

AVOID SEPERATION ANXIETY

August is a month of change, kids going back to school, starting a new grade; possibly a new school, everything changes for the family pets too. Dogs are pack animals, creatures of habit, they liked having family members at home these past summer weeks. Changes in the family schedule can upset the dog, causing anxiety including

- Separation Anxiety: The dog no longer has the kids to play with during the day. Start early in preparing the dog for the change. At least a week before the kids go back to school, begin to separate the dog from the rest of the family by leaving the dog for very short periods of time, fifteen minutes, then gradually increasing the length of time. The dog has been the center of attention during the summer, romping and playing with the kids; this routine needs to change before school starts. Provide the dog toys; begin to have the dog spend more time playing by him/herself. Each time you leave the home begin ignoring the dog at least ten minute before your actual departure.
- Boredom: Dogs sleep much of the day, but when they wake up they want something to do. Provide interactive toys, such as peanut butter filled Kongs, Buster Cube, or a Roll a Treat ball.
- Holding bladder too long: It is not reasonable to expect a dog to routinely "hold it" for much longer than eight hours maximum, young dogs, not longer than two to four hours. Don't leave your dog for unreasonable amount of time.

Consider "doggy day care". Ms C's Bed & Biscuits offers day camp, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM M,T,Th, F. Dogs love to dig, play and romp, Ms C's provides a fun, safe, calming environment when family members need to be away several hours during the day. Call 865-986-6325 for reservations.