

Why a Sanctuary for aging dogs . . . ?

<u>Dogs' Life Expectancy:</u>	Small Breeds	14-17 years
	Medium Breeds	12-15 years
	Large Breeds	8-12 years

How Dogs Age: 1 year for dogs is equivalent to about 6.5 human years

Dogs are living longer than they did 20 years ago because:

- Owners are more educated and place greater importance on their dogs' health.
- Dogs are considered "members of the family" and disposable incomes allow for more money to be spent on dog care.
- Nutrition options have advanced.
- Veterinary medicine, like human medicine, has prolonged lives and cured diseases.

Our Promise . . .

When we bring a dog home, it is our unspoken promise to care for them for their entire life. . . Unfortunately, we live in a very disposable society. Only 20% of dogs and cats live in their original household for their natural lifetime. That means, that 80% are given up, sent to shelters or rescue groups, or are abandoned.

Shelter Statistics . . . Statistics provided by Humane Society of the US & National Council on Pet Population

An estimated 6-8 million dogs and cats enter shelters every year; of these 3-4 million are euthanized. The actual number may be larger, as many organizations may not accurately report instances for public relations reasons.

56% of dogs that enter shelters are euthanized because:

- They are labeled as having "behavior issues".
- They are labeled "un-adoptable" due to their age, and health-related conditions.

Humane Societies and Shelters today are faced with a numbers challenge. There are far more dogs that need homes than they can possibly take in. To address this, they develop protocols to determine which dogs are considered "least adoptable". It is these dogs that unfortunately suffer the consequence of unnecessary euthanization so that humane societies and shelters can take in "more adoptable" dogs.

What about the old dogs?

In addition to the above statistics, there are many aging dogs whose owners give them up when they become ill, even though these dogs may have several good years to live. These dogs have two options:

- Some small rescue organization may take them in.
- They are placed in a Sanctuary.

Rescue organizations are small and typically have no facility. They are a group of volunteers who take dogs into their homes until a permanent home can be found. Sanctuaries are permanent homes providing refuge and safety. They are places where these dogs can live out the remainder of their lives with dignity. Unfortunately, there are only 9 Sanctuaries in the United States; **only one in Ohio is for senior or aging dogs.** Top Dog Foundation . . . the Sanctuary will set a new standard. Please help support our mission to build a Sanctuary for the old dogs in Minnesota so they will not be unnecessarily euthanized.

