

What to Expect When You Bring Your New Pet Home

It's exciting to welcome a new pet! Along with excitement, it comes with plenty of planning and patience.

Every animal is different, but it takes time for them to adjust to what life looks like in your home. The 3-3-3 rule is most often reference with rescue dogs from shelters in mind.

The 3-3-3 rule:

- The first **three days** may be overwhelming while animals get used to their new surroundings.
- After **three weeks**, they'll likely have a better understanding of their routine, and they may feel more comfortable coming out of their shell. They are ready for training.
- **Three months** after adoption is often when an animal feels safe, secure, and ready to build a trusting and loving bond with you as their pet parent.

Settling into a new home can be stressful for animals, and you may notice some behaviors develop while they adjust. Patience and sticking to a routine go a long way to helping a new pet adjust.

Other tips:

- Dog-proof your home by removing toxic plants, exposed electrical cords and blocking off access to human food and trash cans.
- Provide them with frequent potty breaks and reward them for going where they are supposed to. Don't punish any accidents they might have inside. They're still figuring out their new routine, and some regression in house training is common in newly adopted dogs.
- Changing a dog's food should be done slowly. Start to mix in small amounts of their new food with their previous food. As their body adjusts, you can start mixing in more of the new and phasing out the old. Keep an eye out for any tummy upset from the change.
- For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (pet stores or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, but it will also give you more one-on-one time to get to know him and his likes/dislikes.

Ready to find your new best friend?

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