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BEYOND THE SHELTER / TAKE-HOME RECAP

Give Overlooked Shelter Dogs a Second Look



THE SHORT ANSWER

The shelter dogs least likely to be adopted are often seniors, momma dogs, black pit bull mixes, dogs with cropped ears and dogs with medical needs. In a Canisius College study of nearly 16,700 dogs, bully breeds stayed 2.5 to 3 times longer than average, while black dogs left faster than average.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Consider seniors, former momma dogs, black pit bull mixes, cropped-ear dogs and medical cases rather than filtering by appearance.
2. Meet the individual dog and review behavior notes. Cropped ears reflect a human choice, not the dog's temperament.
3. Ask for senior and medical dogs' records, treatment plans and likely costs before deciding whether your household can provide care.
4. Do not assume black coat color alone explains long stays. The cited study found stronger disadvantages for age and bully breeds.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Ask a shelter to introduce an overlooked dog whose daily needs fit your home, schedule and care budget.

Read the full article and sources:

https://letthembedog.com/blog/hard-to-adopt-dogs

Independent volunteer resource. Not veterinary advice. Contact your vet for health concerns.