



PRESS RELEASE
November 21, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month!

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When you think about adopting a new pet, adorable images of kittens and puppies immediately come to mind. Sometimes we forget that older pets not only need a home, but that we need them too. Sometimes we forget that what we need is a companion that might have experienced something akin to what we've experienced. What we need is a partner. We need a senior companion that becomes a lifelong friend.

Senior pets have so much love to give and come with some awesome advantages - How about house breaking? how about chewed shoes? scratched furniture? And most importantly, what about what defines their personality? Since senior pets are fully grown, you'll be immediately aware of important characteristics like how much grooming is required, the personality type of the pet, and if they will get along with other animals.

When does a pet become a "senior?" There is no hard and fast rule about defining a pet as a senior and it varies depending upon species and breed. Some say it is when an animal enters the last 25% of their life. We generally consider a cat to be a senior around 11 or 12, small breed dogs become seniors around 10 and large breed dogs are seniors around 7.

But senior really means an animal that has had experiences, an animal that has substance. It is important to note that age is not a disease. Although senior pets can develop age-related problems, good care allows them to live happy, healthy and active lives in their senior years. In addition, proactive preventative veterinary care like senior blood work can catch diseases such as kidney disease early when these diseases are much more manageable. With the rise of multi-modal pain relief, older pets can live comfortably even with arthritis and age-related conditions.

In many cases, older pets are often passed over for adoption at humane societies and animal shelters, when in fact they are often the easiest pets to make part of your family. Unlike puppies and kittens, when you meet a senior pet at a shelter, you can choose a pet whose fully formed personality fits you and your family's lifestyle best.

So, on your next visit to one of Vermont's many wonderful rescues and shelters - take the time to meet the seniors and get to know them. They could be the furry family member you've been looking for!

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The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), founded in 1898, is a professional organization of over 370 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine.