

Adopting grownup pets can be your best option

By Christine Watt
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When it comes to adopting a pet, grownup is often better. When you adopt a cat rather than a kitten from a United Paws' foster home, for example, the animal's temperament is already known; i.e., whether it's friendly, shy, or gets along with dogs and other cats.

Grownup cats are the epitome of independence; so if you're a workaholic, you don't have to worry about a kitten at home getting bored and into mischief.

Grownup cats know house rules about litter trays and countertops. They aren't as rambunctious as kittens, so may be preferable for senior citizens and small children. And all United Paws' grownup cats are spayed, neutered, and fully vaccinated.

Perhaps the main reason for adopting grownup cats is that they get passed over for kittens, who will soon be grownups anyway. Sometimes our grownups stay in foster homes for over a year, taking up space other cats and kittens desperately need.

These reasons are doubly true when adopting a grownup dog rather than a puppy. House-training a puppy can be a labor of love, whereas a grownup dog is more likely to be house-trained and know at least some basic obedi-

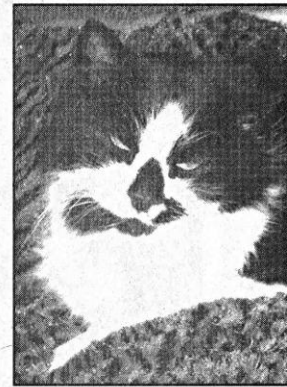
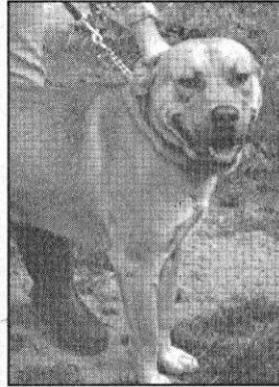
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Size and energy level are obvious in the grownup dog, and energy level is especially important. If you're a couch potato, you need a companion who prefers snoozing on the rug by the fireplace more than taking rain-sodden hikes through Nehalem Bay State Park.

As with kittens, puppies are irresistible, so grownup dogs don't get adopted, even though they might make the greatest pet you'll ever have the privilege and joy to call your best friend.

Animals become institutionalized in a shelter the longer they stay there. Some languish in a shelter all their lives, never afforded the chance to show how much love they have to give.

Consider adopting one of the grownups at the next United Paws/Tillamook Animal Shelter Adoptathon on Saturday, Nov. 21, noon to 3 p.m., at the 4-H dormitory, Tillamook County Fairgrounds. We have lots of kittens and a



Courtesy photos

Mr. Norbit is a super-sweet dog who would have been an easy pup to adopt, but now that he's a grownup, people just pass him by. Mr. Nigel, a 4-years-old feline, just wants a home of his own.

puppy, too!

Not every animal will be at the adoptathon, so to see all our gorgeous pets, visit www.unitedpaws.org and www.tillamook

animalshelter.org.

Please note, dogs will be at the adoptathon only if the weather behaves itself. Call (503) 812-0105 in advance to check.

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