



## An important consideration for a senior community:

Shelters are full of pets whose owners could no longer care for them and didn't plan for their future. Often those pets are seniors with limited adoption opportunities so these precious souls languish in a shelter or are euthanized for space. Don't let this happen to your beloved pet.

Cats can live 20 years and dogs 15 years. Before adopting, talk with family or younger friends to confirm they'll care for your pet if you can't. You're healthy now but consider your age in 10 years. Most people in their 80s are limited in the exercise they can or want to provide a dog. We're regularly faced with the problem of re-homing a senior pet when someone dies or is incapacitated.

It's devastating to have a pet die, but it's worse to see them go to a shelter because no one will care for them. Love your pet enough to limit that possibility by adopting an "age appropriate" pet. That means if you are mid-70s, adopt a dog over 5 and a cat over 8. If you're in your 80s, adopt a dog over 8 and a cat over 10. These pets have been abandoned once so if you have no one who promises to care for them, do the right thing and adopt a senior.

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