HOME DOGS ASMART TRAVELER'S GUIDE DOG OWNER REASSURANCE TIPS

HOW TO SECURE
YOUR DOGS WHEN
YOU ARE AWAY

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Smart Traveler



To all dog lovers.





When we leave our homes for work or travel, our dogs often face a mix of emotions and activities. Understanding what our furry friends do in our absence can help us ensure their well-being and comfort.

What Do Dogs Do When You're Away?

Sleeping: Dogs spend a significant portion of their day sleeping, especially when their owners are not around. On average, adult dogs sleep for about 12-14 hours a day, with puppies and older dogs sleeping even more.

Watching the World: Dogs are naturally curious creatures. When alone, they often spend time looking out windows, watching the world go by, and waiting for their owners to return.

Exploring: Some dogs may explore their environment, sniffing around and investigating new smells. This activity can be both mentally stimulating and a way to pass the time.

Playing: If they have access to toys, dogs might play with them. Interactive toys, such as puzzle feeders, can keep their minds engaged and prevent boredom.



Barking or Howling: Separation anxiety can cause some dogs to vocalize their distress. Barking, whining, or howling are common signs that a dog is feeling anxious or lonely.

Eating and Drinking: Dogs with free access to food and water might eat and drink throughout the day. Some dogs may also stash their food, a natural instinct from their wild ancestors.

Waiting: Above all, many dogs spend a lot of time simply waiting for their beloved owners to come home. They may stay near the door or their favorite spot, anticipating moment you walk through the door. They will patiently wait for you to come home expecting to see you soon and spend a lot of good times together again. Dogs will anticipate your return anytime, anywhere.

How to Secure and Comfort Your Dog When You're Away



Leaving your dog alone can be stressful for both of you. Here are some tips to ensure your dog's safety and comfort while you're away:

Create Safe Space: a comfortable, Designate а secure area in your home where your dog can feel safe. This could be a specific room, a crate, or a dog bed. Make sure it's free from hazards and filled with their blankets favorite and toys.views, polls, debates on the topic.

Provide Entertainment: Keep your dog mentally and physically stimulated with a variety of toys like puzzle feeders, chew toys, and treat-dispensing toys.

Exercise Before Departure: Ensure your dog gets plenty of exercise before you leave. A tired dog is more likely to rest and relax while you're away. A long walk or a vigorous play session can help expend their energy.

Background Noise: Leaving a TV or radio on can provide comforting background noise. Some dogs find the sound of human voices or soft music soothing, which can reduce feelings of loneliness.



Dog Cameras: Invest in a pet camera to monitor your dog's behavior while you're away. Some cameras even have two-way audio, allowing you to talk to your dog and offer reassurance.

Hire a Pet Sitter or Dog Walker: If you're going to be away for an extended period, consider hiring a pet sitter or a dog walker. Regular visits or walks can break up the day for your dog and provide them with much-needed companionship and exercise.

Interactive Feeders: Using interactive feeders or timed food dispensers can provide vour doa with mental stimulation prevent and boredom. These devices can release food or treats at set intervals.

Gradual Desensitization: If your dog experiences separation anxiety, work on gradually desensitizing them to your departures. Start by leaving for short periods and gradually increase the time you're away. Reward calm behavior with treats and praise.







Secure Hazardous Areas

Dogs are naturally curious and may wander into areas that pose risks. Use baby gates to block off access to stairs, kitchens, and other hazardous zones. Ensure that bathrooms, garages, and laundry rooms are always closed to prevent your dog from encountering harmful substances.

Store Chemicals and Medications Safely

Common household items such as cleaning products, medications, and certain foods can be toxic to dogs.

Store these items in cabinets or on high shelves out of your dog's reach. Consider using childproof latches for added security.

Check for Toxic Plants

Many indoor and outdoor plants are toxic to dogs if ingested. Some common culprits include lilies, azaleas, and sago palms. Research the plants in your home and garden and replace any toxic varieties with pet-safe alternatives.



Secure Trash Cans

Dogs love to explore trash cans, which can lead to ingestion of harmful items or choking hazards. Use trash cans with secure lids or place them inside cabinets to prevent your dog from getting into them.

Hide Electrical Cords

Chewing on electrical cords can cause burns, electric shocks, or even fires. Hide cords behind furniture, use cord covers, or tape them securely to walls to keep them out of your dog's reach.

Choose Safe Toys

Select dog toys that are appropriate for your dog's size and chewing habits. Avoid toys with small parts that can be swallowed or cause choking. Regularly inspect toys for wear and tear, and replace them as needed to prevent injury.

Create a Safe Outdoor Space

If your dog spends time outdoors, ensure your yard is secure. Check fences for gaps or weak spots where your dog could escape.



Remove any sharp objects or hazardous materials from the yard. Provide shade and fresh water to keep your dog comfortable.

Establish a Dog-Friendly Zone

Create a designated area in your home where your dog can relax and feel safe. This could be a cozy corner with a dog bed and some favorite toys. Having a consistent space can help reduce anxiety and provide a sense of security.

