

Adopting Older Dogs: A True Delight

By Kitty Stein (Current Foster of Shiloh, the Beagle)

As a lover of dogs of all ages and having fostered dogs for *Paws 4 You Rescue* for over a year, I have come to the conclusion that **adopting an older dog carries many benefits.**

Not only is an adult dog often already housebroken, it also has learnt valuable life lessons.

✓ An older dog knows how to read people and if you are lucky has been socialized so that you can take it with you to all kinds of places. Unlike a puppy, which still has to learn everything from potty training to climbing stairs to interacting with other animals and people, an older dog is already at the point you want a puppy to get to.

✓ Sure, the dog is older and may have some issues because of how it was treated by previous owners but with a little patience, it can be retrained and rehabilitated easily. An older dog may not be as cute as a puppy but even a puppy will grow up within a few months. And with a puppy you can never be sure how big it is going to grow.

✓ What you need to ask yourself when thinking about adopting a dog is this: do you want to spend the next two years training a puppy and dealing with puppy-related issues such as the chewing stage OR do you want to find a dog that is going to adapt to your lifestyle easily and is ready to enjoy life with you? If all you want is a dog that is happy to sit next to you, play a little with you, and just be with you, an older dog may be the better option for you. If you are not able to take lots of long walks per day or go jog-

ging with your young dog or play ball with your energetic puppy, an older dog may be the answer. Of course, an older dog needs to be exercised, too, but you can clearly see its energy level when you first meet it because it is already grown-up. Simply choose an adult dog

with the right energy level for you. Never adopt a dog that has a higher energy level than yourself because you may face problems with this dog such as naughty behavior or aggression later if its energy is not drained properly day by day through exercise.

To conclude, I strongly advise people to rethink their intention of adopting a puppy and instead take a moment to reflect on their life style and needs; it may be to their benefit to adopt a dog 5 years or older instead of a puppy.

For more information on Paws 4 You Rescue, visit www.paws4you.org



SHILOH is a handsome 8-9 year old beagle with a gentle and kind face, just like his personality. He is a great companion, mellow, well-behaved and loyal.

“Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog.” --Sidney Jeanne Seward



PINKY is a senior cocker spaniel and beagle mix who is extremely sweet and well behaved. She has a beautiful and gentle spirit about her and enjoys being around her favorite person.



PUPPY is an 9-10 year old black lab that loves to be around people. He is smart and eager to please as well as patient and obedient.

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