

Make leaving your dog easier for both you and your companion.

As a dog owner, it is essential that we help our dogs avoid developing or intensifying separation anxiety by making our entries and exits as calm and uneventful as possible. As we see dogs as part of our families, we often feel guilty and sad when we have to leave them. Many owners will over-compensate by prolonging their farewells, especially when it is for a significant period of time. Likewise, when we are reunited with our beloved friends, it is tempting to smother them with all the affection they missed out on while you were separate. Unfortunately, extended goodbyes and excited greetings can leave your dog (and even yourself!) much more stressed than they need to be. This is because these periods of extra attention further highlight your absence and increase your dog's feeling of loneliness. This feeling of loneliness will develop into separation anxiety and that in turn could lead to new undesirable behaviours such as barking, destruction and inappropriate urination/defecation. If, however, every exit and entry you make is calm and boring, there will be a much lower contrast between those times and the period for which you are away communicating in this way should allow your dog to be more relaxed when separated from you. Please say goodbye to your dog at least half an hour before you actually depart from each other.

The most appropriate way to drop off and collect your dog

Please be patient with our driver during all deliveries and collections of your dog.

Whenever leaving your home, treat it as if you're just going to put the rubbish out, not going away for a period of time at all.

When you arrive at The Dog Bus, do not pay too much attention to your dog especially if they demand it. Do not prolong your goodbye or in any way over-compensate for leaving your dog(s)– simply give your lead to our handler and allow them to get your dog settled. REMEMBER – dogs are very good at sensing our emotions, if you are anxious or worried, your dog will pick up on that and this will often provoke them to become more distressed, If you are relaxed, your dog will be far happier, even excited, to board the bus.

On return, the same rules apply. Though you may feel like exploding with happiness and affection, it is best to ignore your dog until they are calm. This creates a much greater balance between togetherness and separation and so lessens the feeling of loneliness the next time you are apart. The more uneventful greetings you have, the quicker your dog will calm and so the easier time spent apart will be for both of you.