Be Mindful of Human Food

Many human foods, such as chocolate, grapes, and onions, are toxic to dogs. Keep food out of your dog's reach and educate family members and guests about which foods are unsafe for your pet.

Regularly Check for Hazards

Conduct regular checks of your home for potential hazards. Look for items that could be swallowed, sharp edges, or any new risks that may have developed.



Staying vigilant helps ensure your dog's environment remains safe.

Creating a safe home for your dog is essential for their well-being and happiness. By securing hazardous areas, toxic storing substances and removing properly, potential dangers, you can prevent accidents and keep your furry friend protected. Regularly checking for risks, providing a designated safe space, and being mindful of harmful foods further enhance your dog's safety.

A well-prepared home ensures your pet can explore, play, and relax without worry.

dog's Your health and happiness depend on the care you provide, so taking these precautions will give of mind and vou peace strengthen the bond you between and your beloved companion. Your efforts will ensure a lifetime safety, joy, of and companionship. You will create new memories with your beloved pet.

24 Encouraging Reminders for Dog Owners When Away from Their Dog





Being away from your furry friend for a long time can be tough, but here are 24 reassuring reminders to help ease your worries:

- 1. Your dog is resilient.

 Dogs adapt well to different situations and will be okay even if you're away for a while.
- 2. They are in safe hands. If you've arranged a trusted pet sitter, friend, or boarding facility, your dog is well cared for.
- 3. Dogs live in the moment
 Unlike humans, dogs
 don't dwell on the past or
 future. They focus on the
 present, so they won't
 feel the separation as
 deeply as you do.
- 4. They'll be excited when you return. No matter how long you're gone, your dog's love for you will remain the same, and their joy upon seeing you will be priceless.
- 5. Technology can help. If possible, set up video calls or cameras to check on your dog, providing peace of mind.
- 6. Dogs sleep a lot. Depending on their breed and age, dogs sleep 12–16 hours a day. They'll be resting most of the time you're away.



7. You've built a strong bond. Your dog knows you love them, and your bond will not break just because you're apart for some time.

8. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Your reunion will be extra special, strengthening your connection even more.

9. Dogs don't hold grudges. No matter how long you're away, they won't be upset with you. They'll only feel happiness when you return. 10. They have their routine.

10. They have their routine. If you've left them with a reliable caretaker, their daily

routine (feeding, playtime, and walks) remains intact, which helps them feel secure.

11. Dogs are adaptable.

They can adjust to temporary changes in their environment as long as their basic needs are met. questions like who, what,

when, where, why and how.

12. You're providing for them. Your time away might be necessary to secure a better future for both of you, ensuring they have a great life.



13. They have comforting scents. Leaving an item with your scent (like a T-shirt or blanket) can help your dog feel connected to you while you're gone.

14, Separation anxiety can be managed. If your dog struggles with separation, you can work on training techniques to ease their stress before you leave.

15, Their love for you is unconditional. No matter how long you're apart, their love for you remains unchanged.

16. They will still recognize you. Even if you're gone for an extended period, dogs have incredible memory and will always remember their beloved owner.

17. Exercise and mental stimulation help. If they are being cared for properly, they'll be entertained with toys, walks, and playtime to keep them happy.

18. **Dogs trust you**. Your dog trusts that you will come back, just as you always have before.



19. You deserve time for yourself. Whether it's for work, travel, or personal matters, don't feel guilty. Taking care of yourself helps you be a better pet parent. 20, The reunion will be joyful The best part of being away is the moment you return. Their wagging tail, happy barks, and warm cuddles will make it all worth it!

21, Dogs sense love even from afar. Your emotional connection with your dog is strong, and they can still feel your love, even when you're not physically present.

22 They enjoy their alone time too. Just like humans, dogs also appreciate moments of independence where they can relax and enjoy their personal space.

23. You're setting a good example. Teaching your dog to be okay with temporary separations helps them grow into a more confident and well-adjusted pet.

24. Your love makes all the difference. What matters most is the love and care you give your dog daily. A short separation won't change the wonderful life you've given them!

A SWEET NOTE

Being away from your dog can feel like leaving a piece of your heart behind, but remember—your love is what truly matters. No matter how much time passes, your furry friend will always recognize you, trust you, and love you unconditionally. The bond you share isn't defined by distance but by the countless moments of care, affection, and companionship you've built over time.

Your dog's world is filled with simple joys—playtime, belly rubs, tasty treats, and the comforting scent of their favorite human. While you may worry, your dog is likely spending their time resting, playing, or eagerly awaiting your return. They live in the present and, when that joyful moment comes, they'll greet you with happy tail wags, excited barks, and eyes full of love.

So take a deep breath and find peace in knowing that your dog is safe, loved, and well cared for. You are their whole world, and whether you're gone for a day or weeks, that love remains unchanged. The reunion will be worth every second apart, filled with joyful jumps, endless cuddles, and an unbreakable bond that time can never weaken.

Your dog is safe, loved, and will be thrilled to see you when you return!

HOME DOGS

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