



Just a sound... or noise?

We all know dogs can react to:

- ◇ Vacuum cleaners
- ◇ Musical instruments such as trumpet, violin, flute or electrically amplified instruments
- ◇ Sirens
- ◇ Thunder
- ◇ Fireworks

But also consider:

- ◇ Household equipment such as kettle (whistle), mixer, washing machine, coffee machine
- ◇ Party or festival
- ◇ Crowded spaces
- ◇ Ultrasound sound to expell molls, mosquitos, cats, etc.
- ◇ Arguing people
- ◇ Dog shelters
- ◇ Games bleeping
- ◇ Aeroplanes
- ◇ Construction works / engines

Read more about the body language of dogs in

‘On talking terms with dogs:
Calming Signals’ by Turid Rugaas

Sources:

[Sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

[Frontiersin.org](https://www.frontiersin.org)

[Ava.com.au](https://www.ava.com.au)

[Dogzine.nl](https://www.dogzine.nl)

[Doggo.nl](https://www.doggo.nl)



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Are you really aware
of the effect

NOISE

can have
on your dog?



BE ALERT..... NOISE CAN CAUSE STRESS IN DOGS AND EFFECT THEIR WELFARE

Noise can cause major stress in humans, but also in dogs. A dog can show acute stress through his behaviour, like (trying to) escape, self harming, howl, bark, shaking, trembling or damaging things.

But don't think a dog has no stress if you don't see it right away. If you'd take a better look, he might not be lying down relaxing, but in fact you might see dilated pupils, apathy, increased heart rate, rapid breathing, tense muscles, panting, drooling. Those are more subtle stress signs.

If you see this, don't underestimate it! Chronic stress can lead to behavioural problems, problems with the immune system and premature death.

Facts & figures

- ◇ Puppies start hearing around 3 weeks old.
- ◇ Dogs can hear 30-45.000 Hz
Humans can hear 20-20.000 Hz
- ◇ Dogs can hear ultrasonic sound (= sound with a frequency too high for human ears to be heard).
- ◇ Dogs can hear sounds from 4x further away and can determine distance based on hearing 4x better than we can.

Recent insights about noise

In 2015 scientific research on the effects of noise on dogs by the University of Oslo (Norway) amongst 5.257 dogs showed the following interesting things:

- > Female dogs as well as neutered (male and female) dogs show more fear when exposed to loud sounds than intact dogs.
- > Noise sensitivity tends to increase with age: older dogs show increasing fear of noise.
- > When exposed to noise certain breeds are more fearful of loud sounds than others. Examples of the first are breeds like: Norwegian Buhund, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Lagotto Romagnolo.

A study published in 2018 by ethologists (experts in animal behaviour) of the University of Lincoln (UK) and the University Center of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) showed that there is a relation between pain in dogs and noise sensitivity.

> Dogs with pain in muscles or joints (f.e. dogs with hip dysplasia or arthrosis) show more negative reaction to noise than healthy dogs.

Why?

Loud sounds make the dog tense his muscles, which increases his pain. Ultimately this can result in a learned association between loud sounds and pain. In that way the dog suffers while hearing noise, even when the pain may be solved by medication.

What can you do?

That is easier than you might think. Take your responsibility and:

- ◇ Try to listen to sounds "from the dog's point of view" and look at his body language.
- ◇ Keep your dog away or at a bigger distance from ongoing irritating sounds and noise.
- ◇ Let him look at the source if he wants to (but do not force him!).
- ◇ Give him a choice to leave or escape from the situation.
- ◇ If really not possible to go away: give him a hiding place and keep an extra eye on him.
- ◇ Seek professional help to decrease his stress level and learn you and him to deal with it.
- ◇ Whatever you do: NEVER punish him showing stress, it makes things only worse. And knowing what you know now: his stress is a clear sign for you to help him!

