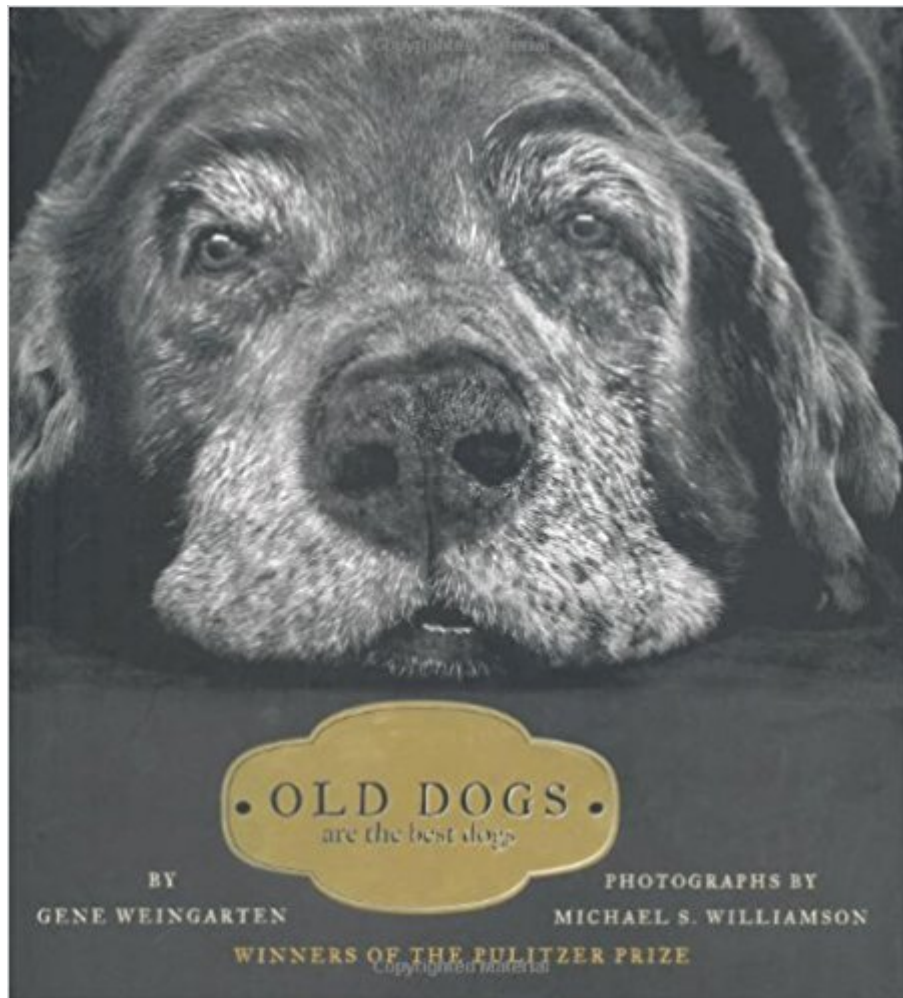




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# Old Dogs: Are The Best Dogs



## Synopsis

Featuring sixty black-and-white photographs of old dogs shot by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Michael S. Williamson and narrated by Washington Post staffer and columnist Gene Weingarten, this is a perfect collection for dog lovers that celebrates "man's best friend." Anyone who has ever loved an old dog will love *Old Dogs*. In this collection of profiles and photographs, Weingarten and Williamson document the unique appeal of man's best friend in his or her last, and best, years. This book is a tribute to every dog who has made it to that time of life when the hearing and eyesight begin to go, when the step becomes uncertain, but when other, richer traits ripen and coalesce. It is when a dog attains a special sort of dignity and a charm all his own. If you've known a favorite old dog, you'll find him or her on these pages. Your dog might go by a different name and have a different shape, but you'll recognize him or her by the look in an eye or the contours of a life story. There is the dog who thinks he is a house cat; the herder, the fetcher, the punk and the peacock, the escape artist, the demolition artist, the patrician, the lovable lout, the amiable dope, the laughable clown, the schemer, the singer, the daredevil, the diplomat, the politician, the gourmand, and the thief. Plus, as a special bonus, you will find the first Latvian elkhounds ever photographed. *Old Dogs* is a glorious gift book and a fitting tribute to that one dog you can't ever forget.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Washington Post photographer Michael S. Williamson was born and raised in Washington, DC. A

two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Williamson has covered a variety of global events over the last thirty years, including the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Philippine revolution, strife in the Middle East, the Gulf War, and conflicts in Africa and the Balkans. At the Post, Williamson works as both a photographer and a photo editor. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his daughters, Sophia and Valerie. Gene Weingarten is a nationally syndicated humor columnist and a Pulitzer Prize-winning staff writer for The Washington Post. He lives in Washington, DC.

