

# IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.



3 DAYS

## TO DECOMPRESS

- FEELING OVERWHELMED
- MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON
- NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF"
- MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK
- SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE
- TESTS THE BOUNDARIES



3 WEEKS

## TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE

- STARTS SETTLING IN
- FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE
- REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME
- FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT
- GETS INTO A ROUTINE
- LETS HIS GUARD DOWN. MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY
- BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR



3 MONTHS

## TO START TO FEEL AT HOME

- FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME
- BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND
- GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY
- SETS INTO A ROUTINE

GIVE THEM A CHANCE