

Top Tips for the First Few Days

1. **Let them sleep.** Your new pet has been through a LOT of change recently (haven't we all!). While we know you are excited to play with them, the first **three** days are an important and critical time for them to decompress. Sleeping will reduce their overall stress level and help them acclimate successfully. Using a crate can help create a safe space for them; if you need help with crate training please let us know.
2. **Take it slow.** Think of your pet as a stranger in a strange world. They may not be ready to cuddle right away so please give them time to adjust to you and your home. This will help you understand their personality and it will help them trust their new surroundings.
3. **Make friends for life.** If you have other pets in your home, introductions should happen outside on neutral ground. Once in the home, set boundaries using crates, baby gates or simply closing doors. Please don't expect the pets to be BFF's right away! Go on lots of walks to allow them to get to know each other by smell and body language. Any playtime in the house should be kept to a minimum and closely monitored until they have had time to build a positive relationship and you are 100% comfortable. If play escalates or becomes too rough, give them both time to calm down and then slowly reintroduce them.
4. **Ask questions.** Your foster mentor or adoption counselor will be contacting you to make sure things are going well and to provide you with additional training documents and information. If you have any needs before then please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for making a difference!