

# 3/3/3 Rule When Bringing a New Dog Home

Every dog is unique and will adjust at a different pace. These are general guidelines that most dogs will benefit from.



## 3 Days

### Decompression

- May feel scared, unsure, or overwhelmed
- May not be interested in food
- May sleep a lot or be restless
- May act out and test the boundaries
- May startle easily or over react to “normal” situations
- May have accidents in the home

### What Can We Do?

- Limit visitors
- Start a routine and gently set boundaries
- Keep the environment simple and calm
- Limit trips outside the home and yard
- Give them a safe spot where they can relax

## 3 Weeks

### Settling In

- Appears to feel more comfortable
- Should be adjusting to the routine and household noises
- May get more bold with testing the boundaries
- Behavior issues may appear
- Perfecting housetraining

### What Can We Do?

- Ensure consistency with routine and boundaries
- Start basic obedience classes
- Include in the family outings if appropriate
- Provide mental enrichment
- Provide proper physical exercise
- Seek help from a trainer if you are experiencing problems

## 3 Months

### Part of the Family

- Has built a bond and trusts the family
- Has adjusted to the schedule and environment
- May still test the boundaries at times
- Owner and dog should be communicating efficiently
- Is able to fully relax

### Keep It Up!

- Continue socializing your best friend
- Continue to provide fun enrichment and physical exercise
- Maintain a schedule
- Continue to reach out for advice from a trainer if undesired behaviors pop up
- ENJOY!