

Thank you for contacting Barking Solutions



Dear Sir/Madam

BARKING SOLUTIONS PACK

Please find contained within this document information to assist you and your neighbour in resolving the barking dog matter. Please download and print out as required.

Please complete the "Barking Diary" on page 4 of this information pack with as many details as possible and then give it to your neighbour along with the "Information for Dog Owners" on page 7 and "Barking Prevention and Ways to Stop Nuisance Barking" on pages 8 and 9.

After completing the Bark Diary, keep a copy of the completed Barking Diary, as you may need to send it to the Council along with the Council letter on page 5 of this information pack.

This information can be given to your neighbour personally or anonymously by leaving it in their letterbox. Many dog owners are unaware that their dog may be nuisance barking whilst they are not home.

Please, initially allow the dog owner enough time to digest the information and deal with the matter. If after such time no result is achieved, you should contact your local Council to pursue the matter further.

Yours faithfully

BARKING SOLUTIONS

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION

Nuisance barking complaints are difficult to deal with for a number of reasons:

- ❖ Each individual person will have a different view as to what is a noise nuisance. This will vary from the location of the dog to the complainant, noise tolerance level of complainant, type of barking and time/length of barking.
- ❖ Information supplied by complainant is based on personal recollection and findings, as to how the barking affects that individual.

Nuisance Barking Can Be Defined As Follows:

- ❖ Dog regularly barking at every person or dog passing property or using part of the street, with barking continuing for a period of time.
- ❖ Dog regularly barking, howling or whining for periods in excess of 10 minutes when the owners are absent or ignoring the dog.
- ❖ Dog aggressively rushing, jumping, barking or growling at any of the fences.
- ❖ Dog regularly barking during the night.
- ❖ Dog regularly barking at the neighbours.
- ❖ Dog barking excessively for no reason or no apparent reason.
- ❖ The correctness of information relating to the reason, time, date and duration of barking is crucial if the matter is to proceed to court. If information collected is not accurate or legitimate, legal action may be lost. Video or audio taping of dog is usually not admissible in court.
- ❖ Identification of the dog barking is essential. Noise can and will travel in different directions. Ensure the location of the barking dog is correct. Sometimes complainants make the mistake of accusing a dog for nuisance barking when it is really another dog causing the problem.
- ❖ In certain situations the complainant can unintentionally worsen the dogs barking. This can happen by one of the following actions:
 - ❖ Verbally abusing the dog in an aggressive manner.
 - ❖ Hitting the dog or fence.
 - ❖ Hosing or throwing objects at the dog.
 - ❖ Teasing dog through the fence (by children or neighbour).
 - ❖ Neighbour's cats entering the dog's property or walking along fence line (if this is the case the neighbour must restrain cats from dog's yard).

- ❖ Have the circumstances of the dog owner or complainant changed? Barking may increase if changes have been made to the dog's environment e.g. owners change of work hours, someone leaving house, new person in house, new neighbours, change in the number of dogs, new baby in house etc.
- ❖ The complainant should consider doing everything within their power to ensure that they or something/someone within their control is not the cause of the nuisance barking. This in conjunction with the dog owner's efforts will help reduce the barking.
- ❖ Some dog owners find it extremely difficult to believe that their dog is causing a nuisance by barking whilst they are not home. A dog will not usually be barking when the owner is arriving home. Dogs generally tend to bark less when their owners are at home.
- ❖ The dog owner should be informed as soon as the barking becomes excessive. If the complainant is to directly approach the dog owner, it is important to be civilised when explaining to the dog owner the following:
 - ❖ Date, time and duration of dog barking
 - ❖ Reason for dogs barking if known
 - ❖ Where dog is barking (i.e. front, back or side fence etc)
 - ❖ Effect the barking is having on complainant's life
 - ❖ Any other relevant information to assist the dog owner in dealing with the problem.

It is important that a barking dog issue is not made up out of hostility between two neighbours, a neighbourhood dispute or a dislike of the neighbour. The barking nuisance should be considered in detachment to all other matters and is not used as a form of revenge or retaliation against a neighbour, as the dog's life may be at issue here.

The complainant should remember that as much as the barking may be disrupting their life, the dog owner would need sufficient time to deal with the problem. The complainant's support and information will greatly assist the dog owner in this area.

BARKING DIARY

It has been noted when the dog barks and findings are expressed as follows:

1. Dog is barking regularly during the: Day - morning/noon/dusk
Night - early evening/late night
2. Barking occurs: One/twice/several times
3. Barking may last up to: _____ minutes _____ hours
4. Barking increases when: You are out/you are at home
Other _____
5. Barking starts as soon as you leave home: No / Yes
Usually within _____ minutes
6. Dog is barking at: People and or dogs passing
the property, neighbour and/or
neighbour's dog/birds/cats,
Postman/unknown/nothing
Other _____
7. Dog is barking at the: Front/back/side of fence line
Other _____
8. When dog is barking it will: Run along fence line-front/back/side
Sit or stand in one spot
Other _____
9. If more than one dog: Does one dog bark more than other _____
Barking increases when playing/fighting
Other _____
10. Any other relevant information: _____

ADDRESS OF OFFENDING DOG/S: _____

Note: If the barking problem has not been resolved within 14 days - please fill in the Council letter and forward it with a copy of the Barking Diary to your local Council Health Dept.



