

Loud Noises

Loud noises, such as motorcycles, gunshots, thunder, loud music, garbage trucks, and so forth, can bother some puppies. If it does not bother you, nine out of ten times it will not bother your puppy. If it does bother you, then in many cases it will also bother your puppy. He will pick up emotional cues from you and act accordingly. Always show confidence in what you are doing with him. He will sense it and be more comfortable.

If your puppy is concerned about loud noises, introduce him slowly to different sounds. You can distract him with an ear scratch, a toy, or a treat. *Gradually* increase the intensity of the noise as he becomes comfortable at each level. Proceed at your puppy's pace; you want to **desensitize him gradually** to loud sounds.

If you live in a quiet place, you may want to expose him to a **sound CD** (e.g. "Sounds Scary" CD – available at our practice). Just because it is quiet today does not mean five years from now you won't be living somewhere with violent thunderstorms, backfiring trucks, or fireworks. The process of desensitisation can be used for any object or situation that frightens your puppy.

Remember, it is a **gradual process**, and taking **small steps** is extremely important. If you have any additional questions, please contact our practice, as desensitisation and/or medication may be needed in some cases to help your puppy cope.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us