WHO'S WALKING WHO
Dog training

Separation Anxiety

With medical issues ruled out diagnose separation anxiety if:

- Dog engages in self-mutilation

Strongly suspect separation anxiety if any of the following are occurring:

- Soiling (often urine and feces) occurs only when owner is gone, and usually within the first few minutes after owner's departure
- Pre-departure signs of anxiety
- Dog is destructive only or primarily while owner is away and destruction is localized at points of exit and entry (destruction may or may not cause dog bodily injury)

Rule out other possibilities first if the only presenting issues are:

- Excessive vocalization when left alone (rule out under-stimulation, watchdog barking)
- Dog will not eat when owner is not home
- Extended or anxious greeting upon owner's return (rule out learned behavior, noises or other frightening occurrences during time owner is away)
- Dog is an escape artist (rule out opportunism, under-stimulation/ boredom, outside reinforcement)

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