

3-3-3 Rule for NEW ADOPTIONS

If you've ever started a new job or moved to a new school, you know the feeling. New surroundings, new people, and new rules can take some time to adjust! It's no different when you bring home your new best friend. The 3-3-3 Rule is a general guideline. Every animal is unique and will adjust differently.

3
days

Expect **a few days** for your new pal to decompress and start to feel comfortable. They may feel scared or unsure of their new surroundings. Some of these animals have been through a lot of stress! Don't be alarmed if they do not want to eat for the first few days. They may act shut down and curl up in their crate or under the table. They also might test you to see what they can get away with. Be firm but gentle with your expectations to set the tone.

3
weeks

After **three weeks**, you will start to notice your pet becoming much more comfortable as they realize this really might be their forever home! They will learn your routine and really let their personality begin to shine! Initial behavior issues may start to disappear as they understand what is expected of them. Continue to be a confident pack leader and direct your new pet in what is right and wrong.

3
months

It's been **a few months** and you've built trust and a true bond with your animal, which gives them a complete sense of security with you. They are settled into their routines and you can know what to expect in terms of behavior. Enjoy your new rescue animal and feel proud they have adjusted to their awesome new life with you!

It doesn't happen overnight!

If your pet is having troubles adjusting, let us help! Email our behavior team at behavior@lawrencehumane.org