

Owners of dogs with separation anxiety often feel hopeless & like prisoners in their own home.

But it is fixable with the right training.

WHAT IS CANINE SEPARATION ANXIETY?

Put simply, a dog with separation anxiety is a dog that is afraid of being left alone. It is a fear/panic disorder that affects almost 20% of all dogs in the US. Typical signs of separation anxiety include near constant barking, whining, pacing, sweating, drooling, pawing or scratching, inappropriate elimination, destruction of the environment, attempts to escape, and even self-mutilation.

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Dogs by nature are social animals. Left to their own devices, they would live in groups and benefit from collaborative hunting, breeding/puppy rearing, and communal defense against predators.

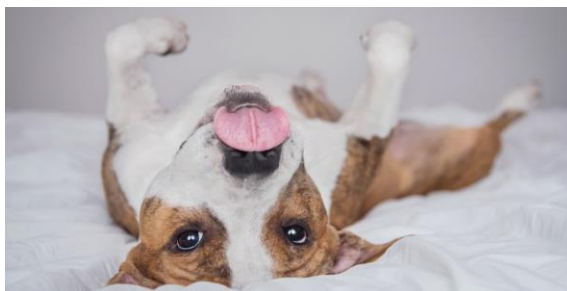
It is therefore reasonable to expect that social interaction is hard-wired into a dog's behavior. They bond closely to their core relationships and need their group to feel comfortable.

The average dog can be adjustable in terms of the level and frequency of interaction, as well as the person involved. A dog may prefer their owner to stay home but being alone isn't traumatic. This is a dog who expects their owner to return and can relax while waiting.

With a separation anxiety dog, there is no adjustment, even to short absences. **It's all traumatic!** 20 minutes alone is met with the same panic and terror as two hours alone.

While we do not know why some dogs develop separation anxiety and others don't, we do know that there are factors that seem to be present in many separation anxiety cases:

- Multiple re-homing/moving episodes
- Air shipping (especially during puppyhood)
- Illness or malnutrition during puppyhood
- Singleton puppies or litter removal too early
- Sudden long presence/absence of owner
- Death/departure of a family member
- Introduction of a new family member
- A Traumatic event
- Seizure disorders
- Old-age/pain-related onset
- Genetic predisposition



THERE IS HOPE!

No other behavioral issue has the household impact that canine separation anxiety does. Clients often feel trapped and like prisoners in their own home. Or they feel guilty knowing their dog is suffering when they do venture out.

The good news is that by using the proper training method you can regain the freedom, peace of mind and get the relationship you have wanted with your dog.

By addressing your dogs fear you will see significant improvement or full resolution.

From the beginning of this training program, there will be an end to your dog's distress, neighbor's complaints, and your landlord's eviction warnings. This peace of mind will free you to focus on creating lasting change.

The proper training method involves gradually desensitizing your dog to being alone. **Over time, they will learn to tolerate longer and longer stretches of time by themselves.** The end goal is to help your dog be comfortable being home alone.

THE TRAINING PROTOCOL

The most effective, long-lasting training approach to separation anxiety **is straightforward, but not easy.** It can be very challenging for an owner to address on their own, especially at first.

Every client experience begins with a live, online video assessment of your dog. We take into consideration your schedule and objectives. We write the first assignment, a 30-minute mission, based on what we've observed.

Next, we complete that assignment with you online so we can be sure to address all your questions. Our primary goal is to make sure your dog is handling the program well.

From there, you can expect a total of four or five 30-minute assignments based on your daily progress reports. Each mission is created individually by us, for you and your dog. Future weeks are structured the same way: a live video assessment and four or five homework assignments created just for you.

The training program for separation anxiety can be very intense, and **everyone, canine and human,** needs at least two days off each week to relax and recharge.