



How to get your dog to enjoy the car ride!

Typically if our dog doesn't like the car, it's our fault!

There are several reasons why a dog may not like the car, and most of them are obvious. If your dog's only experience of going in the car has been to wind up in a Veterinarian's office or at a Groomer's shop getting their nails clipped, then he or she has good reason not to like the car.

However, there are other reasons that are not so obvious and the following list addresses these less obvious reasons and what you can immediately do to correct them.

1. Sudden starts and stops on the gas paddle. Dogs hate this. They feel like they are getting carsick.

SOLUTION: IMAGINE YOU ARE DRIVING WITH A HOT CUP OF COFFEE ON YOUR DASHBOARD. IF YOU WOULD SPILL THE COFFEE, CHANCES ARE YOUR DOG IS NOT ENJOYING YOUR DRIVING. You must learn how to drive in a manner where you are conscious of the sudden stops and starts you are making. Try as best you can to drive at an even smooth, tempo. Give yourself enough time to slow down and speed up, incrementally, not suddenly. Your dog will thank you for it!

2. Not enough fresh air. Dogs hate this. Again, they feel like they are getting carsick.

SOLUTION: ALWAYS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO DRIVE WITH ALL 4 WINDOWS OPEN, EVEN IF IT JUST AN INCH OR TWO. CROSS VENTILATION DOES WONDERS FOR YOUR DOG'S MOTION SICKNESS.

Remember, dogs are animals and part of nature. It is in their DNA to have access to fresh air all the time. They can't be cooped up and traveling at 50 mph and expect to feel comfortable.

Even if it is 95 degrees outside, make sure all 4 windows are open at least a crack and there is some sort of cross ventilation. This will help immensely. If you have a sunroof, even better!

2. Blasting Loud Talk Radio during the ride. Dogs hate this. Remember, your dog does not understand what your favorite morning DJ is saying.

Can you imagine what it would be like to ride in a car everyday with a friend who spoke Vietnamese? And for the entire car ride you were forced to listen to his favorite DJ talk about all of the world's events but in Vietnamese?

SOLUTION: PLAY PEACEFUL MEDITATION OR YOGA MUSIC FOR YOUR DOG DURING THE CAR RIDE. YOU WANT TO CREATE A PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR DOG, NOT A CACOPHONOUS ONE. The truth of the matter is, this will help calm you down too. It is good for you and good for your dog. You both win!

4. There's nothing to redirect their energy to. Dogs hate this. Your dog can't talk on the phone, can't pick out his favorite song on the radio and can't take the wheel.

SOLUTION: GIVE YOUR DOG A BONE! GIVE YOUR DOG SOMETHING TO DO THAT HE ENJOYS DURING THE RIDE LIKE CHEWING ON HIS FAVORITE BONE WHILE YOU DRIVE. The best thing you can do is to give your dog a special bone that he never gets at any other time except when he gets into the car with you. Make sure it's his favorite kind!

***If you are doing everything on this list and you see minimal progress, please consult with your holistic veterinarian for other ancillary approaches.**