



There are things you can do to lower the dog's energy levels before you leave also.

- * Walk the dog before you go to work (yes, you will have to get up 30 minutes earlier but it won't kill you, in fact, it may make you live longer and lose weight!)
- * Ensure the dog is getting plenty of exercise at the times you are home, eg ball throwing, training sessions, etc.
- * Take the dog out regularly to new and exciting places, even the biggest backyard gets mighty boring after a short while.
- * Try not to make a fuss of the dog when you are leaving or when you first arrive home. This will make the dog less stressed when you come and go.

STRESS=DESTRUCTIVENESS!

DOG TRAINING CLASSES

The Animal Welfare League holds regular classes for both adult dogs and puppies at very reasonable prices (discounted for animals adopted from the League). For information on class training contact staff.

The staff at the Animal Welfare League are available to give telephone advice to help you through those first few weeks with your new dog.

Please request to speak to any of our experienced dog trainers should you need assistance with any problems you may encounter while the dog is settling in to his/her new home.



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OCCUPYING THE HOME ALONE DOG

Animal Welfare League of SA Inc





Dogs that are left alone for many hours will often find ways to pass the time that are not always acceptable to their human companions. They are not being deliberately naughty, they are just occupying their time with what they believe to be constructive things to do, eg digging, chewing, eating plants, etc.

There is little point in punishing the dog well after the event, they will not understand why they are being told off (the look of guilt is actually an appeasement gesture to try and calm you down). It may even encourage them to partake in these behaviours more often as the dog will help alleviate this stress by digging, chewing, eating plants, etc.

A far better way to manage it is to make sure the dog has ample appropriate things to do in the owner's absence.

Firstly, ensure the home and garden is thoroughly dog-proofed (just as you would child-proof the home if you were expecting children to visit or live with you).

- * Put items of value out of reach.
- * Put dangerous items out of reach (eg poisons, sharp objects).
- * Do not leave washing on the line when you are unable to supervise.
- * Use temporary fencing to limit access to areas that need to be dog free.
- * Accept that dogs will be dogs and there are certain things you are going to have to sacrifice (eg the perfect garden!)



Next, ensure there are plenty of things for your dog to do when you are not around.

- * Have plenty of toys but, rather than just leaving them laying around for the dog to get bored with, swap them each day. Have a toy box for the dog and each day give the dog three new toys to play with. Cheap toys are readily available from discount stores.



- * Toys you are able to fill with food will keep the dog occupied for longer, eg Kongs, Buster Cubes, Activity Balls. Kongs can be filled with any edible matter and frozen to make the dog work harder to get the food out.
- * Plastic drink bottles can also be used to put dry food in, but discard before the dog has destroyed it as he/she may ingest the plastic. Remove the lid prior to giving to the dog.



- * Provide a digging pit in a part of the garden the dog has shown a preference to dig in and where you don't mind some doggy gardening occurring. You can encourage the dog to dig by placing items just under the soil while the dog is watching and praising if they do choose to dig there. If the dog is caught digging in another area, disrupt and take them to the preferred area.
- * Leave big marrowbones for the dog while you are not at home (sometimes, however, this can encourage digging as they may want to bury it).
- * Hide dry food around the garden (or house if kept inside). You can put it on tree branches, corners, underneath things (don't make it too obvious or easy for the dog to find the biscuits).

