

THE 3-3-3 RULE

THE 3 DAYS, 3 WEEKS, 3 MONTH RULE
OF ADOPTING A SHELTER DOG



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

Learn pet safety tips and check out the “Get Involved” page on ocpetinfo.com

Let's Paws



In the first 3 days, your new pet may:

- Feel overwhelmed
- Be scared and unsure of what is going on
- Not feel comfortable enough to be themselves
- Not want to eat or drink
- Shut down and curl up in their crate or hide under a table
- Test the boundaries

After 3 weeks, your new pet may:

- Start to settle in
- Feel more comfortable
- Realize this could possibly be their forever home
- Figured out their environment
- Get into a routine
- Let their guard down and show their personality
- Start showing their behavior issues

After 3 months, your new pet may:

- Finally, and completely feel comfortable in their home
- Build trust and a true bond
- Gained a complete sense of security with their new family
- Have a set routine