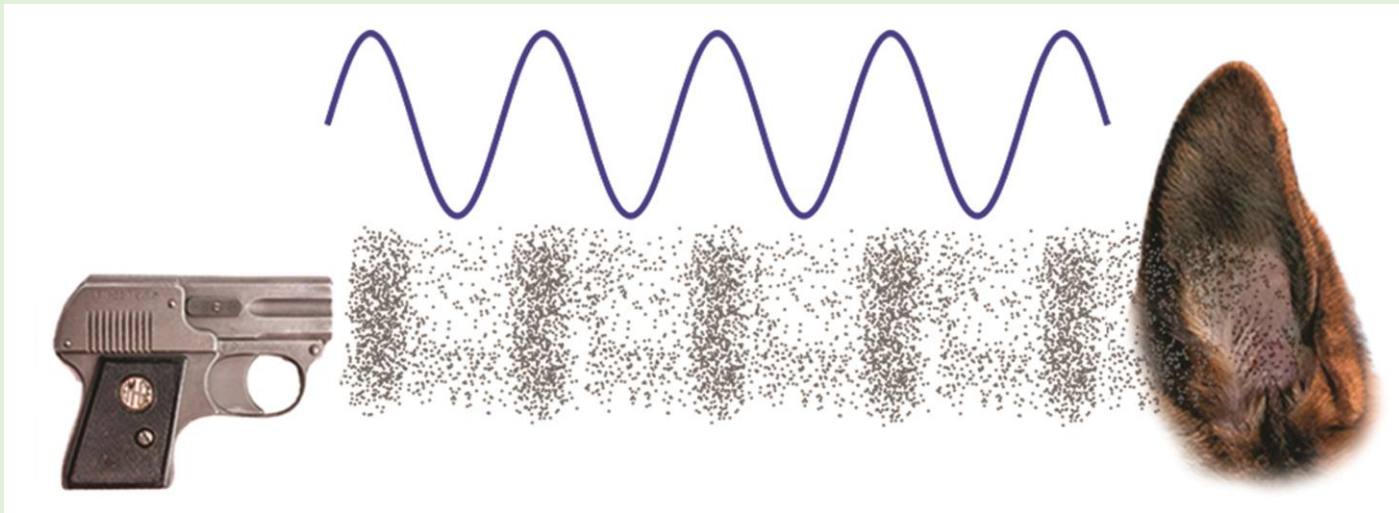
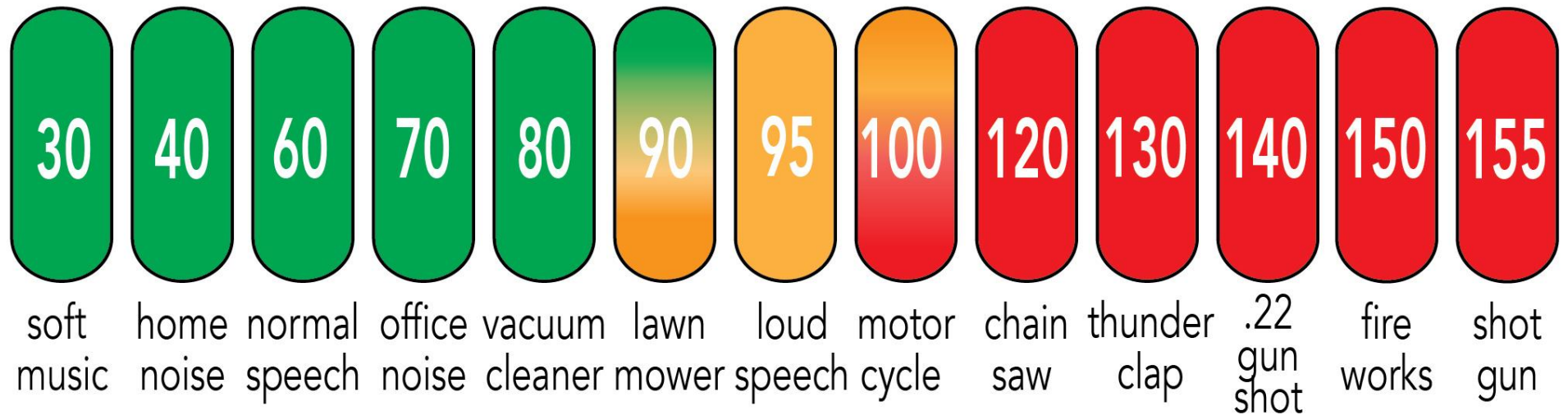


