



2022 Annual Conference

October 18-21
Workshops, Power Hours
Science based sessions
Daytona, Beach Florida
Register today!


www.apdt.com/apdt-conference-2022/itle

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Malena DeMartini

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About me & Tini DeMartini
(and introducing Maybell)

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Separation Anxiety – Today's Topics


- Humble Beginnings
- Where It Started
- Where It Landed
- Advancements
- Technology Influence
- Confluence
- Explosion
- Customized Care
- Why Hidden Gems?
- Success
- The Time is Now



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Humble Beginnings




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Growing and Transforming Where It Started

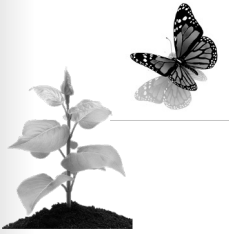
-  In home consults every 1-3 weeks with lengthy written behavior plans
-  Absence assessment by exiting with the client and spying on the dog
-  Video camera left behind for later review
-  Occasional email or phone check-in with the more savvy/motivated clients
-  Client set most of the day-to-day criteria with some trainer input
-  Success rate was variable and not particularly impressive



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Growing and Transforming Where It Landed


- Live-online meetings minimally once weekly
- Shared documents for very regular criteria setting and support
- Recorded video only for spot checks as needed
- Trainer teaches body language reading and criteria setting through live apps
- Systematic criteria setting is a collaborative effort
- Success rate became consistent and impressive



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Advancements

"Over the past four decades, [separation anxiety] has been the most commonly discussed disorder in published studies of experimental research and retrospective research in the fields of applied animal behavior and veterinary behavior."




Ogata, N. (2016) Separation anxiety in dogs: What progress has been made in our understanding of the most common behavioral problems in dogs?
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Advancements

- Food Toys
- Gradual Departures
- Pre-departure Cues
- Confinement
- Management



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- Food Toys

"Providing a food-stuffed toy did not have a significant effect on the incidence of separation related behaviors."



Sargisson, R., 2014. Canine separation anxiety: strategies for treatment and management. *Veterinary Medicine: Research and Reports* 143.

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- Gradual Departures

"Interestingly, the dog that had the highest percentage of **systematic desensitization was the critical component for successful treatment** counterconditioning and other behavioral advice did not influence the behavioral outcome outcome."

Feuerbacher, E., & Muir, K. (2020) Using Owner Return as a Reinforcer to Operantly Treat Separation-Related Problem Behavior in Dogs. *Animals Journal*

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- Pre-departure Cues

"In the author's practice, extinction of departure cues is rarely recommended in the treatment of separation anxiety."



Ballantyne, K.C., 2018. Separation, Confinement, or Noises: What is Scaring That Dog? *Veterinary Clinic of North America* "Small Animal Practice, Vol 48(2), pp 367-386

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- Confinement

"Owners may increase their efforts to confine the dog to prevent property damage, purchasing "escape-proof" crates or securing the crates with cords or locks. Forcing confinement heightens the dog's panic and escalates intensity of escape-behaviors, resulting in self-trauma and in severe cases, death."



Ballantyne, K.C., 2018. Separation, Confinement, or Noises: What is Scaring That Dog? Veterinary Clinic of North America" Small Animal Practice, Vol 48(2), pp 367-386

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- Management

"Throughout this process, it is essential that the intensity of the stimulus is never presented at a level that elicits the fear response or sensitization to the stimulus and worsening of the fear response rather than desensitization will occur."



Ballantyne, K.C., 2018. Separation, Confinement, or Noises: What is Scaring That Dog? Veterinary Clinic of North America" Small Animal Practice, Vol 48(2), pp 367-386

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- Management

2,398 prospective clients

50%
Already suspending or willing to do so immediately

85% on board

Source: Malena DeMartini Inc. 2019

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- Management



A black and white photograph of a dog, possibly a Bernese Mountain Dog, standing on its hind legs and shaking hands with a human hand. The human hand is holding a document that has the word "CONTRACT" at the top. The dog is looking up at the hand. The background is plain white.

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Technology Influence

- Home Cameras
- Shared Documents
- Data Tracking
- Meeting Virtually




An abstract black and white image showing a series of curved lines that create a sense of depth and motion, resembling a tunnel or a road stretching into the distance. The lines are illuminated from above, creating a bright, glowing effect in the center.

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- Home Cameras



Two icons representing webcams. The first is a rounded rectangular button with a camera icon and the word "Webcam" in a bold, sans-serif font. The second is a square icon with a camera icon inside a circle.

