

## Back to “Normal”

There are many things you can say to describe life with a Weimaraner but one thing that cannot be disputed is that they love being with you. Weimaraners have little tolerance for why they can't be with your constant companion. They love their people and happiness is being with their human pack

Over the past year, our daily life has been upended in so many ways but one steadfast constant is that our dogs continue to relish our company. During the past months almost all of us have had some pretty hefty changes to our lives. Where we work, how we go to school, ways we interact with our friends and how we spend our leisure time has been reshaped and redefined. Daily routines that we took for granted morphed into unexpected patterns of lockdowns, closures and cancellations.

It is not just everyday human life that has changed, the dogs that share our lives have been impacted too. If suddenly you're working from home, your dog has to get used to having you around for most of the day. From a Weimaraner's point of view, having you home is just wonderful. Sure they have to spend more time supervising human activity and leisurely naps may be interrupted but your increased hours at home are just their cup of tea. Maybe they luck out and your daily exercise involves taking them for more walks and runs than what used to be normal. Sure there are major changes to the routine but their bottom line is that they are much happier having your 24/7 company.

The trait of wanting to be with you is so innate that veteran Weimaraner owners just take it for granted as part of their way of life. From the start of the recognition of the breed in this country this desire for closeness was carefully laid out as a hallmark of Weimaraner behavior. One of the very early books, published in the US about Weimaraners, stressed that Weimaraners are, "...not easily relegated to the kennel." Writing about the same trait today our wording might instead describe them as Velcro dogs. They will pad around after you, inspect what you're doing and redefine "constant companion." It's a trait that needs to be carefully explained to people who have never owned a Weimaraner before.

The strength of the human/Weimaraner bond is one of the things we emphasize to our new puppy owners. Not only do we mention it, but we reiterate that it is a major trait of our breed. While this type of steadfast loyalty and bonding is attractive, there are times when it can backfire. For example, how many times have you had a heart-to-heart with novice owners about the likelihood of separation anxiety and how to deal with it?.

The past year has altered many of our daily comings and goings and we need to be prepared to deal with how our dogs will react when we resume the routine of the "new normal." While we may consider ourselves knowledgeable about what it's like to live with a Weimaraner, think about how you will prepare your dog for the inevitable changes that will come when you get back to a routine that doesn't involve you being there most of the time. Never had a separation anxiety issue before? We've never had a year like the one we've just had before either.

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