

Why Does My Dog Bark



All dogs bark, but some barking dogs become a real neighbourhood nuisance, greatly reducing the quality of life for their neighbours and increasing neighbourhood tensions.

Boredom

Being alone with very little to do for extended periods of time can lead to boredom, frustration and loneliness for dogs. Bored dogs also show other anti-social behaviours, like trying to escape, being destructive, and chewing and digging. To avoid boredom you need to give your dog plenty to do when it's alone.

- Try interactive toys that hide food or ones that are designed to require more manipulation and work to obtain the food reward. Leave toys, rope, chews, rawhides and even bones for a dog to play with and use up time while alone.
- Give your dog a bone or dog treat when you leave the house. (eg a pigs ear and chew toy). This will teach your dog that when you leave there is a positive reward—The bone or treat.
- Leaving an article of clothing with the scent of the missed loved one on it also works well, especially for puppies.
- Use old drink bottles or milk containers with the lids removed. Cut a few squares in the side and place dry biscuits or ice inside. Your dog will roll them like a toy. They also make good chew toys when empty.

- A variety of toys can be left in the yard for your dog to play with. Be mindful to alternate your dog's toys as they are just like kids— they will get bored with the same toys and ignore them.



Excitement

Anticipating a walk, playing games, playing with children, seeing people in swimming pools, and hearing their owners arriving home, often excite a dog. This uncontrolled barking is fairly easy to fix by removing the source of excitement from the dog and not rewarding the barking behaviour.

- Increase physical exercise
- Regularly walk your dog and change the route you walk.
- Remove direct line of sight between the dog and children or animals, as looking at other animals or children play provoke barking.
- Spend FUN time with your dog.

Anxiety

Dogs are 'pack' animals and dogs regard its owner and family as its pack, and will bark in an attempt to communicate with the missing members of its pack. When dogs are left alone they may fret and become anxious, often barking for extended periods of time. Dogs may also become fearful or anxious of people or objects, like the postman or the neighbour's lawnmower. When dogs bark because of fear or anxiety, it is very important to work on reducing anxiety levels as early as possible. This will benefit your dog and the community.

Avoid routine e.g carry your keys with you at different times not just the times you are leaving.

Companionship: before leaving home, turn on the television or radio, or give your dog an old coat or item of clothing that belongs to you.



Reasons why your dog may be barking excessively

Helping to achieve the 2030 Community Vision

Why Does My Dog Bark



Discomfort

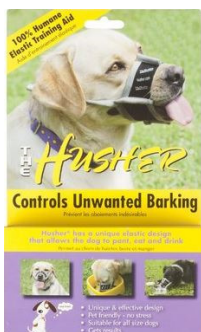
Pain and discomfort, illness or even being restricted to a small area may be a cause of barking. Dogs left chained or tied up may find it difficult to get exercise or water to drink. If your usually quiet dog suddenly starts to bark excessively, check its environment and perhaps take a trip to the vet.

Dogs need enough space to move freely in an enclosed backyard. A dog should not be left on a fixed chain for long periods. If a dog has to be chained, it should be on a running chain.

Training Aids

Training aids can be used in conjunction with positive and negative reinforcement training.

Husher Muzzles



Petsafe Anti-Bark Spray Collar

These types of devices are to be used in conjunction with corrective training. For advice on their proper use you can contact your local Council's Rangers Office, any recognised dog training organisation, a qualified dog trainer or your local vet for help.



The Law and what you need to know.

The Companion Animals Act 1998 Section 32A (Nuisance Dogs)

For the purpose of this section, a dog is a nuisance if the dog;

- (a)...
- (b) makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.
- (c)...

If an authorised officer of Council is satisfied that a dog is a nuisance, the officer may, after complying with Section 32A & 32B, issue an order in the approved form to the owner of the dog requiring the owner to prevent the behaviour that is alleged to constitute the nuisance. (*Nuisance Barking*)

The order will specify the behaviour of the dog that is required to be prevented. The order can specify more than one kind of behaviour.

An order will remain in place for 6 months.

The owner of a dog must comply with an order issued to the owner under this section and must continue to comply with it while it is in force.

If the owner of a dog is found to be in breach of an order given to them, then penalties for non compliance may be applied.

The Act provides for Penalty Infringement Notices of \$275 for each offence. Court imposed fines for repeat offences range up to a maximum of \$1,650.



Reasons why your dog may be barking excessively

Helping to achieve the 2030 Community Vision