

Reception

Pre-diagnosis: These questions can help to determine if/how the veterinary technician and veterinarian should focus their conversation.

- Do you have any behavior-related concerns with your pet today?
- Have you ever been concerned your pet may have separation anxiety?
- Would you like your veterinary team to discuss separation anxiety with you today?
- Has your pet ever been diagnosed with separation anxiety?
- How has your pet been doing at home lately when left alone?

Technician

Pre-diagnosis: These questions can help to expand upon the “How is your pet doing at home?” questions.

- How has your pet been doing at home lately when you're away?
- Have you noticed any changes in your pet's behavior recently?
- What does a typical day look like for your pet when you're not home?
- What does your pet usually do when you leave the house?
- How long is your pet typically alone during the day?
- If you have noticed changes to your pet's behavior, do they happen every time you're gone or only in certain situations?
- If you have noticed changes to your pet's behavior, is this something that has been worrying you or causing stress at home?
- If you have noticed changes, would you be interested in talking to the veterinarian more about this today?

Veterinarian

Pre-diagnosis: These questions are structured for a diagnostic approach: Is this separation anxiety? Can other medical causes for behaviors be ruled out? How severe is the case?

- When did you first notice these behaviors?
- Did the signs start suddenly or develop over time?
- Were there any changes around that time – to schedule, home environment, new pets or people?
- Have you ever noticed if your pet seems anxious or unsettled when you're getting ready to leave?
- Have you ever come home to any destruction, accidents, or unusual messes?
- As far as you know, does your pet bark, howl, or whine when you are gone?
- Has your pet ever injured themselves during this time?
- How do you know these behaviors are happening? Are neighbors informing you? Do you have a camera set up?
- Does your pet do better if left with another person?
- Is there a difference if you are gone for long vs short periods of time?
- Does your pet tend to show these behaviors during thunderstorms or fireworks?
- Where is your dog kept when alone? In a room, kennel or free roaming?
- Have you tried any medications or interventions yet?
- What are your biggest concerns about this behavior?
- How is this affecting your household or your dog's quality of life?

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