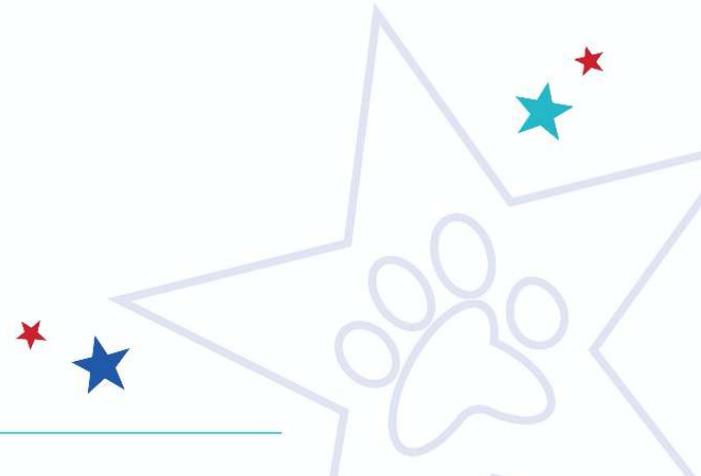


30 Day Bonding & Next Steps

It's a marathon, not a sprint

Building a relationship with your dog will take:

- Work
- Time
- Learning your dog
- Earning your dog's trust
- Practice
- Patience

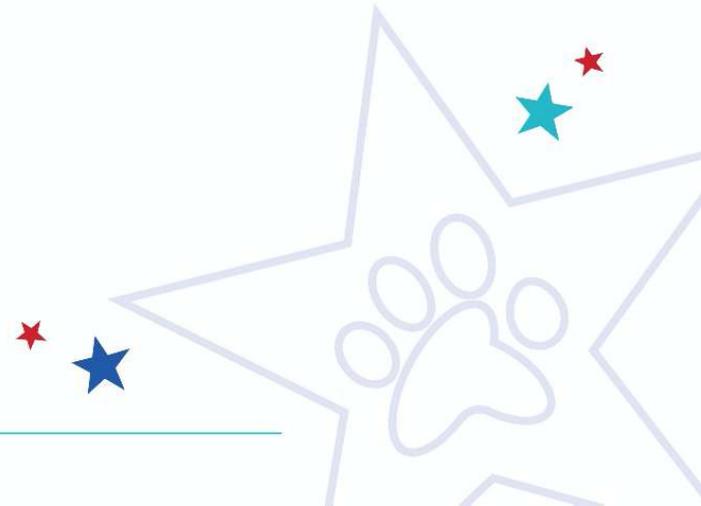


Set yourself & your dog up for success



REMEMBER You have just completely changed the rules of the game for your dog. They are in a brand-new environment with new people, animals, smells, distractions and so on. Go back to the basics and increasing your rate of reinforcement:

