

How Long Can You Leave a Dog Alone?

Having a dog means having a schedule. You arrange work hours, social outings, and errands based on when you can get home.

Dogs enjoy the company of their humans, but that doesn't mean leaving them home alone is bad or dangerous.



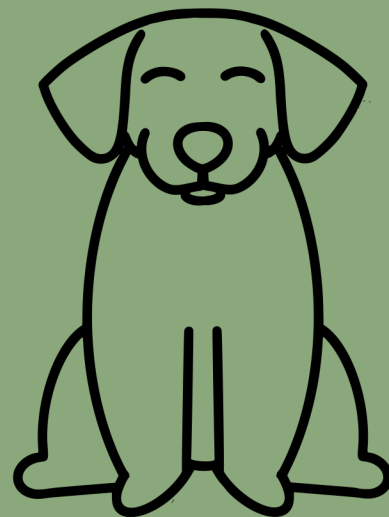
The first question most people ask about leaving their dog home alone is:

How long can my dog last without a bathroom break?

The timing of potty breaks varies from dog to dog, and puppies and seniors need more frequent breaks.



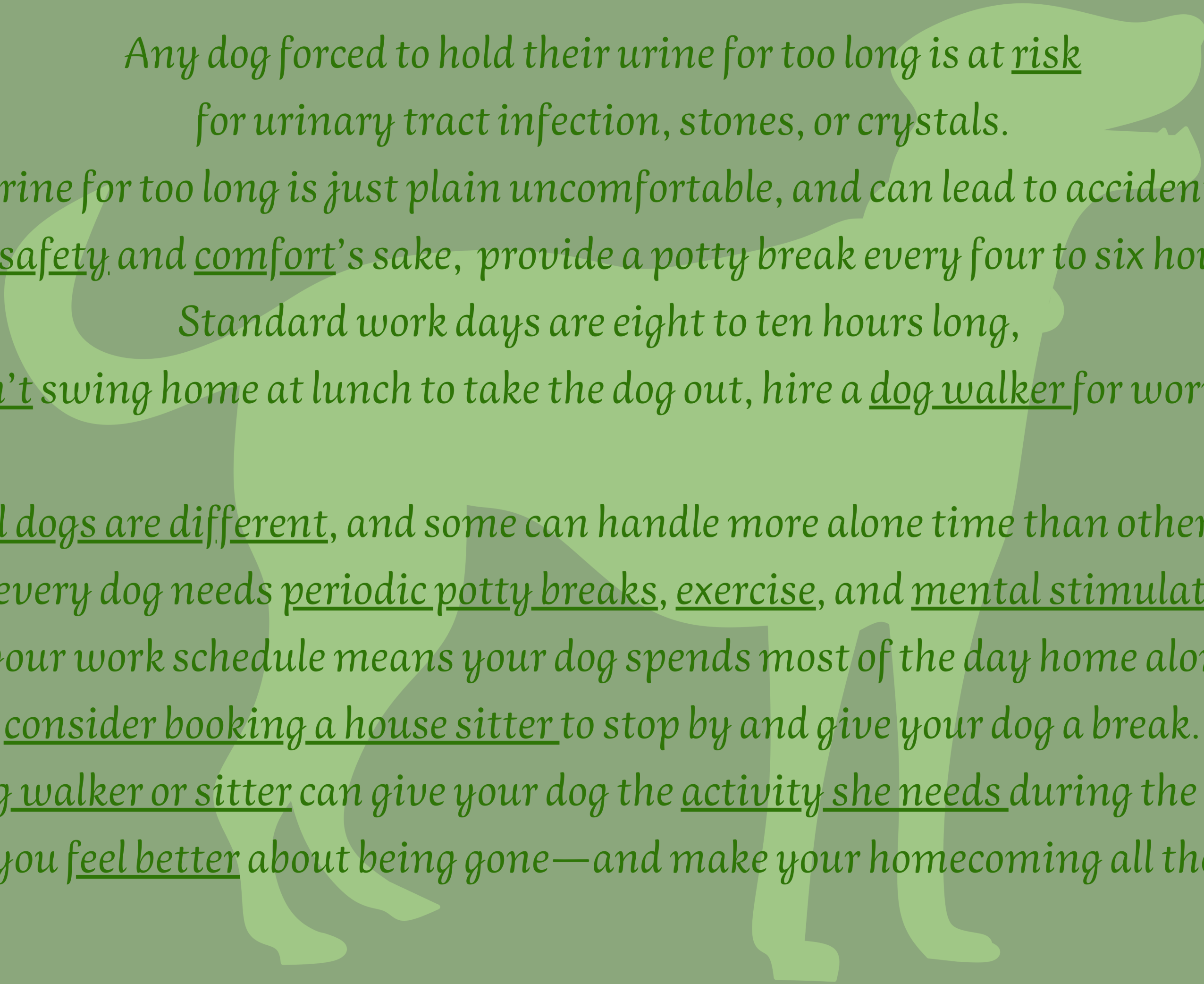
Puppies:
one hour per every
month of age
(so a three month
old puppy
can wait three
hours to pee)



Adult dogs age one
year and up:
up to eight hours,
but ideally no more
than six



Senior dogs age
eight and up:
depending on size
and health,
anywhere from
two to six hours



Any dog forced to hold their urine for too long is at risk
for urinary tract infection, stones, or crystals.

Plus, holding urine for too long is just plain uncomfortable, and can lead to accidents in the house.

For safety and comfort's sake, provide a potty break every four to six hours.

Standard work days are eight to ten hours long,
so if you can't swing home at lunch to take the dog out, hire a dog walker for worry-free care.

All dogs are different, and some can handle more alone time than others.
But every dog needs periodic potty breaks, exercise, and mental stimulation.

If your work schedule means your dog spends most of the day home alone,
consider booking a house sitter to stop by and give your dog a break.

A dog walker or sitter can give your dog the activity she needs during the day,
and help you feel better about being gone—and make your homecoming all the sweeter!