

# The 3-3-3 Guide to Adoption

The 3-3-3 rule is a general guideline. Every dog is unique and will adjust differently. Give your dog space and allow him to go at his own pace.

## 3 Days



## 3 Weeks



## 3 Months



### In the first 3 days...

- Feels overwhelmed
- May be scared and feel unsure
- Not comfortable enough to be “himself”
- Not want to eat or drink
- Wants to curl up in his crate or hide
- May test the boundaries
- May have potty accidents
- May “tell” you to stay away with a growl or body language

### After 3 weeks...

- Starting to settle in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realizes this could be his forever home
- Figured out his environment
- Getting into a routine
- Lets his guard down
- May start showing true personality
- Behavior issues may show up at this time

### After 3 months...

- Should seem comfortable in his home
- Building trust and a true bond
- Gained a sense of security with his new family
- Set in a routine
- Happy to see you
- Relaxed body language

# The 3-3-3 Guide to Adoption

## In the first 3 days...

Your new dog will be understandably overwhelmed with his new surroundings. Respect this difficult time and provide a routine, space, and a quiet home. He will not be comfortable enough to be himself. Don't be alarmed if he doesn't want to eat for the first couple of days, many dogs don't eat when they are stressed. He may shut down and want to curl up in his crate or under the table. He may be scared and unsure what is going on. He also may have potty accidents. Listen if he "tells" you to stay away by growling, snarling, or using body language like backing away or tucking his tail under his body. It's not personal. However, there is a chance he may be the opposite and test you to see what he can get away with.

## After 3 weeks...

Your dog will start to settle in, feel more comfortable, and let his guard down. He is realizing this really may be his forever home. He has also figured out his environment and getting into the routine that you have set. He may start showing his real personality, give affection, and have a more relaxed body. At this stage, some dogs show behavior issues. The honeymoon is over and he may begin to test the boundaries. If this occurs, be a strong leader and show him what is right and wrong.

## After 3 months...

Your dog is now very comfortable with his home and family. You have built trust and a true bond with your dog, which gives him a sense of security with you. He is happy to see you and really showing his personality. You will have learned his likes and dislikes. His body language will be much more relaxed. He is set in his routine and will come to expect his dinner at the usual time.