

THE CANINE CAR SEAT

Hack

WHEN to use it

Whenever you're taking your dog in a vehicle, and especially for anxious or reactive canine car riders who surf the windows, whine, bark, pant, drool, or otherwise just can't seem to relax.

Many dogs exhibit anxiety and reactivity when riding in the car, and while there can be many reasons for this, a surprising number of dogs are simply **UNABLE** to relax because our cars are not ergonomically designed (E) for our pups to ride comfortably. Providing them with “*canine car seats*” (E) that fit their different canine bodies (G/S) to prevent them from sliding around and feeling unstable can be a game changer when trying to promote / teach (L) relaxed car behavior.

HOW it works



Dogs have a higher flicker fusion rate than humans do when it comes to vision (G), meaning they see more frames per second, and this can make the world outside of a moving car (E) appear “*louder*” than it does to us.

There are also many triggers outside of our cars (E) as we drive around town (*dogs, people, bikes, cars*) that can arouse and frustrate them (*for some GENETIC groups more than others- i.e. HERDING, TOY, and TERRIER*). Setting up a well-fit and relaxing “canine car seat” (E) is the first step in intervening in reducing their stress (S) and teaching calmness (L) when along for the ride.

HOW to use it

- There are countless ways to set up your canine car seat for your dog, depending on your dog's size, age, physical conditions, comfort with certain provisions like crates, etc.
- Additionally, the type of car you have will dictate a great deal about what kinds of options are available to you.
- You will also need to set up your dog's car seat according to your own safety concerns, as not all of the options will physically secure your dog.
- The most important thing to consider when setting up your dog's car seat is his physical security when the car is moving.
- You want to set up his seat so that he can easily lie down comfortably and will not slide along a seat or onto the floor. You can use a bolstered bed with walls that support his weight as the car turns, or you can use a crate if that is comfortable for him.
- You might need to fill in the floorboard area to prevent him from falling off onto the floor as well.
- Once you have your canine car seat set up optimally for your dog, it can also be helpful to introduce a special “*car bone*” that is **ONLY** available in the car.
- This encourages your dog to lie down in order to enjoy his special “fast food” treat on the road!

