

# Barking dogs



**Barking dogs can become a neighbourhood nuisance.**

**Ongoing barking is often a symptom of another problem and taking time to understand what makes dogs bark, is the first step towards solving this problem.**

# The most important first step is to work out why your dog is barking. Once you know the symptom you can work on the cure.

## Why do dogs bark?

- Dogs are social animals and often bark when they are lonely
- Separation from an owner may cause anxiety
- Barking may occur as a result of boredom and frustration
- Barking can be a way for a dog to seek attention from its owner
- Dogs may bark out of fear of people, objects, noise, weather conditions or other dogs
- Dogs may bark when there is a threat to their territory
- Some dogs bark during play with their owners or other dogs

## Can you control barking?

Barking can be minimised by making a few changes. Walking your dog twice a day will help relieve boredom.

Providing your dog with chew toys and balls to keep them occupied while you are away may also be helpful.

Leaving a radio on can be comforting as can leaving something that belongs to you, such as an old shoe so the dog is reassured by your scent.

Try giving your dog a treat just as you are leaving the house. This will reward your dog, turning the event into a positive experience.

Fencing designed to reduce your dog's vision will also help reduce barking at passers by and other distractions.

Routine, obedience training and discipline are also very important when trying to stop a barking problem.

## My neighbour's dog barks. What can I do?

Talk to your neighbour as soon as the problem arises. Yelling at the barking dog or banging on the fence will only exacerbate the problem. Your neighbour may not be aware that their dog is barking or that the barking is bothering you.

If, after talking to your neighbour, the barking persists speak to your neighbour again to provide feedback.

If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact the City for further advice.

## Excessive Barking

Excessive barking is an offence. City Rangers will initially respond to reported barking problems by visiting the owner to alert them about the complaint, provide advice and recommend effective solutions.

If City Rangers' recommendations are ignored and further complaints are received or the problem continues, the City of Sydney can issue a formal Nuisance Order. Breach of a Nuisance Order is liable to a fine of \$275 with the maximum fine being \$880.

## Contact the City of Sydney

For further information about microchipping and lifetime registration fees (including discounts for desexed animals and reduced fees for pensioners) call the City of Sydney on 9265 9333 or send a fax to 9265 9222. Information is also available on the City of Sydney website at [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Animals/Default.asp](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Animals/Default.asp)

## Pets in the City

City of Sydney understands the importance of the human/companion animal bond and is committed to supporting responsible pet ownership to benefit the entire community. Enjoy being a considerate and responsible companion animal owner.

