

The Bay: Senior Edition



New Best Friends

From Beth Hill

Shelby has adapted in our home/family and to say she is very comfortable in our home is an understatement! Our cat Lily and Shelby have become fast friends and conspirators. We have a small cat door on our cellar door to keep our past beagles, including Shelby, from the cat food. Shelby's head fits through the opening but cannot stretch to the food, although she keeps trying. Lily however, feels the need to help out her new best friend and pushes the bowl closer after she is done so that Shelby can eat the leftovers. I wouldn't believe it if I didn't see it!



So best friends are made, and life is great in the Hill house since March when SSB Shelby came into our lives. We stay close in touch with Shelby's foster family with texts and pictures. After losing an older B.O.N.E.S. beagle prior to Shelby, we were nervous about getting another senior beagle, but we wouldn't change a thing or question our choices!



The Official Newsletter
of S.S.B.'s

Sensational Senior
Beagles of
New England States

Email Us at
ssb@bonesbeagles.org



Adopting a
senior dog
is like fast
forwarding
to the best
part



Sensational
Senior
Beagles

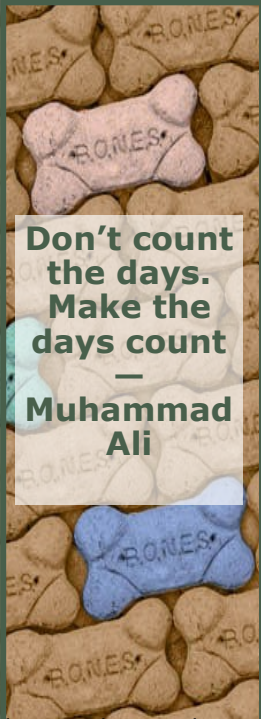


Helping Senior Beagles Find Their Way Home!

It can be a challenge to place senior dogs in forever homes because adoption statistics show that adopters are concerned about a shortened life span and increased vet costs. But the truth is, these beagles make wonderful

companions!

To address the problem of placing senior dogs, B.O.N.E.S. developed the **Sensational Senior Beagle (SSB) Program** to encourage people/families to provide a home with a "supported adoption" for the dog's remaining years. To learn more about these special adoptions, visit our website at <http://bonesbeagles.org/?page=adopt/ssb.html#ssb> or email us at ssb@bonesbeagles.org



**Don't count
the days.
Make the
days count
—
Muhammad
Ali**



To Feed or Not to Feed – Meeting Your Senior Dog's Nutritional Needs

By Lucy Doucette

As dietary needs might change as a dog gets older, choosing the right food for your furry friend amidst the myriad of available dog foods can be overwhelming and even confusing. Senior dog nutrition really depends on an individual dog's needs.

As Meredith Simon, B.O.N.E.S. Medical Director states, "Deciding on a diet for an older dog is complicated by activity, genetics, and health problems, and there is no one food for all."

Some dogs could benefit from a prescription diet, like senior dogs with specific issues like heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes. Decreasing protein content and phosphorous in your senior dog's diet could be beneficial if your dog has kidney issues, for example. Having a good source of protein is very important, even though you might need to decrease the amount of protein for a dog with kidney disease.

As Simon mentions, "Dogs with kidney disease may very well benefit from a therapeutic diet with lower high quality protein" and that "Restricting sodium intake is recommended for dogs with heart disease, diabetes, or kidney disease."

And for senior beagles, as with any senior dog, obesity can be another big issue. According to Simon, "Decreasing calorie intake, often with increased fiber, can be beneficial, especially for dogs with diabetes and arthritis. Beagles often need restricted calories, which can be achieved by changing the diet to a lower caloric density food, supplemented with low calorie edibles (I use canned green beans and carrots) or both."

Simon also mentions that some older dogs "start to lose more weight as they age, and need a more caloric rich diet." It really depends on the dog.

There are also many dog foods on the market that try to address dental disease. As Simon continues, "Dogs with dental disease may benefit from foods and treats designed to clean or prevent tartar. They may need softer food if there is any pain on chewing. There are more claims than effective products. The Veterinary Oral Health Council website, www.vohc.org, and the AAHA Dental Care Guidelines can help."

