

The Lincoln Sound Sensitivity Scale for Dogs (LSSS)

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The Lincoln Sound Sensitivity Scale (LSSS) for dogs is a widely used, validated, reliable tool used to assess your dog's reactivity to noise. A score of above 30 is taken to indicate noise phobia. It has been used in more clinical trials associated with noise fears than any other instrument available.



When being used to monitor a new treatment, a baseline score is collected based on your dog's normal response. The scale is then used after a series of exposures (e.g. after a week of firework events) to generate a new score and evaluate how your dog has changed. However, if evaluating a new treatment please note, many animals can show a large placebo response (non-specific improvement) and you should consider using the Lincoln Canine Anxiety Scale (LCAS) instead, to obtain a more detailed view of your dog's behaviour after each event.

Please note, many dogs with sound sensitivity also suffer from low grade pain and so a careful evaluation of any animal showing signs of sound sensitivity for conditions that might be contributing to the problem is essential.

The tool has been developed and validated by researchers within the Animal Behaviour, Cognition and Welfare Group, School of Life Sciences, University of Lincoln.

The LSSS can be used:

Category

Assessment Tools

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- a) As a clinical tool to assess whether or not a dog has a noise fear/phobia requiring treatment.
- b) To improve the management of problems relating to noise fears in dogs, and also as a research tool, to evaluate new treatments against others assessed using this instrument – see related publications.
- c) In the screening of shelter dogs at the time of relinquishment, or working dogs to predict their need for remedial intervention.

Product: LSSS is a 17 item questionnaire with each item relating to a specific sign. Each is scored for intensity and frequency to generate an overall, measure of severity of that sign and the total score of 16 of these items indicates the severity of the problem.

Academic Profile: <https://staff.lincoln.ac.uk/dmills>

Consultancy: Consultancy services offered through the Animal Behaviour Clinic a professional service to industry and a referral only clinic for pets and animals of all species with behaviour and training problems located at the University of Lincoln's City Centre campus.

Commercial Use:

This assessment tool is freely available for personal use. If you require commercial use please send enquiries to contracts@lincoln.ac.uk.

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