Cue, Mark, Treat



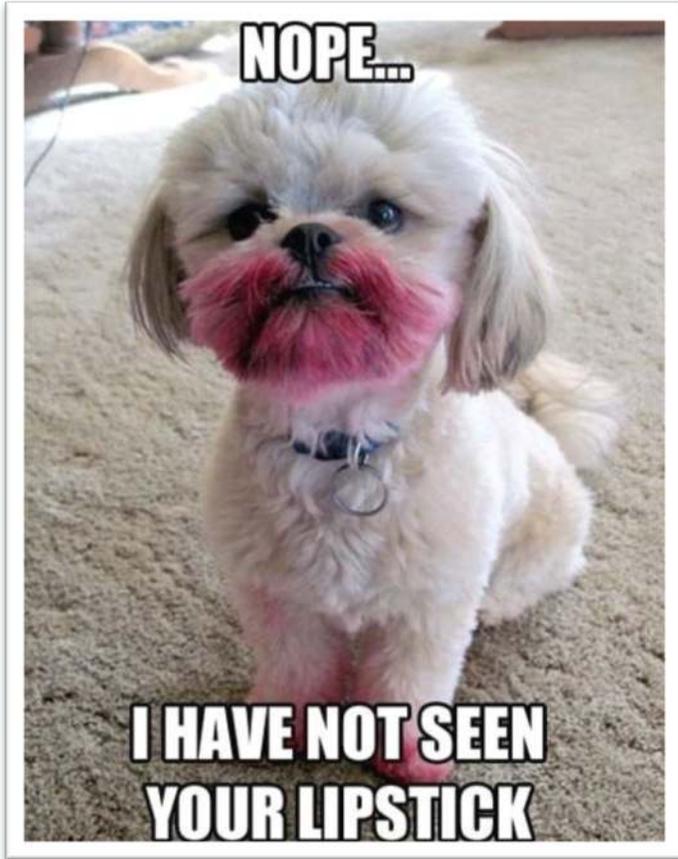
Use clear communication

REMEMBER Your dog has spent the past 1.5+ years of his/her life communicating with trainers, fosters, volunteers, and care staff in the same way we have been teaching you during class **One of the most important things you can do for the success of your bond is to consistently maintain this method of communication**



- Use your verbal cues and hand signals
- Use and reinforce the basics: Sit, Down, Come, Stay, Wait, All Done, Watch, Name, Touch, Place, Heel
- Use treats, praise, play, access, toys, petting, and other things your dog loves to reinforce them
- DO NOT use fear, force, intimidation, or physical manipulation

Set clear expectations at home



PREVENT undesirable behavior by setting boundaries and creating a safe environment for your dog

- Tether your dog to yourself, use your crate, put up baby gates or ex-pens, close doors
- Tethering leaves no room for error
- Teaches the dog to follow you, rather than learning how to 'train you' to follow them

Set clear expectations with others



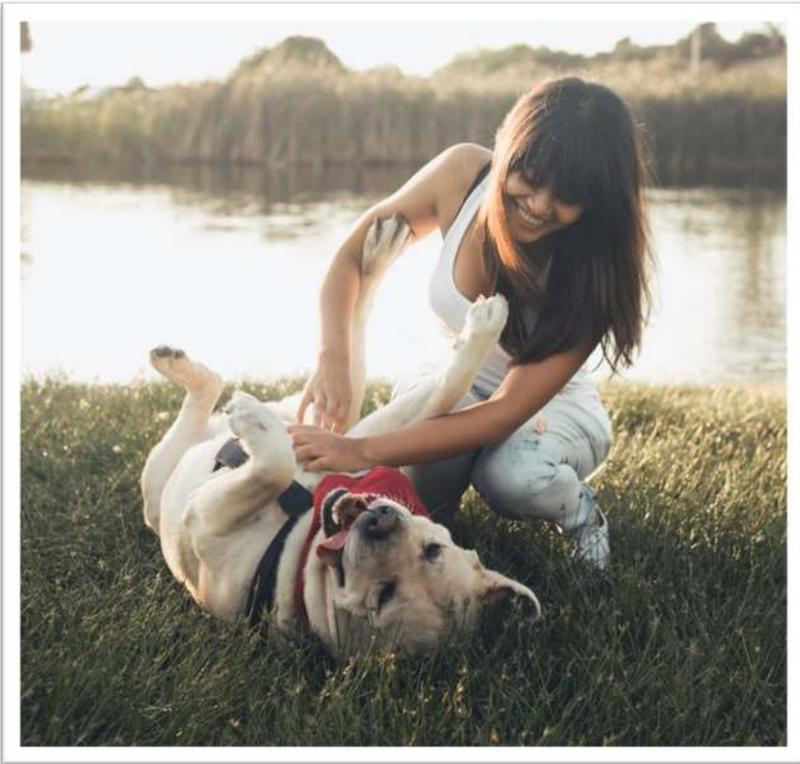
LIMIT your dog's interactions with family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to your "Go visit" cue. Inform them ahead of time that this is a crucial period for you and your dog to bond.

It is OK to say NO!

