

Alone Training



Separation issues will often be heightened in newly re-homed dogs.

They are likely to become attached to their new family very quickly, we give a lot of attention to them when we first get them and then once life goes back to normal the dog is left alone again not understanding what has changed and it is unlikely that your dog has had any alone training in his previous life.

We prefer that our dogs go to homes where they will have company for much of the day. If you are not able to offer that look into providing alternative care while you are absent.

For example, hire a professional dog walker or pet sitter to visit your pet during the day, take your dog to daycare or have a neighbour, friend or relative visit and care for your pet.

This added cost should be factored into your decision making when applying to adopt one of our dogs.

Part of planning for your new dog's arrival home should include an initial two week period where your new dog has company all day.

This is important so as to implement basic alone training and to gradually desensitize him to spending ever gradually increasing periods alone.

Alone training tips:

- Use calmatives such as DAP, first in calm situations with you present and then begin to use them in training situations.
- If you only leave the radio on or only use calmatives or other remedies when leaving the dog these are likely to cause an increase in distress by predicting your departure.
- Make sure that your dog has something to entertain himself with while alone or unsupervised – if not he will find his own entertainment and you might not be too happy with that!
- Crate training** and settle training are essential for all dogs and are crucial parts of alone training.
- Exercise your dog before leaving him but make sure to bring him home at least 20 minutes before you go again so that he has time to relax.
- Desensitize your dog to your departure cues such as picking up your keys, getting your coat and so on – this can be worked into crate training.
- Keep departures and arrivals low key – don't fuss your dog, just say a quick hello or goodbye and then continue.
- Leave your dog with an old t-shirt or towel of yours.