Honey, 10 Shanna solemnly passed the butcher knife to Lance, her 16-year-old son. Shanna was a recent widow, Lance, the new man of the house. It was Lance who had brought home the stray. Shanna had heard about this breed, particularly ones hardened by the streets, trained to do God Knows What. She knew of a test to find out if a dog is too vicious to keep. The test is not without risk. "I'm going to give her some food," Shanna said, "and then I'm going to suddenly take it away. If she attacks me, you have to kill her." Shanna put down the bowl. Lance gripped the knife, white-knuckled, wary... They laugh about it now, nine years later. Honey the pit bull, as sweet as her name. Copyright © 2008 by Gene Weingarten and Michael S. Williamson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The introduction to this book is the best thing that has been written about dogs, I'm convinced of it. I don't believe a word of it could be changed that would make it any better. It is perfection. The only qualifier is that it isn't really "about" dogs, old or otherwise. Weingarten says in the introduction to *The Fiddler in the Subway* that a story "will never be better than pedestrian unless it can use the subject at hand to address a more universal truth." Those universal truths always come around to a favorite maxim of Weingarten's, one that he cribbed from Kafka: "The meaning of life is that it ends." ---One reviewer said the book can be dangerous if you have an old dog because "it can be crushingly sad," and suggests that you should only get this book after you lost your dog so that you can reminisce and mourn. I agree with the crushingly sad part, but I profoundly disagree that you should wait until your dog is gone. Why wait until after he/she is gone to appreciate your major and minor moments together?

I'm a veterinarian, and I've seen thousands of old dogs over the span of my career. This book does a great job in illustrating the incredible bond that people feel for their dogs. Anyone who has ever watched a beloved pet grow old owes it to themselves to get this book. I bought copies for family and friends, and one for the waiting room in my animal hospital. I love this book.

This is absolutely wonderful light reading for the dog lover or rescuer since it shows pieces of each of the dogs' photographed within it with such beautiful photography. It's wonderful when a photographer and author such as these can get together and actually pull off something truly enjoyable when working together. Of course, this is often because the publisher refuses to use the photographer/illustrator of the writer's choice but in this book the two are obviously made to work together!

There are more than a few "old dog" books out there, but this one is, in my opinion, the best. It has adorable vignettes about each featured dog, along with a telling black and white photo. You can pick this book up and read a few stories in a short amount of time, and put it down with a smile on your face... You might shake your head at how perfectly the personality has been captured in one photo and just a few words. Or, you can read it entirely through, and wonder about comparing a dog to Mona Lisa. A great gift for anyone who loves their older dog for all his or her eccentricities. My favorites include Hank, 11 on page 56 and Dodger, 13 on page 124.

Loved the pictures of the dogs! Can't tell you what the book was about, because I believe that the pictures are of dogs that have passed on :( and I cannot read it! But the pictures are great!! :)

Our Cairn Terrier Junior, still going strong (albeit slow) at age 16, and before him our Shitzu Sophie who passed at age 16, enable me to really identify with and appreciate this collection of heartwarming stories honoring dogs in their senior years. I've gifted this lovely book 3 times. Highly recommend

If you are a dog lover, and have ever been lucky enough to have a dog grow old with you, then I implore you to buy and read this wonderful book. It is filled with touching stories of people, like yourself, who have enjoyed growing old with a canine companion, and know that special bond and the joys that only an old dog can bring to one's life. The photos, the short essays that accompany each photo, are all superb. To have loved an old dog is one of life's true gifts, and to have this book is an added bonus in life. I am buying one for every friend of mine who is growing old with a little heartbeat at their feet---a true treasure, this book. One of my favorite books in life.....and dogs, and all my old dogs from the past---Rusty, Tiger and Duffy, RIP---we had a great run---now enjoy chasing those squirrels---this book is in your memory.

having just lost our buddy of 15 1/2 years, this book obviously struck a deep chord with me. but to be astute enough to pick out the tricks old dogs play and their wonderful aura of entitlement made this book even more enjoyable. now i know why we can't teach old dogs new tricks, they're here to teach us the basics of love and devotion.

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