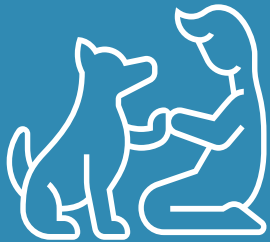




After having constant human companionship during COVID-19, **HOW WILL OUR PETS BEHAVE WHEN WE RETURN TO WORK?**

Our dogs, as pack animals, will miss their human interactions and many walks. Cats might be pleased to have their alone time back, although a few will show signs of distress due to lessened contact with their people.*



HOW COULD OUR PETS REACT WHEN OWNERS AREN'T WORKING FROM HOME?

Abrupt schedule changes can trigger or worsen separation anxiety symptoms (destructive behavior, barking, house soiling) in dogs. Cats, whose owners might have been more attentive to keeping litter boxes cleaner than usual, might rebel and begin to house soil.

WHAT CAN OWNERS DO NOW TO HELP THEMSELVES, & THEIR PETS PREPARE FOR LESS HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP?

Sudden changes in schedule can be stressful for humans and their pets. Whenever possible, family members should re-create their anticipated work schedules now, including doing walks and crate/alone time just like they might during a real “work day.”



WHAT IF MY PET IS NEW TO MY HOUSEHOLD AND HAS NEVER BEEN LEFT ALONE?

If your animal isn't used to being alone you can start by teaching your animal that his crate is a happy place by feeding all meals in it and playing games going in and out of the crate. Gradually you can leave the door closed longer and longer.



WHAT IF MY PET IS ALREADY STRUGGLING?

If your pet is already struggling being alone, get help from a veterinary behaviorist now. Pets get better with help, not with time. Early treatment helps decrease the intensity and frequency of behavioral symptoms.

ASPCA® PET HEALTH INSURANCE

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