

Home Alone Dogs

based on an article by **Sian Griffiths**

- 1 THEY are man's best friends but the way we live our lives now may be leaving many dogs feeling depressed, new research suggests.



According to a television

documentary an estimated one in four of Britain's 8 million dogs becomes deeply unhappy when left home alone.

- 2 Home Alone Dogs, a Channel 4 documentary due to be shown later this year, filmed dogs when their owners went out. "For some dogs the consequences can be shocking, including pacing and spinning on the spot. Others were seen barking and howling for long periods, defecating and even self-harming," say the programme makers.
- 3 Dr Nicola Rooney has done research into canine conduct. She said the level of stress hormones in some dogs could be high even when the animals appeared content. "There are dogs who are quiet, but when you look at their physiological stress they are affected as well," she said.
- 4 Dr John Bradshaw, author of the bestselling book *In Defence of Dogs*, has been filmed for the documentary helping owners train their pets to overcome their anxiety. "Dogs have a very powerful link to humans... You can train a dog to do all sorts of things and understand our gestures... and we expect to turn all that off by saying 'We're going out – relax, have a kip, chew a bone, we'll be back soon.' They don't understand that," he said.
- 5 Bradshaw advises the owners of pets suffering from separation anxiety gradually to build up the length of time that they spend away from their dog. Dr Rooney added that canine anxiety needed to be handled carefully. "We don't want owners to say 'My dog is suffering but I'm working long hours and can't do anything about it'," he explained. "If we accept that, lots of dogs get dumped in rehoming centres. There are strategies that can be used."

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Tekst 6

- 1p 7 “Home Alone Dogs” (title)
What is said about these dogs in paragraphs 1 and 2?
A They remain loyal to their owners despite feeling disappointed.
B They sometimes show alarming and disturbing behaviour.
C They tend to become rather aggressive towards other dogs.
D They think that the only way to get attention is by being loud.
- 1p 8 What has become clear from Dr Rooney’s research, according to paragraph 3?
A It is unwise to give dogs attention to try and keep them calm.
B Some dogs are better suited to a life alone than other dogs.
C The influence of chemicals on a dog’s well-being is unclear.
D We cannot tell how a dog feels just by looking at its behaviour.
- 1p 9 What is the point Dr Bradshaw makes about dogs in paragraph 4?
A They are very focused on their owners.
B They can make sense of spoken words.
C They find it hard to bond with more than one owner.
D They often fail to recognise their owners’ affections.
- 1p 10 “There are strategies that can be used.” (laatste zin alinea 5)
→ Welke zin uit alinea 4 of 5 geeft een voorbeeld van zo’n strategie?
Citeer (= schrijf over uit de tekst) de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.

Bronvermelding

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