# Puppy Love 



Charlie is a fifeteen year old, eighty pound Labrador retriever who made it to the wedding despite his late in life empediments. Kelly O'Connell and James Gavin, both veterinarians, knew their wedding would not be complete without Charlie being in attendance. He was battling a brain tumor, along with old age, and was extremely weak due to his illness. When it was Charlie's turn to march down the ailse, and no matter how much he wanted to be part of his mom's wedding, he just couldn't make it. That's when the Maid of Honor, Kelly's 5'3" sister, stepped in and picked up Charlie, all eighty pounds of him, and carried him to the alter. Charlie laid next to his mom ~ he had made it! Kelly and James dropped to their knees and gave Charlie a long and tearful embrace. The wedding continued and was celebrated as a joyful event with Charlie close by. These moments at the wedding turned out to be some of their last together. A few days later, Charlie crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

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Dr. Deborah E. Linder, the director of the Tufts Obesity Clinic for Animals, shares two crucial things that can add years to your dog's life. The first step is to consult your veterinarian regarding what he recommends as an ideal calorie intake for your dog. Then challenge yourself to study different brands of dog food. Read the ingredients in the food and how many calories an individual serving contains for your dog's ideal weight. It is important to not be fooled by foods claiming to be "healthy weight," some of these recipes might have more calories than another brand's regular recipe. Treats have calories too. A cleaver way to get your dog exercise and entertained is to hide treats throughout the house. Toys for interactive play and a daily walk or swim are ideal for both you and your little doxie.

## You Know the Rule:

one year for Fido equals seven years for you. Turns out, the math isn't that simple. Dogs mature more quickly than we do early on. So the first year of a dog's life is equal to about fifteen human years. Small dogs tend to live longer than large ones, but they mature more quickly in the first few years of life. A large puppy might age more slowly at first, but be nearing middle age at five. Small breeds don't become "seniors" until around age ten.

YES, I AM SHORT! God only let's things grow until they are perfect. Some didn't take as long as others.

How Old is a Dog in Human Years?

| Size of Dog | Small <br> Miniature <br> Pinscher <br> ? <br> 20 lbs . or les | Medium |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age of Dog | Age in Human Years |  |  |
| 1 Year | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 2 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| 3 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| 4 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 5 | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| 6 | 40 | 42 | 45 |
| 7 | 44 | 47 | 50 |
| 8 | 48 | 51 | 55 |
| 9 | 52 | 56 | 61 |
| 10 | 56 | 60 | 66 |
| 11 | 60 | 65 | 72 |
| 12 | 64 | 69 | 77 |
| 13 | 68 | 74 | 82 |
| 14 | 72 | 78 | 88 |
| 15 | 76 | 83 | 93 |
| 16 | 80 | 87 | 120 |