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- Shared Documents



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- Data Tracking



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- Data Tracking

“The immediacy of the data collected enable trainers to make decisions and changes dynamically during a session/program rather than waiting days, weeks, or months to see what was ultimately successful post intervention.”



Dr. Susan Friedman (2022) *How Research Works*

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- Data Tracking

"Exposure techniques require continuous adjustment to ensure that the most appropriate stimulus level is being used."

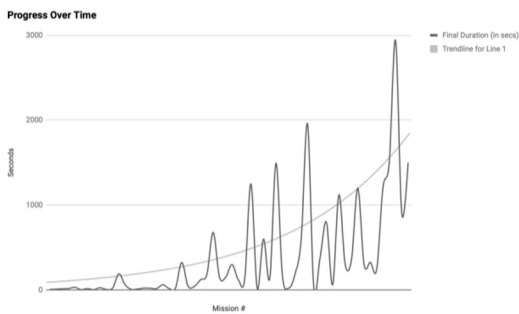


Borchelt, P.L., Voith, V.L., 1982. Diagnosis and Treatment of Separation-Related Behavior Problems in Dogs, Symposium on Animal Behavior, 625-635.

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- Data Tracking



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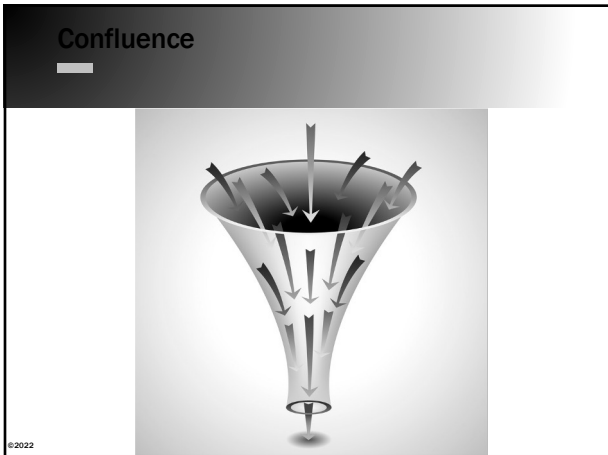
- Meeting Virtually



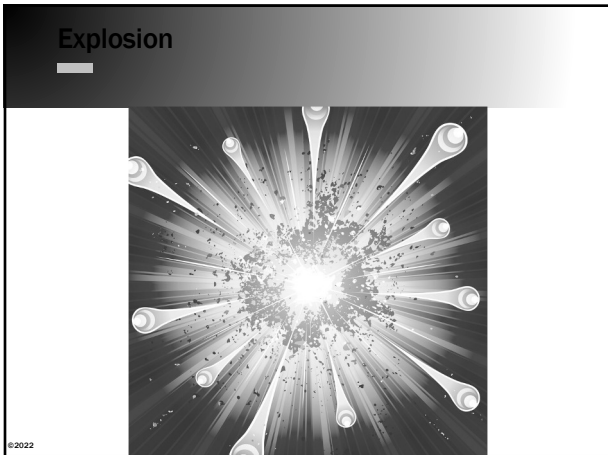
zoom

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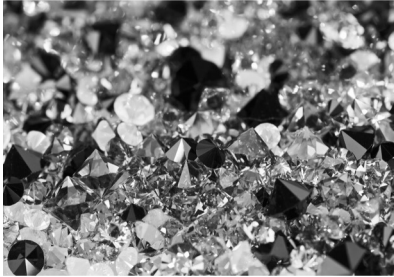


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Why Hidden Gems?



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Success

"Although treatment was eventually successful for all dogs, there was considerable individual variation in both rapidity and variability of progress."



Butler, R., Sargisson, R. J., & Elliffe, D. (2011). The efficacy of systematic desensitization for treating the separation-related problem behaviour of domestic dogs. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 129(2), 136-145.

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Success

"If diagnosed and treated correctly, the prognosis for a dog with separation anxiety is excellent."




McCrave, E. A. (1991). Diagnostic criteria for separation anxiety in the dog. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 21(2), 247-255.

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Success

“Owners should be encouraged that it is never too late, or a case is never too bad to contemplate treatment, because these factors do not seem to affect prognosis.”




Sherman, B. L., & Mills, D. S. (2008). Canine anxieties and phobias: an update on separation anxiety and noise aversions. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 38(5), 1081-1106.

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The Time is Now



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Presentation Bibliography

Ogata, N. (2016) Separation anxiety in dogs: What progress has been made in our understanding of the most common behavioral problems in dogs?

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Time for questions!

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CSAT
Certified Separation
Anxiety Trainer



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