

What To Expect: The 3-3-3 Rule

Remember: The 3-3-3 Rule is a general guideline and not all dogs will follow this timeline. Some may take longer to find comfort and security with you and your home. Try your best to be patient and let them move at their own pace.

3 DAYS



FOR THE FIRST 3 DAYS

EXPECT:

- Feeling overwhelmed
- Scared or unsure
- Not yet "him/herself"

DON'T BE SUPRISED:

- Will not eat or drink
- Hides or retreats
- Has potty accidents in the house

TIPS:

- Give them space
- Avoid introducing them to non-family members
- Limit interactions with current pets
- Keep them home; avoid busy public spaces
- Be patient
- Start setting a simple but consistent routine

3 WEEKS



AFTER 3 WEEKS

EXPECT:

- Starting to settle in
- Comfort level increases
- Learning routine

DON'T BE SUPRISED:

- Starting to test boundaries
- New behaviors start to show up

TIPS:

- Work on basic skills
- Reward your dog for things they do well with praise and treats
- Stay consistent with calm, clear training
- Contact a trainer to address any concerning behaviors before they become a problem

3 MONTHS



AFTER 3 MONTHS

EXPECT:

- Developed trust and bond
- A sense of security
- Established habits and routine
- Setting into their true personality

TIPS:

- Continue training
- Contact a behavioral professional if you're concerned about new behaviors
- Slowly continue to expand your dog's social network

Adopting a new dog is all about changes for both of you. Use this guide to make the first few weeks fun and stress-free. You will build a foundation for a lasting relationship if you follow these steps to ...

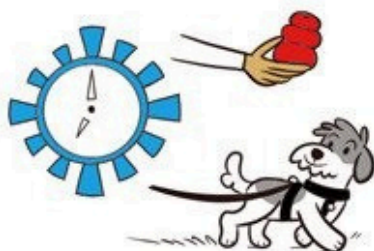


Decompress for SUCCESS



ROUTINE

Dogs crave predictability. Stick to the same times when feeding, walking, training, and departing from your home.



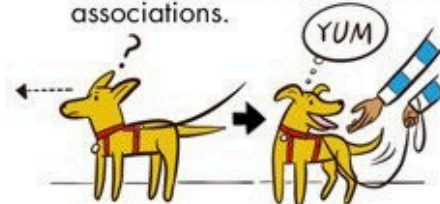
PRIVACY

Dogs, like people, need time to themselves. Create a spot with a crate or mat. Call your dog to leave their space, rather than invading their space.



POSITIVE SOCIALIZATION

Limit interactions with new people, places, and things. Let your dog explore gradually in short sessions. Build positive associations.



TRAIN AT HOME FIRST

Start positive reinforcement training at home for a distraction-free setting. This is the fastest, clearest way to establish communication.



TRAIN WITH FOOD

Shift calories out of the food bowl and use in short (5 minute) training sessions. Spread training sessions throughout the day, including reinforcing loose leash walking.



AVOID LEASH GREETINGS

Meeting other dogs can be stressful. Dogs don't always like each other. Limit or avoid greetings until you learn more about how your dog shows unease.



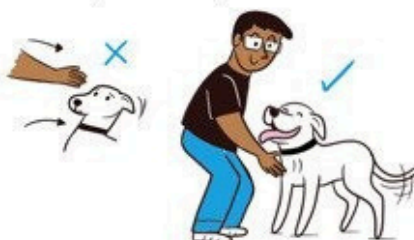
OBSERVE YOUR DOG

When your dog is relaxed, what do their ears, mouth, tail position, and entire body look like? Learn your dog's body language to know when your dog is concerned and to identify triggers.



LET YOUR DOG INITIATE CONTACT

Let your dog initiate contact with people. Never force an interaction. If your dog solicits attention, pet on the chest, not on top of the head.



HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG!

Playing, feeding, walking, and interacting with your new dog builds a lasting bond. Take it easy the first month and get to know each other before widening the circle. After all, you have a lifetime together!

