

HOMER ANIMAL FRIENDS GOLDEN PAWS PROGRAM

The Homer Animal Friends **Golden Paws Program** matches senior citizens with wonderful, adoptable older animals from the Homer Animal Shelter. Older animals make devoted pets for life.

The Homer Animal Shelter houses many senior animals every year. Oftentimes, these animals come into the Shelter through no fault of their own: divorce, moving, too many pets, etc. Usually they are very adaptable and within a couple of weeks are able to adjust and become part of a caring and loving new family.

Mature animals wait longer in Shelters than younger dogs and cats. Some adopters view them as too old, while others are afraid to commit themselves to an animal that they may lose in just a few years. While there are certainly challenges to caring for senior animals, Homer Animal Friends encourages adopters to look beyond the graying muzzles and discover the unique benefits of sharing their life with an older pet.

There are many research studies that show improved physical and mental health in those people who have pets in their lives. Studies have shown that seniors with animals go to the doctor less with minor health issues and have lower levels of blood pressure and cholesterol as compared to non-pet owners. Pets provide companionship, affection, entertainment, and can add purpose to a senior's day.

There are many benefits of adopting an older pet. Older pets are mellower and tend to have better house manners. Senior pets are often already housetrained. Most importantly, senior pets have lots of love to give.

To qualify for the Golden Paws Program, the potential adopters must be 55 years of age or older, must choose an animal 4 years of age or older, qualify for financial assistance, and participate in the Homer Animal Shelter's usual screening process. If a suitable match is found, the adoption fee will be waived and any initial shots will be paid for by Homer Animal Friends.

For more information call Homer Animal Friends at 235-7729, leave your name, phone number and a message referencing the Golden Paws Program. Someone from Homer Animals Friends will return your call.