

# ELECTRIC VEHICLES TRIGGER DOG IRRITATION AND AGGRESSION: THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY MUST URGENTLY FIND ANSWERS

*Posted on July 12, 2023 by Edmond*



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Electric vehicles (EVs) as a greener and more sustainable mode of transportation has raised concerns about their potential impact on our furry companions, specifically dogs. Many reports and visible evidence suggest that many dogs get irritated or distressed by the near-silent operation of electric vehicles.

To comprehend why electric vehicles may irritate dogs, it is crucial to examine their sensory perception. Dogs have an exceptional sense of hearing, with a wider range and higher sensitivity than humans. They rely on various sounds, including engine noises, to gather information about their surroundings. The absence of typical vehicle engine noise in EVs can confuse and startle dogs, leading to potential irritation, besides suspicious aggression.

Additionally, the sudden silence of electric vehicles can trigger a startle response in dogs. Traditional internal combustion engine vehicles generate distinct sounds that gradually increase in volume as they approach, allowing dogs to anticipate their presence. The absence of these auditory cues in electric vehicles means that dogs may not have sufficient time to prepare themselves mentally or

physically, leading to a heightened startle response.

Therefore, Dogs, like humans, can experience anxiety and increased stress. The introduction of electric vehicles as a new and unfamiliar stimulus can contribute to these negative emotions. The silent approach of EVs may be perceived as unpredictable or threatening by many dogs, causing increased irritability or unease. Furthermore, dogs that have had previous traumatic experiences with vehicles or are generally anxious may be more susceptible to stress in the presence of electric vehicles.

Given the concerns surrounding dog irritation, aggression and anxiety caused by electric vehicles, the automotive industry must urgently active their R and D wing to find solutions to balance the environment. In an age where more and more people embrace animals and the human-animal interaction gets bridged, electric vehicles become a very harmful component that disrupts the environment.

Besides, R and D, several strategies can be implemented to alleviate potential negative effects:

**Public Awareness and Education:** Raising awareness about the impact of EVs on dogs can help both dog owners and EV drivers understand the issue. Educational campaigns can highlight the importance of responsible EV operation and the potential impact on canine well-being. As such the present EV response has a long way to go before the world must fully embrace EV.

**Noise-Generating Solutions:** Researchers and manufacturers can explore ways to incorporate artificial sounds into electric vehicles to mimic engine noise. By producing audible cues, dogs can better detect approaching vehicles and adjust their behavior accordingly.

As technology advances and electric vehicle adoption increases, it is essential to continue researching and monitoring the impact on animal behavior, including dogs. Ongoing studies can provide valuable insights into the long-term effects of EVs on dogs and help refine mitigation strategies. Collaborations between automobile manufacturers, animal behavior experts, and dog owners can foster a comprehensive approach towards addressing these concerns.

While electric vehicles offer numerous environmental benefits, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential impact they may have on our canine companions. Understanding the reasons behind dog irritation, such as the lack of auditory cues and the potential for startle responses, allows us to develop effective strategies to mitigate any negative effects.

It falls back on the automobile industry to find solutions that can retrofit to make EV pet friendly and not a torture.