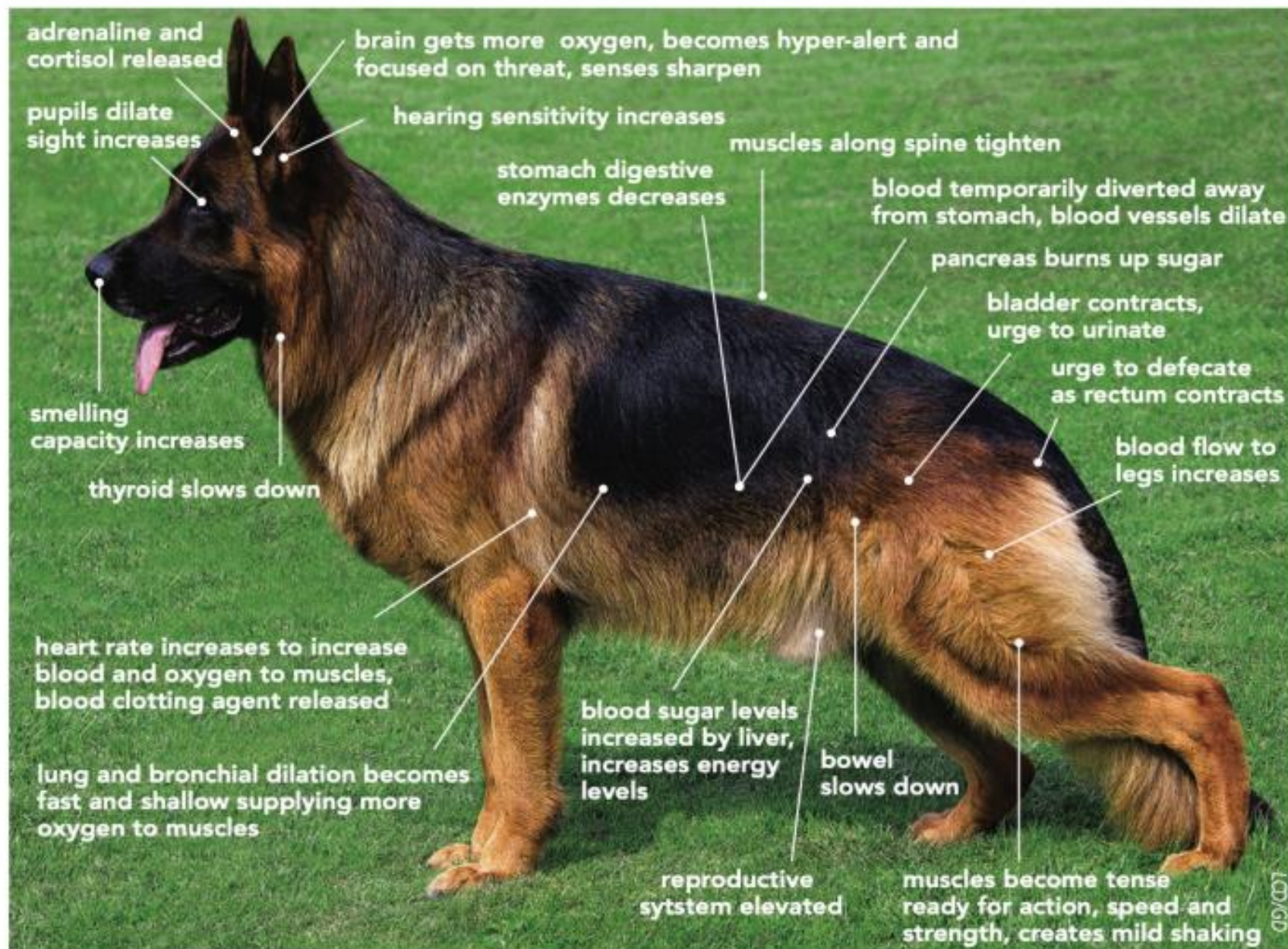
Noise Sensitivity Workshop



GSDCA NBC Meeting 19-20 July 2023
Presentation with permission Louis Donald
The Definitive German Shepherd Dog
By Melanie Groth
Judge's Chair

Effect gradient of decibels on hearing





Fight or flight preparatory physiological responses

STAGES OF NOISE SENSITIVITY

STAGE	PHASE	REACTION DEFINITION
NORMAL	0	Indifferent >calm>alert to the source of the sound, vital signs normal
MILD	1	Mild agitation and concern
	2	Moderate agitation and concern, no ground shifting
	3	Agitation and concern elevated, minor ground shifting, mild degree of panting, rapid blinking, ears laid back, yawning
MODERATE	4	Startled, obvious agitation and concern, increased ground shifting, panting and/or salivation, lowering of the head, arched posture, licking lips
	5	Vocalisation - whining, barking or growling
	6	Mild trembling, ground shifting that equates to pacing, vital signs elevated, immediate lowering of head and body on hearing gun shot, tail tucked up
SEVERE	7	Obvious trembling, hyperventilation, continuous pacing and/or hiding behind the handler
	8	Attempting to escape, cowering, vital signs significantly elevated, eye sight and hearing is affected, confused, and panicking
	9	Urination and/or defecation, possibly nausea and/or some level of dizziness

Group discussion points

One:

- Dogs hearing is 4 times more sensitive than ours
- Females 30% more reactivity – hormonal changes season
- Critical time puppies 12-15 weeks introduce different noises
- Humans can be sensitive too
- Observe recovery time

Two:

- Result in flight fight freeze... response , occurs as age
- 30% separation experience
- Environmental vs genetic
- Don't calm down despite nothing happening
- Tough dog can be disarmed by noise
