



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 might be a way for a dog to seek attention from its owner
- Dogs can bark out of fear of people, objects, noise, weather conditions or other dogs
- Dogs will bark when they feel a threat to themselves or their territory
- Dogs may also bark if they are sick or injured
- Some dogs bark during play with their owners or other dogs
- Certain breeds have a reputation for barking.



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Responsible pet ownership barking dogs



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Get the facts on barking dogs

Barking is a natural form of communication in dogs. However, ongoing barking is often a symptom of another problem and taking the time to understand what makes your or your neighbour's dog bark, is the first step towards solving this problem.

Working towards managing a barking problem

The most important first step is to work out why your dog is barking. Once you know the symptom you can start working on the cure. This might require the help of a professional Dog Trainer or Veterinary Behaviourist, depending on the problem.



Barking may be minimised through making some positive changes around the house and to your dog's routine. Walking your dog twice a day may help to relieve boredom. Providing your dog with environmental enrichment strategies such as chew toys and raw hides/bones, feeding toys to keep them occupied while you are away may also be helpful. Be sure to rotate these toys each day to prevent your dog from becoming bored, speak to your local vet to discuss the best options for your dog.

Leaving a radio on may be comforting as well as leaving something that belongs to you, such as an old shoe or an item of clothing, so your dog is reassured by your scent. Try giving your dog a treat and/or feed your dog just as you are leaving the house, this should make you, leaving for the day a positive experience rather than a negative one.

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

Making sure that your dog is comfortable when left outside i.e. make sure that there is adequate shade and water during warmer months, and shelter from the wind and rain during cooler months may also help.

Routine, regular dog training, reinforcing good manners, and providing guidance are also very important when trying to stop a barking problem.

My Neighbour's dog barks, what are my options?

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.

Give your neighbour this information and if the barking persists after a week or two, speak with your neighbour again to provide feedback.

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

Persistent Barking

Persistent 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 may issue a formal Nuisance Order.

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.

