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**336.** According to a survey by [Petfinder](#), 336 is the average number of days senior dogs wait to be adopted, if they get adopted at all. Despite the fact that many older dogs know basic commands, are housetrained and are often wonderfully calm companions, the [Petfinder](#) survey found that rescue groups across North America find older animals the most difficult group to get adopted.

Here at PMRF, we have a special place in our hearts for our older pups. We know that there is no one more grateful for a soft place to sleep, or a lovely stroll in the park and we know that this great [list](#) is just the beginning of the advantages of having an older companion by your side. We are pretty lucky to have several



‘golden oldies’ available for adoption and a few more waiting in the wings getting ready to be adopted. Pictured here: Emma who is affectionate and smart; Chichi, who is becoming a healthy, happy girl; Ivory who, despite many adversities, is a sweet pup; and Dax, who is active and well-mannered.

## Caring for Older Dogs Marianne Rogerson, PhD

The average life-span of the Canadian dog is 12.8 years. The rate of aging and the projected life span is size-dependent. As a rule, smaller dogs live longer than medium sized dogs and large dogs live longer than giant breeds. Dogs weighing less than 7 kg are considered senior at age 11. A giant breed dog weighing more than 37 kg is considered a senior at 6 years. However, each dog will age at her/his own pace based on genetics, environmental factors, and health care.

Aging is a complicated process. Older dogs experience sensory, system or physiological changes. Sensory changes include changes to vision, hearing, smell, and taste. System changes are inevitable although the degree of change varies from system to system. Psychological changes include changes in memory, sleep patterns and behavior. Many changes you will not notice since dogs instinctually compensate for the aging process.

In addition to regular health checks, proper nutrition and ability appropriate exercise, there are some things you can do to make your senior dog comfortable. Provide your dog with comfortable bedding. Older dogs have stiffer joints and less muscle mass and sleep more than younger dogs. If your dog is having trouble moving around, consider mobility aids, ramps or lifts. Nonskid mats make negotiating tile and linoleum easier. Older dogs are sensitive to temperature extremes. Consider warm or cool beds, fans, and sweaters where appropriate. Senior dogs benefit from physical and mental exercise. Physical exercise helps to maintain muscle mass, maintain weight and improve mobility. Modify activities to avoid leaping, twisting and high impact. Mental exercise is important too. Continue with training sessions, game playing, food puzzles and other mentally stimulating activities. Finally, consider adopting a senior dog. By adopting an older dog, you make a statement about the value of life.



match  
rescue

### Adoptable Dog of the Month: Chichi



Chichi is a sweet older lady who is looking for a comfortable life of leisure filled with selective cuddles, casual walks and lots of sleeping. She has spent much of her life indoors but has learned to walk on leash and now enjoys sniffing around and sunbathing in the grass. Chichi has lost A LOT of weight and will do best on a monitored feeding program to feel her best. She is house and puppy pad trained and is good with other dogs and cats.



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# Adopted In May



## Volunteer of the Month: Tricia



I've been an animal lover all my life. I had been wanting to foster for some time before I actually started doing it. I really wanted to help animals but I needed to wait for my husband to be 100% on board with it; he was worried that I would fall in love with them and keep them all. We started off fostering a sweet little thing called Dede and ended up adopting Canela a few days later. I've had 4 full time fosters so far as well as some temporary fosters, I've been a handler and transporter for adoption events and I've also transported dogs from the airport, feeding them their first meal and taking them for their first walk on Canadian soil. People ask me "How can you let them go? Don't you fall in love with them?" The answer to both questions is yes! BUT... if I kept any of them, I would only be helping 1 dog and I got into fostering so I could help many dogs. If you love animals and you want to help them, fill out a foster application today.

## Happy Tails



"Elsa is possibly the most wonderful dog ever. She is doing absolutely great, and is completely settled into her new life and routine."



Caroline is doing great! She is such a sweetie.

