## **RESCUE DOGS 101 / 3-3-3 GUIDELINES**

# 3 days, 3 Weeks, 3 Months ... with flexibility

# Every dog is unique & resilient. Give your dog/cat a spatial bubble and time to adjust to transitions.

### 3 D In the first 3 days

- Feeling overwhelmed and stressed.
- Exhibiting signs of stress/anxiety/fear. May be scared and unsure of what is going on.
- Not comfortable enough being him/herself
- May not want to eat or drink.
- Shut down, zone out, may want to hide in crate or under table.
- Testing the boundaries.

#### 3 W After 3 weeks

- Starting to settle in.
- Feeling more comfortable.
- Realizing this could be his/her forever home.
- Figuring out the environment (family living).
- Getting into a routine (Eating, Exercise, Toys, Environment).
- Let's his/her guard down / starts showing his/her personality.
- Behavior issues may show-up (true colors).
  What happened in previous environment?
  What behaviors helped him/her survive. What training (or not) did this dog have.

#### 3 M After 3 months

- Usually settled into new home.
- Building trust and a bond with family members and routines.
- Gains a sense of security with his/her new family.
- Familiar with routine and life rewards (exercise, food, play, toys, care and love).
- Learning basic manners and socialization (positive reinforcement only).
- Watch-me, sit, down, blanket or bed, stay, come, leave-it / take-it, etc.

Living and Learning with Dogs!