



To walk with a dog... is to share his world. What sights and sounds he encounters. What past and present smells he reads. To stretch his legs, to bask in the sun, to discover and wind his way through this brave new human world.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 52

## A World of Dogs: Older and Wiser - Why Adopt a Senior

Let's admit it: We have a youth bias. Puppies and young dogs up to about three years of age are the first to be adopted in shelters. Meanwhile dogs older than seven – or as young as five – are overlooked. For many potential adopters, it's an obvious choice. Who wouldn't want to be part of as much of a dog's lifetime as you could get? Not many people would look forward to the inevitable physical decline and eventual loss of a loved companion, and it seems to make sense to postpone that heartbreak as long as possible. But these considerations, while certainly valid, leave out a great deal of important information.

Older dogs, for example, are often easier to live with than their younger counterparts.



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## Healthy Dog: Why Dogs Eat Grass

It's a rare dog that never partakes of a tender stalk of juicy grass – and some dogs practically graze. Dogs are omnivores and it's likely their diet in the wild would include fruit, berries, herbs, and a variety of grasses. On occasion, grass-eating could be an attempt to induce vomiting or soothe a digestive issue, and it's speculated that dogs also instinctively seek out certain herbs as a cure for other ailments. Because of the connection with gastric upset, it's always worth paying extra attention if your dog suddenly develops a ravenous appetite for grass. Look for vomiting that lasts more than a few days, blood or mucus in the stool, and lethargy. Any of those should trigger a visit to the vet for a full checkup.



In the absence of any other symptoms, don't worry if your dog snacks on the foliage. If nothing else, it's good roughage.

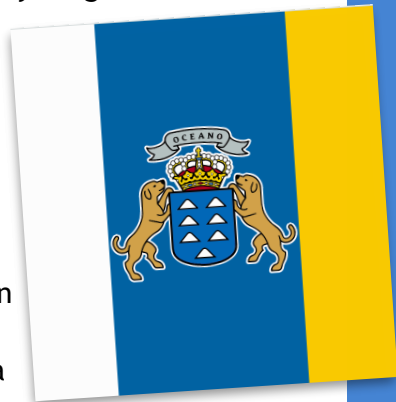
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## ... adopt a senior

Depending on their previous learned experiences, they may have already been house-trained, learned some polite manners, rarely require daily marathon exercise sessions, and likely have left most youthful follies behind. Senior dogs can be low-maintenance dogs unless they suffer from health issues. Maturity in a dog often equals predictability. Size, personality, grooming requirements; it's all there in plain view. Not so for puppies. In contrast, puppies and teenage dogs go through sensitive fear periods of development around 8-10 weeks and 6-14 months. They may require round-the-clock monitoring and attention. They have no idea it's not okay to plant muddy paws on clean pants, for example, and must be patiently taught everything, without using forceful methods.

For all these reasons, it is possible, with proper preparation, adjustments, and training, to be able to live with a senior dog that can adapt to the new household routine, and is content with a half-hour stroll every day.

Finally, there's the potential joy of sharing with a senior dog his second chance at happiness for every remaining day of his life. Check out our article in the Cheerfuldogs Store "Keeping Your Senior Dog Young" at <https://tinyurl.com/m2wrey35>



## Did You Know: The Canine History of the Canary Islands

You might reasonably assume the Canary Islands were named after birds. In fact, the birds were named after the island and the islands were named after dogs! The archipelago's title derives from a Latin name that translates to "Islands of the Dogs."

Why the name? The historian Pliny the Elder wrote that the largest of the islands were inhabited by "vast multitudes of dogs of very large size." It is also believed that the island's original people worshipped dogs as holy animals. Some anthropologists think their practice may have been connected with the Anubis cult of the ancient Egyptians.

The island's original connection with dogs can still be seen today in its flag, which features two large dogs standing on their hind legs.



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