



Barking dogs

Information Sheet



Why Dogs Bark

When you own animals you automatically assume greater neighbourhood responsibilities. You possess something that is going to require sufficient amounts of care, training, exercise, attention, distraction and supervision if you are going to keep it from becoming a nuisance to neighbourhood harmony or a threat to public safety.

As dog owners, we are responsible for the care and well being of our dogs but we sometimes overlook that our dogs can affect other peoples lives as well as our own. Barking, growling and howling are a dogs' form of communication. These noises when in excess can become a nuisance to people living within a nearby area.

Whilst dogs will bark to alert their owners of intruders entering the property, it is the responsibility of the owner to make sure they train their dog not to bark at normal occurrences such as cats, possums, birds & other dogs.

Barking at normal movements or noise from adjoining properties should be considered to be unacceptable behaviour.



Obedience train your dog as not to become a nuisance

Below are some of the main reasons why dogs bark,

- Boredom
- Guarding its territory
- Loneliness
- Owner inadvertently reinforce the barking
- Strange Noises
- Fear
- It gets easily excited or is highly strung
- Habit
- Thirst & Hunger
- Lack of Exercise
- Lack of companionship
- Weather conditions and shelter



SIMPLE THINGS TO TRY

- Some dogs just don't like being alone. Get your dog used to the idea that you are away for different periods of time at different times of the day. That way they might not be so concerned each time you leave the house. Don't make a fuss of your dog when you leave them.
- Try not to leave your dog for long periods. If you have to, see if there is someone who can look in during that time. Maybe that person could take your dog for a walk or let them out into the garden.

If you have to leave your dog for long periods:

- Feed and exercise your dog before you go out and leave them some fresh water.
- Make sure their bed or basket is comfortable and leave them their favourite toys.
- Think carefully about where you put their kennel. Try not to put it near your neighbour's fence or where your dog will be tempted to bark.
- If your dog is inside check that the room is not too hot or too cold and that there is adequate ventilation and if you aren't coming back until after dark, leave a light on.
- Make sure that you don't reward your dog for barking too much.
- If the dog is barking at people or noise on the other side of the fence, move the dog to another part of the yard or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from the area.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school, rubbish trucks or post person, keep the dog inside during these times.
- Ensure the dog has adequate exercise and training
- Make sure the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dogs view.

