

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and PetFinder.com  
celebrate November as

# Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month

At animal shelters and rescue groups across the nation, there are an abundance of healthy senior pets looking for a special home to cherish them for the rest of their lives. Although shaping the life of a youngster sounds appealing, giving a second chance to an older companion can be equally rewarding.

They like to share quiet moments, are already trained and usually do not chew or scratch everything in sight. "Older pets have plenty to offer adopters – not the least of which is love," comments Jacque Schultz, ASPCA Companion Animal Programs Advisor.

**Calm Demeanor:** An adult animal's relatively calm demeanor and less intense exercise needs make them the perfect match for a full-time, working household or an older person seeking friendship and love. Older pets often make excellent or at the very least, agreeable companions for other household pets, as well.

**Physical Demands are Low:** Fortunately, many senior animals are not as demanding as a younger animal. Like any animal, they need quality time in the form of attention and exercise, but the length and intensity of exercise may not be as great. Older dogs, for example, may prefer quiet walks to running or active play and will usually not pull you around on the leash or jump up on you.

**Already Trained:** Adult animals often already know how to live harmoniously with humans. In general, adult pets require far less supervision and less constant care, which can make them ideal companions for people with already busy lives. They may already be litter box or housetrained. An older dog might also have some obedience training.

**Size at Maturity is Known:** Senior animals, e.g., dogs, cats, small mammals, and some reptiles have already reached their maximum size and weight and therefore will not require additional purchases anticipating future growth needs. For instance, a senior dog, unlike a growing puppy needs only one size collar, harness, lead, dog bed, or travel crate.

**What You See is What You Get:** With adopted older pets you will usually know about any behavior challenges or health considerations before you adopt. In other words, there are no surprises.

