



[Image Source](#)

## How to Make Your Rescue Pet Feel at Home?

Having a new addition to the family is a significant commitment you and your kids can make. Also, adopting a new pet instead of buying one is one of the best things you can do to help them live a better life and teach your kids life lessons.

However, you should also understand that adopting one entails great responsibility, which can be stressful if you don't know what you're doing. The process may take a few days, weeks, or even months, especially if they have experienced a traumatic event or lived in multiple homes or shelters. So, to help you get your new adopted pet properly settled in your house, here are a few ways you can follow.

## Prepare Your Home

One of the primary things you must prepare before you bring your new adopted pet home is to ensure that your home is ready for them. If you're a new pet owner, it's easy to get overwhelmed, but you should know that what your pet needs depends on what type they are, whether they're a dog, cat, or something else. Nonetheless, you can never go wrong with [fun dog treats](#), a cat tree for kittens, and others.

Also, don't forget the essentials, such as a collar with an identification tag, harness, bed, food, water balls, crate (if needed), enclosed playpen, and food. Though take note that it's best not to go crazy in purchasing pet foods just yet because they might have preferred ones in the future. So, you can instead learn more about this and consult the vet about nutrition.

## Make a Routine

[Routine is as important to your pet as it's important to you](#). In your pet's case, the routine will help them live a better quality of life. In particular, dogs aren't the type who lives spontaneously, although they're fun pets. On the other hand, they thrive on structure and predictability because uncertainty can put them under stress.

What you can do is try preparing a regular schedule that you should also commit to. Try to wake up at the same time every day, schedule your walks, feed them at specific times, play, and train them. The pattern should be familiar to them and help you and your new pet settle quickly.

## Slowly Introduce New People

As mentioned, your pet dog might have experienced some traumatic event in the past or may not be used to seeing people in proximity after years of staying in the shelter. Meanwhile, a new addition can be exciting for your family. However, they can be shy or easily intimidated by others, which can overwhelm them.

The best thing you can do is wait for your new pet to get used to the other family members before you invite some people over. Remember that this process might take so long, but note that these pets might have experienced something unknown, making it hard to establish relationships with others.

## Understand the 3-3-3 Rule for Rescue Pets.

The 3-3-3 rule is the different milestones your rescue pet will likely experience in three days, three weeks, and three months after being adopted from a shelter. In other words, it's the time it will take your rescue pet to feel comfortable at their new home. Understanding the [3-3-3 rule](#) also means getting to know your pet. So, to help you, here's the breakdown of this rule.

- **3 Days.** During these first few days, your adopted pet may be uncomfortable and overwhelmed with their new environment. So, they might not engage as much as you have expected. You might notice them avoiding their meals and water; some might test their boundaries to help them further understand what is expected of them in this new life.
- **3 Weeks.** Your new pet might start to settle in properly, and you might be surprised by their true personality. As they become more comfortable, they will start to open up. Aside from that, they will slowly start with their routines. However, it would help if you also take note of their bad behaviors because this is the time that it begins showing.
- **3 Months.** By the third month, some pets may have properly settled in and already established trust with you and your family. However, change is relative. So, the process might be longer for your pet or shorter. Nonetheless, this is the average month, which can help you monitor your pet.

## Be Patient at All Times

Change is different for many people. It's not definite, which is also the same for your pets. Others may have opened up easier, but it's important to understand that it may not be the case for your new pet.

However, it's also essential to understand that this doesn't mean something is wrong with your pet. It's just that your pet needs more time for others. As such, you need to give them more patience.

## Final Thoughts

Adopting a rescue pet and having a new addition to your family is a long-time commitment that needs enough time to consider. However, it's a rewarding experience where you can share love with the rescue pets and give them another chance at life. So, if you're thinking about adopting one, this article should help you with the essentials you need. Take your time deciding and consider the possibilities and tasks you need to take upon yourself.