

### ***3. Leaving Your Dog Alone***

Many Guide Dog owners proudly state that they have never left their dogs alone. This is commendable to a point, but often causes problems of barking and howling or even destructiveness when an unavoidable situation arises which necessitates the dog being left at home. For this reason, it is wise to adopt the view that the dog should not accompany you absolutely everywhere. For example, if you live alone and a friend invites you to accompany him/her on a Saturday afternoon shopping trip in a busy town, do not subject your dog unnecessarily to the hustle and bustle of the town and the trampling crowds. For three hours or so, he/she can happily snooze at home in security and comfort, just as he/she did when you left him/her for short periods while you attended social outings during your training. Of course, you must ensure that he/she has had ample opportunity to relieve him/herself before you go, and you must regard four hours as the absolute maximum amount of time to leave your dog alone.

If you need further help, or if your dog is not well behaved when left, seek advice from GDTx.