



*It doesn't happen overnight!*

Failure to use the 3-3-3 Rule upfront can result in poor acclimation for a new pup, resulting in abandonment, surrender, or the very worst... abuse. This is hard work and it can be stressful. The first few days will be challenging.

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

Using the 3-3-3 Rule is so helpful in getting you off to the best possible start with your newly adopted pup.

### **Good News!**

Putting in brief, upfront time and energy can lead to a lifetime of peaceful pet ownership. It pays off and it is up to the human to set the stage.



### **Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Services**

**Phone:** 352-796-5062

**Address:** 19450 Oliver Street  
Brooksville, FL 34601



**THE  
3-3-3  
RULE**



## What is the 3-3-3 Rule of adopting a pet?

It typically takes a newly adopted dog three days to adjust to their new environment, three weeks to start feeling comfortable and settle into a routine, and three months to fully feel at home and bonded with their new family.

### Three Days (To Decompress)

- Feeling Overwhelmed
- May feel scared/unsure of what's going on
- Not comfortable enough to be himself/herself
- May not want to eat/drink
- Shuts down/and or hides under furniture
- Tests the boundaries



### Three Weeks (To Learn Your Routine)

- Starts settling in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realizes this could be his/her forever home
- Figures out his/her environment
- Gets into a routine
- Will let his/her guard down
- May begin to show personality
- Behavior issues may start to appear

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*The 3-3-3 Rule is a general guideline for the adjustment period of a dog after adoption. Every dog is different and will adjust differently.*

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### Three Months (To Start to Feel at Home)

- Finally feels completely comfortable in his/her home
- Begins to build trust and a true bond
- Gains a complete sense of security with his/her new family
- Settles into his/her routine

