

CANINE SOUND DESENSITIZATION

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE, READ CAREFULLY BEFORE USING COMPACT DISCS!

These compact discs are intended as a tool to help your puppies, at an early age, adjust to everyday noises they will encounter in their lives. They can be played to puppies as young as three weeks old. Initially, the CD's should be played at very low intensity, while the puppies are supervised. If a puppy is frightened of a particular sound, the session should be terminated immediately. The sound should be repeated at much lower intensity that does not initiate any reaction.

Once the puppies are no longer reacting to the noises at the given level of intensity, the volume can be increased slightly for the next session. The volume may thus be increased from session to session. Never play the CD's louder than is comfortable for yourself, or than which the noise would be heard naturally. Never place the speaker in the immediate proximity of the puppies.

Between eight and ten weeks of age, puppies go through a fear period during which a traumatic event can have deleterious effects for the rest of the puppy's life. Therefore, you should not introduce these CD's for the first time to puppies eight to ten weeks old. During this period you should also be very cautious with increasing the volume of the recording.

Individual sections of the CD's towards which a puppy or older dog reacts with fear or aggression, can be used for systematic desensitization. The animal is rewarded for not paying attention to the recording (an older dog can be trained with food treats to lie down and relax) while the section of the CD is played at low intensity. Once the animal is fine with that level of intensity, the volume can be slightly increased for the next session. If the dog continues to show fear or aggression, the increase in volume was too great, and you have to go back two steps in your program, and then progress more slowly. **Never punish fear reactions or aggression!**

For these desensitization sessions it is advisable to only play part of the recording of the noise in question, and to vary as to which part is used, so that it is not always exactly the same. It is advisable to vary the location of the dog, and the location of the speakers between sessions.

Some dogs are affected with a genetic disorder that causes them to suddenly become fearful of noises, usually around eight to ten weeks of age. This disorder can not be prevented with these CD's, and a desensitization procedure is usually not successful.

These CD's can help you and your dogs. We hope you will put it to good use.

A Gentle Leader® product designed to assist with the development of a happy pet.