

## **Things to Do Before Returning a Dog**

There are SO many things you can do before you give up a dog because of behavior problems such as anxiety, destruction of property, housebreaking accidents, or snapping at people.

Some of the things are:

- Baby gate the dog in a dog proofed room. If you can't do a baby gate, what about installing a door? Or set up one room for the dog (if it's carpeted, why not put a blue tarp over the floor?).
- Do alone training (as explained in the book *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*). Alone training consists of exercises of leaving your dog alone for short periods of time.
- Leave Kongs stuffed with food. A frozen Kong will keep the dog busy, and lasts for a long time.
- Go for a LONG walk in the morning. A tired dog is a happy dog.
- Hire a dog walker.
- Leave the TV or radio on.
- Try herbal calming formulas such as Valerian or Melatonin.
- Darken the room by shutting the blinds or closing the curtains. Sometimes outside sounds and activities can upset a dog.
- Enroll in a general obedience class. Obedience classes give dogs confidence, which can help lessen Separation Anxiety.
- Consult and/or hire a behaviorist.
- Train the dog's family to never lean over a dog or to touch a dog that's lying down.
- Implement NILIF (Nothing in Life is Free).
- Adopt a second dog.
- Purchase a DAP diffuser.
- At last resort, combine behavior modification training with medicines from your vet such as Clomicalm or other anti-anxiety medications.