

MEDIA RELEASE

16 September 2009

Older pets for older people

Research has shown that many older people would love to own a pet but are concerned about their ability to properly care for their pet. They also worry about what might happen to their pet if they had to enter a care facility.

According to PetRescue, one of the leading organisations that matches people with pets that need a new home, there are many reasons for older people to consider adopting an older dog.

“Around 60% of our adoptions involve an older dog and it can offer an older person the best option,” says Vickie Davy from PetRescue.

PetRescue says some of the benefits of adopting an adult or senior dog are:

- You're not starting from scratch; most have been housetrained, have good manners and understand basic commands.
- Adult dogs don't have the boundless energy that a young dog does so they are very happy to spend time sitting quietly with you.
- Unlike a new puppy, adult dogs have already gone through their “chew” stage.
- Young puppies can keep you up at irregular hours. Adult dogs are more likely to sleep through the night.
- An adult dog has the maturity to adapt to new circumstances more easily so will settle in to a new home well.
- What you see is what you get. A dog fully matures after two years of age, so the temperament, personality and size of the pet is fully developed.
- Rescue pets have already had a physical examination, have been de-sexed, are up to date on vaccinations and have been behaviourally assessed.

“Interestingly, retired greyhounds can provide the perfect pet for older people. With their racing days behind them, a Greyhound is an extremely placid dog that loves nothing more than to snooze in a quiet, loving home. Many older people say they love the sense of security they get from having a larger dog like a Greyhound, even though Greyhounds are one of the most gentle and placid dogs you could meet,” says Susie Willis from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service.

Vickie agrees that many older people who have acquired a pet from PetRescue say that larger dogs suit them best. “A small dog can get under your feet, which presents a risk of falling, so a larger dog at a less active stage in its life is a good choice,” says Vickie.

She also says that people often assume that pets that end up in rescue shelters must be unwanted or badly behaved. In fact there are many reasons why owners may need to re-home their pet. In many cases owners are broken-hearted to be giving up a much-loved pet and will go to great lengths to ensure they end up in an appropriate home. Pet Rescue has a number of loyal and loving pets that are up for adoption in areas all around Australia. Further information is available on www.petrescue.com.au

(ENDS)

Issued by the Petcare Information and Advisory Service

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Australia – A Nation of Pet Lovers

Australia is a nation of pet lovers. It is estimated that 63% of Australian households have some type of pet with 53% of households owning a dog or a cat.

Over many years, Australian and international research has shown that owning pets can help improve a person's mental and physical health, reduce the effects of stress, help children learn about responsibility, facilitate social interaction between people and build a sense of community.

The Petcare Information & Advisory Service (PIAS) is funded by Mars Petcare Australia as part of its commitment to socially responsible pet ownership. PIAS' website: www.petnet.com.au provides information on the responsible and enjoyable ownership of pets. The site is suitable for children, although PIAS encourages parents to supervise any online access by their children.