



# SUPERVISED SEPARATION

## Before You Begin:

You have survived beginner behaviors and now you're ready for something harder. Welcome to Advanced behaviors! In these, your dog will be pushed hard to behave during distractions (some of which are very, very distracting!). Many of our commands have been broken up into multiple parts to make it easier for our owners and dogs to learn and enjoy themselves during the training sessions.

The advanced behaviors we will be learning can be frustrating to both dog and owner, so if you find yourself getting frustrated, please **do yourself a favor and end the training session with something simple**, like sit. Ending a session on a good note will make you feel better and encourage your dog as well. By this point, your dog should be well versed in basic commands and willing to respond to them quickly without always needing a treat for their efforts.

## Supervised Separation

One of the most difficult things for your dog to do is behave appropriately while you walk away from them. Often, this makes your dog difficult to work with for your vet, groomer or daycare worker. By practicing the separation, your dog can become comfortable with the action and your vet will thank you! The Canine Good Citizen test requires dogs to be able to behave themselves for three minutes while their owners are out of sight. To do this, you will need somebody else to assist you.

- Put your dog on their leash
- Have your helper approach and take the leash from you
- Walk away from your dog and out of their sight for 3 minutes

The goal of supervised separation is for your dog to be relaxed while being held by another person. They are allowed to move but may not whine, bark, pull at the leash or perform any other anxious behaviors. Your helper is allowed to speak with your dog but may not pet or give them any commands. This is all about practice! The more we can practice, the sooner your dog will relax while out of your presence. If at all possible, use a helper that your dog isn't very familiar with.