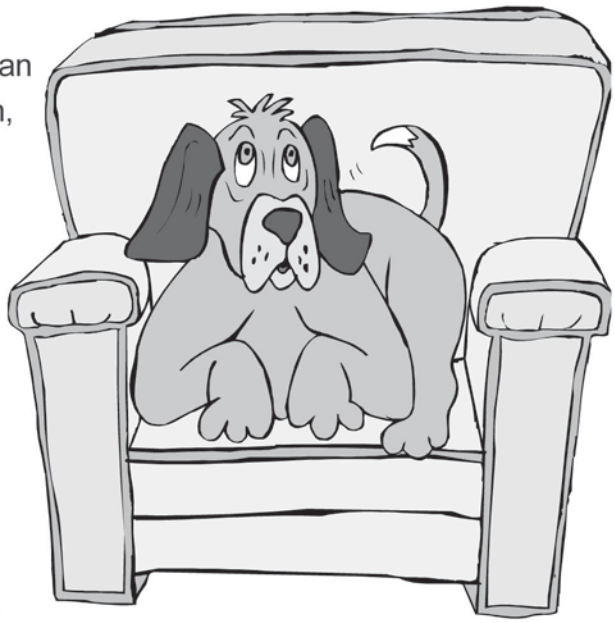
THE FIVE BEST REASONS FOR ADOPTING AN OLDER DOG

1. **They're not puppies.**
   While older dogs want your attention, they are more mellow, more patient and more eager to bond than their noisy, slaphappy 8 week to 6 month-old puppy counterparts. While puppies are wonderful, for the busy person, coping with job and family, the mature dog is ready to fit right in.

2. **They can learn new tricks.**
   The older, more mature dog is trainable. Focusing an older dog on the basic commands: come, sit, down, off and stay is often easier than it is to focus a puppy or adolescent dog.



3. **Their needs are modest.**
   Once acquainted with you and lavished with attention, the older dog settles in, finds his place and quickly fits into the routine.

4. **They are quick studies.**
   Dogs are non-verbal. They pick-up messages you give them. Unlike a puppy, the older dog is already use to absorbing and translating non-verbal cues. When your messages are ones of kindness, love, and praise, the older dog knows right away what to expect and how to behave. When those messages-ones that only you can give him-communicate patience, understanding and comfort, your older dog will respond quickly and with a great deal of love and affection.

5. **They are grateful for your love.**
   Let's face it; people crave the positive strokes a loving pet can give them. The older dog, with it's modest needs, its ability to focus on you, and its eagerness to translate your affection is grateful for the second…or maybe even third…chance you're willing to give. What a winning combination!

San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
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