Some prefer to feed their senior dog a home-cooked or raw diet. As per Simon, "almost all home-prepared and commercial raw diets are deficient in essential nutrients. I do not recommend raw feeding. Although recipes can be formulated (by a nutritionist), to be complete and balanced for healthy dogs and those with some medical conditions, it can be difficult to maintain a balanced diet, as availability of ingredients may cause dietary drift, the expense of ingredients and required supplements, and lack of quality control."

According to the Tufts nutrition website, www.petfoodology.org, what is very important to look for in a dog food is that it is made by a reputable company with a long history of producing quality diets, and that it has the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) statement on it saying that the dog food has undergone animal feeding trials for the appropriate life stage of the dog.

Article is continued on p.6 and also posted on the BONES website: <http://bonesbeagles.org/?page=resources/srnutrition.html#srnutrition>



Adopt a senior pet; love doesn't keep track of years

Fun with your Senior: Snuffle Mat

Have you seen a snuffle mat? They're those crazy looking things with all the strands of fabric or felt tightly packed together. You drop treats on it, and the dog sniffs and snuffles to search them out. Such a simple idea, but so much fun for a dog! You can buy them, and you can even make your own (simple instructions can be found all over the internet, including this blog post: <https://www.thehonestkitchen.com/blog/diy-make-your-dog-or-cat-a-snuffle-matt/>).



If a snuffle mat is too challenging, or you don't have access to one, you can make something with the same idea from odds and ends around your house.

Get a box - depending on the size of your dog and how physically capable they still are, it could be anything from a shoe box to a shipping carton. Crumple up some old paper and fill the box, then let your dog see you drop some treats in there (use lower calorie treats, or better yet a portion of his daily kibble). Try to leave one or two visible on the top of the paper, but shake or stir things up so that most of them fall down into the box and let them at it! They have to pull the wads of paper out to find the prizes.

You'll end up with a kitchen full of shredded paper, a happy senior, and probably a nap!

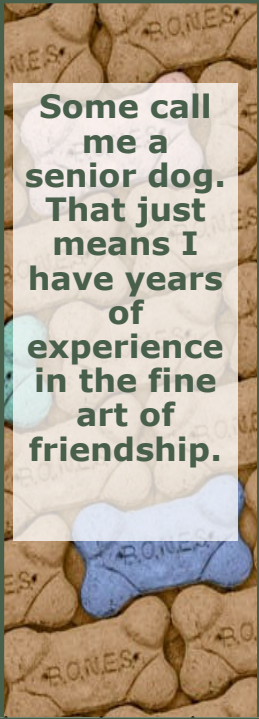
Ten Tips for keeping your Senior Healthy

<http://srdogs.com/ten-most-important-tips-for-keeping-your-older-dog-healthy/>

B.O.N.E.S. Mission Statement

Our mission is to rescue, re-home, spay/neuter and provide necessary medical care to beagles in need in the New England Area. We endeavor to improve the quality of life for beagles in New England through outreach and education programs.





Some call me a senior dog. That just means I have years of experience in the fine art of friendship.



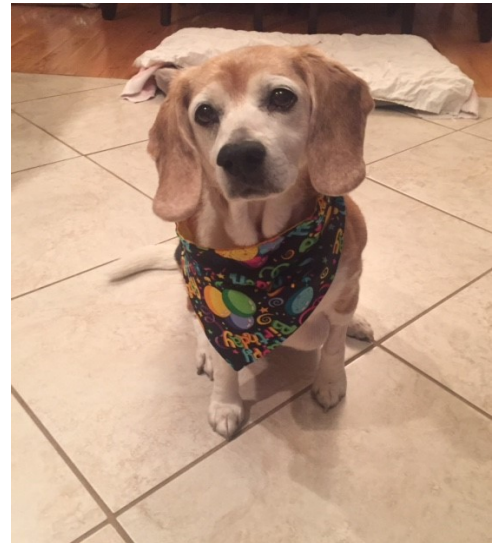
Tribute to SSB Babe

By Michelle & Jason

Babe came into our home in the winter of 2013 as just another foster. It didn't take long for her sweet, lovable, affectionate, smart, playful and silly personality to win over our hearts and just like that, we foster failed. The last 4 years were so joyous with her in our family. We had a special bonded connection like no other. We did almost everything together, and there wasn't anything that I wouldn't do for her.

Babe made friends everywhere we went, both human and four legged. She insisted on meeting every dog she saw, and would ensure the meet happened by slamming on her breaks until they came to her. She captivated everyone with her big beautiful brown eyes and finished the job with either a gentle play or some sweet affection. In true beagle fashion.

