

## **Rescuing a Dog - What You Need to Know**

### **3-3-3 Rule**

#### **★ 3 Days**

It will take 3 days for your new dog to decompress in their new home! Be patient, the first 3 days are going to be the most difficult for them.

#### **★ 3 Weeks**

It will take 3 weeks for your new dog to establish their routine with you. At this time, a routine is very important! They will adapt to your sleep schedule, their potty schedule, and the times they know you leave for work.

#### **★ 3 Months**

It will take 3 months or more for your new dog to be comfortable in their new home. Every dog is different, some take less, some take more.

### **Potty Training**

When you adopt a new dog, you have to understand that these dogs may have not been given the opportunity to be fully potty trained. They have been living on the streets, been in bad environments, been abused, etc. They should be given extra patience and love for them to be the best dog for you!

When you get home, show them where they will be able to go potty; let them wander and sniff (safely of course) and then introduce them to the inside once they have gone potty outside.

Keep a routine! Every 2-3 hours, take them outside to relieve themselves and reward them, with praise or with treats (or both), and continue this until you trust they understand where to go potty. If the dog you rescue is crate trained it is a great idea to keep them in the crate at night and be let out to go potty outside routinely!

If they have an accident, say “no” and take them outside immediately so they can finish outside. Once they have finished going potty outside, reward. This way they will not think it is okay to go potty inside, but are rewarded for going potty outside! It is crucial that you do not yell or scold at the dog; they do not know that they are doing anything wrong! Patience is key.

### **Introductions**

Slow introductions are key! Do NOT expect your animals to automatically get along with your new dog or cat.

We recommend that when introducing a dog that you meet in a neutral, controlled environment first - like a park or any neutral territory. We do not want to spark a fight between your current dog and your new dog because your current dog thinks that they are intruding on their territory. Once a neutral introduction is done and they seem to be getting along, then put your current dog

into a room and let your new dog roam and smell their new home alone! Then you can let both of your animals roam together and be happy! Make sure to give plenty of treats to both your dogs when they are getting along!

We recommend when introducing a cat that you start by putting the cat into a room and allowing your new dog to roam the house alone and smell. They will know that there is an animal in the house, but we don't want them to meet just yet. Let your new dog smell a favorite blanket, toy, or collar from your cat so your dog gets familiar with their scent. The same goes for your cat - let them smell your new dog's collar or harness so they get familiar with the scent of a dog. Slowly introduce your cat and dog and give plenty of treats to your new dog and cat when they are being good! **An introduction to a cat may be slower.**

Rewarding will help, ALWAYS! Always give praise to your new dogs and their new animal friends!

**Thank you for adopting!**

**-Horn Creek Rescue**