- This is where sufficiently firm comes from, get through survey in 12 months gone past that

Group discussion points cont'd....

Three:

- Starting pistol 140db, decreases over distance, 108 db at 12metres, influenced how gun fired e.g behind back etc, consistency needs adhering to
- What's creating the anticipatory response
- Fireworks – one loud bang at 120db can cause immediate harm, lead to gun shyness later

Four:

- 4 types of noise tested - 21% fireworks 14% gunshots 10%thunderstorms
- Relationship to temperament, show trepidation to strangers
- Introducing puppy – if shows reaction, has to get over the person firing and seeing the gun itself

Group discussion points cont'd...

Five:

- Experienced group did this bit
- Only not noise sensitive reaction is indifference
- React in 4 ways
- There are other reactions not in the article
- Body language tells you the most
- Dogs who bark – no mention of play (IPO type training barking) reaction
- Can work towards desensitisation – group don't agree that it's possible if dog gun reactive specifically
- Always variation between assessors, to record that the dog is unsure is easy, screaming heap easy to describe, everything in between hard to record
- No mention of how dog recovers, how we adjudicate takes account of how dog recovers
- As dogs age dogs get more sensitive, see this a lot in previously surveyed/shown dogs suddenly gun sensitive

Mel observation:

- How do we deal with dogs that have shown a reaction - one assessor vs another assessor, subjectivity, grading decisions, relative assessment of dogs for showing, application of breed standard at shows - its not easy
- Reflections on past decisions as a surveyor - the ability to reflect and how we deal with making calls, and coping with these reflections (we are all human)
- **Action - Review Grading Guidelines**