AVOID

- Greeting other dogs on leash
- Big parties
- Inviting everyone over to meet your new dog
- Travel/big trips
- Large events or conventions

All good things come from you



Be the most amazing person in your dog's new life

- Treats
- Toys
- Playtime
- Mealtime
- Training
- Affection
- Cuddling
- Massage
- Puzzle Toys
- Walks

There may be necessary exceptions based on your personal limitations. Please work with your trainer to find creative alternatives



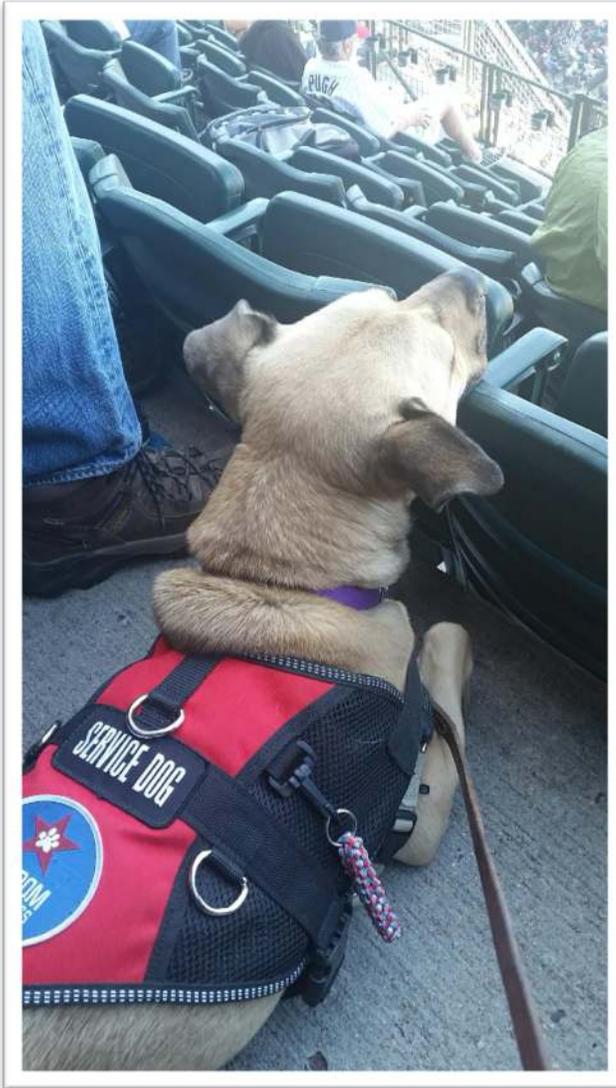
Practice with training trips first



Do the “real thing” when you are **BOTH** ready

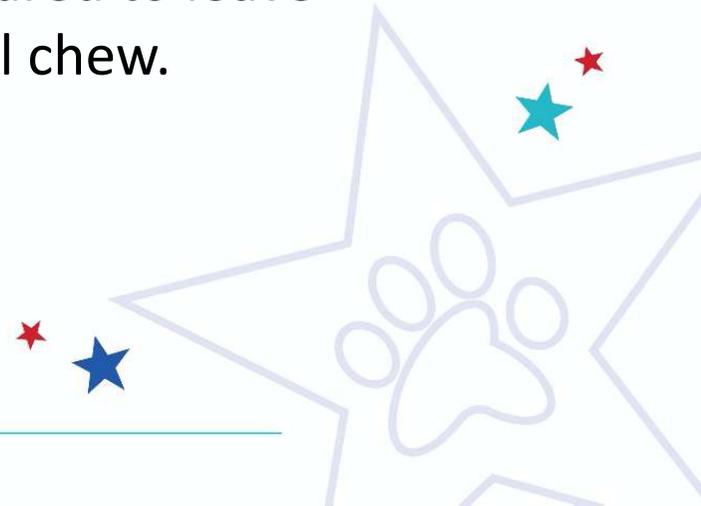
- The location may not be new for you or your dog, but it is new for you as a team
- Bring high value treats
- Have a plan & visualize the situation
- Have a backup plan
- Have a backup plan to your backup plan
- Your trainer can guide you through this process during your in-home placement time





Example situation for a Baseball Game

- Watch a baseball game at home to get used to the sounds – slowly turn up the volume as long as you & your dog remain comfortable & relaxed.
- If possible attend smaller events first
- Go to the baseball game and monitor your dog; if they are overwhelmed, be prepared to leave early. Use treats or bring a special chew.





Practice makes Progress!

- Practice, patience, and work now will pay off in the long run.
- Setting expectations now will prevent you from having to go back and un-train undesired behaviors.
- Working closely with the FSD team to identify and address issues early is imperative.
- The bond is a continual process, there is no end point.
- **Slow is fast!**



