



# Old Friends

Celebrating our senior dogs

*"Old has soul, a character and uniqueness that develops with time. That is what makes senior dogs emotive photographic subjects."*

- Mark J. Asher

Mark J. Asher was riding high on the crest of the dot com wave when it unexpectedly crashed leaving him without a job. With more hours in his day he made use of the time by spending it with his eight-year old dog, Humprey. It was on a walk on a fine, crisp San Francisco day that Mark got an inspired idea for a photographic book—a study on our older canine friends. Those seniors with wise, warm eyes who're slowing down and showing the greying signs of their years.

"I kept seeing all these wonderful old dogs on our walks and realised there weren't any books celebrating our older companions." After convincing a publisher, Mark was given just two months to capture a range of dogs for his book. "45 dogs in two months! I found my subjects through word of mouth, Internet postings & putting flyers at groomers and veterinary practices."

Bookshelves bulge under the weight of cute puppy books so it's refreshing to see these expressive, mature and loyal companions.

More of Mark's work can be seen at [www.markjasher.com](http://www.markjasher.com)  
Old Friends: Great Dogs on the Good Life published by Chronicle Books



**Ollie, 10 years old (top)** - *Longevity Secret* - Long, slow walks with time to sniff  
This old fellow was still spry enough to be romping at the dog park.

**Nacho, 10 years old (above)** - *Longevity Secrets* - *outwitting the pack by running under the big dogs—cocking my ers for post-mischief treats*

Nacho's human companion was moving into a home for the aging on the day this was shot. The companion's friend, Ellen, was taking care of Nacho and helping me with the photo shoot. Nacho ran away several times into the mountains behind where we were, seriously frustrating Ellen. When we got him back, Ellen said, half-joking and exhausted, "let's put him in the mailbox."

**Bailey, 12 years old (right)** - *Longevity Secrets* - *be mischievous—only the good die young—make time to stop, smell and eat the flowers—sleep soundly, snore loudly*  
We had taken quite a few shots in Bailey's backyard. But seeing how Bailey still had energy, we took a drive to the beach. This shot is of Bailey standing on the rocks, looking out at the ocean.



