



EDUCATION GUIDE

# MISTAKES TO AVOID





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This guide is intended for educational purposes related to dog training and behavioral support.

Website: [fewpaw.com](https://fewpaw.com)

# Mistakes To Avoid

## Mistakes That Sabotage Calm Progress

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Training your dog is a responsibility.

Even small, repeated mistakes can undo days of calm-building work.

Calm confidence does **not** come from shortcuts.

It comes from **structured repetition, patience, and consistency**.

Before you increase alone time, ask yourself: am I ready to do it correctly?

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### Why Mistakes Slow Progress

- Increasing alone time too fast
- Practicing only when you are in a rush
- Reacting emotionally to barking
- Skipping repetition
- Training inconsistently

Small instability compounds over time.

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Calm progress is built on precision, not intensity.

# Most Common Owner Errors

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## 1) Rushing Duration

Forcing longer alone time before your dog is ready triggers panic.

**Rule:** Only increase duration after consistent calm stability is proven.

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## 2) Leaving While Dog Shows Stress

Leaving a tense dog reinforces fear and anxiety.

**Rule:** Exit only when your dog shows neutral body language.

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## 3) Over-Comforting Pre-Departure

Excessive reassurance or emotional talk intensifies anticipation and anxiety.

**Rule:** Keep departures calm, predictable, and unemotional.

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## 4) Skipping Practice Sessions

Inconsistent practice halts emotional learning and prevents confidence from building.

**Rule:** Daily repetition = safety. Safety = calm.

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## 5) Returning During Panic or Barking

Coming back while the dog is stressed rewards panic behaviors.

**Rule:** Return **only** after a pause of calm, even a few seconds counts.

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# Owner Accountability Checklist

Before you increase alone time, confirm:

- ☐ I never force duration beyond readiness
  - ☐ I only leave when dog is calm
  - ☐ I avoid emotional reassurances
  - ☐ I do not return during barking or whining
  - ☐ I maintain consistent sessions every day
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## Final Reminder

**Progress is earned, not assumed.**

Calm growth is **built on discipline, consistency, and observation** — not shortcuts.  
Your dog depends on your **leadership and predictability**.