




Birmingham  
Dogs  
Home

13 years



 When you return, don't say anything to the dog. Just take him straight outside and allow him to relieve himself. Once he has done this you can fuss him. By not making a fuss of him when you leave or return you are not making an issue of the fact that he is being left. If you find on your return that the dog has urinated or anything else, the best advice is to ignore this. Hopefully this will be a one-off.

 You can leave the radio or TV on for the dog if you wish but ensure you have turned it on for at least ten minutes before you leave, otherwise most dogs get to know that the minute you turn the radio on you are about to leave and will start to get anxious.

 You need to practice leaving your dog at different times of the day and for different lengths of time, building it up as you go. If you are putting the TV or radio on then alter this as well so that there is no connection. (Perhaps put the TV on one day then the radio, then nothing and turn the TV on 30 minutes before you leave, then 45 minutes before you leave).



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# YOU & your new DOG



# SEPARATION ANXIETY



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**S**eparation anxiety can come in various forms - barking, destruction, toileting, self harm, etc.





Dogs unused to being left on their own or who feel uncomfortable in a situation usually show these behaviour issues.

With any dog you need to build up the time when you leave them. You cannot expect a dog / puppy to be left for six hours or so if he is not used to it. Some dogs prefer to be left in a smaller area whereas others may be more comfortable in a larger space.

The two main rules when leaving dogs on their own are:

1. Ensure they have had a chance to go to the toilet
2. Do not make a fuss about leaving or returning to your dog.

## Here are some tips you can use for times when leaving your dog

-  Decide on an area in which you feel your dog will be most comfortable. A very young pup may prefer to be left in a crate (see crate training sheet for information on this) or a den - something that is cosy and secure.
-  Make sure the dog has been for a walk or had chance to go to the toilet. Otherwise he may be uncomfortable if he needs to go.
-  Place the dog in the area that you have chosen and say nothing to him. Simply put him in this area and leave. Depending on the dog and length of time you are leaving him you may consider water but just remember in a small area water can be knocked over and more water intake means more urine. A chew treat that does not require supervision can be left for the dog to occupy him.
-  Leave the dog for a few moments. You may wish to walk to the front door and step outside, closing the door and then return.