She loved the outdoors and going for walks. As she aged, they became more of what I called a "sniff and stroll" but we'd still go out daily and she loved it. She was also just as happy snuggling on the couch with us under a warm blanket. Up until age 14 you'd never guess her age. She could out run and out play dogs half of her age.



Babe was tough as nails and a fighter. We almost lost her last year to pneumonia and a paralyzed esophagus. It was a long and not easy road, but she came out of that and we were blessed to have her in our lives for another entire year. After that it was one health issue after another but she fought through and beat every one, until she couldn't fight anymore. Words can not describe the heart ache and emptiness we feel for her loss. I'm lost without my beautiful little shadow.

I'll forever miss our daily walks, trips to the park and farmers markets, car rides, gathering with family and friends, watching you play with other dogs, your gentleness with children, your impatient dinner cries, how you destroyed a toy with precision in under 2 minutes, how smart you were and how quickly you learned something new, how you let me dress you up every Halloween and even seemed to enjoy it, your patience with me always having a camera in your face, your beautiful face and doggy smile, and so much more.





Welcome to the SSB Family!



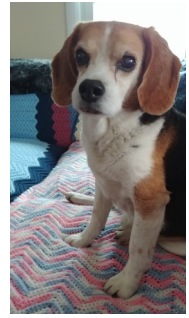
Callie—adopted 12/29/2017

Shelby—adopted 3/17/2018

Diesel—adopted 3/30/2018

Elmo—adopted 6/28/2018

Seamus—adopted 8/18/2018

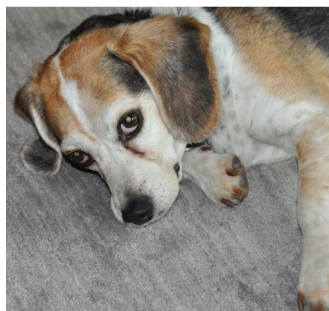


2018 Birthdays!

1/03—Jake turned 12
3/14—Elmo turned 14
4/11—Seamus was 10
7/15—Callie turned 12
7/25—Diesel turned 11
9/8—River turned 13
10/08—Shelby will be 12
10/17—Happy will be 15



Waiting at The Rainbow Bridge



Missy 9/27/2017

Molly 10/12/2017

Babe 12/12/2017

Pickles 12/22/2017

Barney 3/29/2018

Lily 6/27/2018

Pork Chop 7/17/2018



Don't cry because it's over....smile because it happened



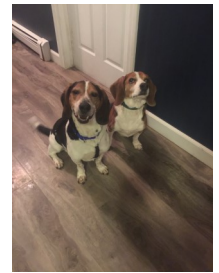
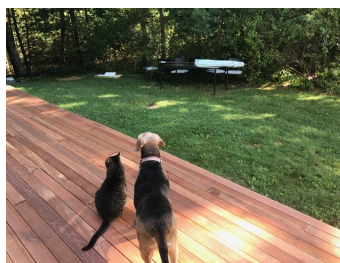
To Feed or Not to Feed—Cont'

Continued from P. 2

As Simon explains, "This is totally an individual need. If an older dog is doing well and not gaining weight, there is no need to change the diet to one designed (or marketed) for a senior. Most importantly, the diet you select for your dog is the one [he/she] does well on!"

There are so many varieties of dog food out there. Some senior dog food formulas now have glucosamine, chondroitin, and omega fatty acids added to them for dogs with joint issues and other degenerative conditions. Some premium dog foods have a percentage of fruits and vegetables in them as well. The wonderful thing these days is that there are many great choices out there for dog food, and also great resources.

As per Simon, the American College of Veterinary Nutrition website, www.acvn.org, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association website www.wsava.org/nutrition-toolkit and www.petfoodology.org are great resources for dog nutrition in general. Choose wisely, and consult with your dog's veterinarian, especially if your senior dog has specific ailments or issues.



Volunteer!

Do you love senior beagles and spreading the word about just how wonderful they are? We're always looking for help with the SSB Newsletter. Write an article on a topic that's near and dear to you, or interview one of the SSB families and put together a profile of one of our SSB's.

Have experience with MS Publisher or other newsletter software? We're always looking for that too! We would love to put out three editions a year, so it won't be a huge time commitment for anyone, and many hands make light work.

Interested?

Email us: ssb@bonesbeagles.org

