
- Finally, a potential adopter is able to assess the size and temperament of the older dog as there is no guessing on how big they will grow or what their personality will be!

## Don't older dogs cost more in vet bills?

When adopting a dog, whether it be a puppy, a young dog or senior, there will always be medical expenses. There are no guarantees that when you adopt a younger dog the vet bills will be lower, and being realistic about this will help you plan accordingly. Good nutrition, exercise and preventive care are all important factors in keeping your dog healthy.

## Grief...how do I handle it?

Grief is a very personal matter. Some people feel that giving a home to an older dog is a tribute to their former dog and actually eases their pain. Saving a dog from euthanasia through adoption enables people to focus on the positives and to deal better with loss. Consider also that there are never any guarantees about length of life with any dog. Quality of time together can matter a great deal more than quantity.



## "You can't teach old dogs new tricks".

Patience, patience, patience! Dogs can be trained at any age. There are training classes that you can sign up for to help you with this transition. However, most older dogs have had some training in one way or another...so they may only need a refresher course.



## How long will it take for an older dog to settle into a routine with me?

Each dog is an individual and comes with a unique set of experiences and varying circumstances, so it is hard to predict how much time is required to make an adjustment. With care, patience, and a kind, understanding, loving attitude, just about any dog will come around.

## Lastly, what kind of support can an adopter expect from NARF?

We will guide you carefully through any adjustment period that may be needed, and provide resources as we are able.