TO: COUNCIL

STANDARD COUNCIL LETTER
ISSUED BY
BARKING SOLUTIONS

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: BARKING SOLUTIONS PACKAGE

We have obtained a copy of the Barking Solutions Package and followed the instructions contained within.

As fourteen (14) days have now passed and the problem has not been resolved, we are now passing the problem to Council for attention.

A copy of this Barking Diary and Information for the Dog Owner has been supplied to the dog owner on _____ (date).

Please find attached a diary showing the dates and times of barking.

Yours faithfully,

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ DATE: _____



STANDARD NEIGHBOUR LETTER
ISSUED BY
BARKING SOLUTIONS

Dear Neighbour

RE: UNNECESSARY DOG BARKING

Unfortunately it has come to our attention that your dog is causing a nuisance by barking/howling at certain times.

We are unsure if you are aware of this problem. Therefore, we would like to assist you initially in seeking information on ways to deal with this matter.

We would appreciate that you take action as soon as possible to ease the situation.

We have given you this option rather than making a formal complaint to the Council.

Enclosed is a copy of the Barking Diary noting the common barking times and information and options for dealing with a barking dog.

Kind regards,

Your Neighbour

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

(This information can be anonymous)

INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNER

WAYS TO VERIFY A BARKING COMPLAINT



STANDARD INFORMATION FOR
DOG OWNER ISSUED BY
BARKING SOLUTIONS

It is important that the dog owner investigates the barking and not just relies on the complainant's information. This will assist in identifying if the dog is causing a nuisance and will help if/when dealing with barking. Below are some guidelines to help authenticate or dispute the barking complaint:

- ❖ Firstly check with all surrounding neighbours to establish if, when and why the dog may be barking. Establish if the dog is causing a nuisance to other neighbours.
- ❖ Have another neighbour record (diary) details of dog barking.
- ❖ Leave a voice-activated tape recorder on when you are out.
- ❖ Check on the dog regularly at the time of the alleged barking (ensure that the dog does not notice you).

POINTS TO REMEMBER

There are a number of commonly mistaken beliefs surrounding barking dogs. Below are some facts relating to barking dogs:

- ❖ A good guard dog is a dog that only barks when it has reason to i.e. intruders, danger, fire etc. A dog that continually barks will be ignored. Just like the recurring car alarm.
- ❖ A dog will generally bark more when its owner is out rather than home.
- ❖ De-sexing will not reduce a dog barking or other behaviour problems, without training as well.
- ❖ It is not normal for a dog to bark excessively or for a long period of time.

BARKING PREVENTION

AND WAYS TO STOP

NUISANCE BARKING



ISSUED BY
BARKING SOLUTIONS

Because most people today buy a dog for protection as well as a companion, it is important that we understand the distinct differences between a good watchdog and a nuisance barker. Allowing your dog to bark at anything it likes is not the correct way to teach it to be a "good watch dog".

NUISANCE BARKING

A dog that barks at birds, noises, neighbours, passing pedestrians or other dogs is not actually good watchdog. A dog like this is similar to a car alarm that keeps going off for no reason. People will eventually take no notice when it goes off for a legitimate reason and it will also be annoying to your neighbourhood.

A GOOD WATCH DOG

A good watch dog is a dog that only barks when someone attempts to enter your property or there is imminent danger (house fire, snake in the yard etc). Good barking habits can be trained into your dog easily, providing you are clear about exactly what you want your dog to bark at. By doing this, it will teach you to respond to your dog's bark because it will be a warning sign and not any everyday noise.

BARKING PREVENTION AT THE PUPPY STAGE

A young pup that barks at people or noises is a good indication that you have a budding nuisance barker developing. This is a sign of a nervous pup that worries about everything. A well-adjusted pup will not usually start barking until somewhere between 8 to 12 months of age.

If you have a pup that is starting to bark at everything that moves. Let it know that you don't approve at the precise moment it starts. Never hit or hurt your dog. Praise it as soon as it responds to you. A puppy that persists could need some professional training.

TIPS ON CURING NUISANCE BARKING

Never rush to let your dog into the house or praise it when it's barking. This only causes your dog to believe that if it barks, you will come running or that the barking is what you want it to do. This can lead to more dramatic barking when you are out. Praise your dog as soon as it stops barking. Monitor the barking and only address the behaviour for those things that do not constitute a good watch dog, ie. birds, noises, the neighbours, passing pedestrians and other dogs, etc.

Persistence barking sometimes needs professional assistance.

WHEN YOU ARE OUT

Because dogs are pack animals, they can become stressed when the pack leaves without them (where you or your family leave the house). Some of the reasons can be:

- **Separation Anxiety** usually identifiable by barking as soon as you leave. You will need to start separating from your dog when you are home and practice separating from your dog when you can address the barking. If the only time you separate from your dog is when you leave the home, then this can cause your dog to fret and become anxious.
- **Apprehensive/Fearful** usually found in the nervous, confidence-lacking dog that barks out of the fear of the unknown. Also, the fact that you cannot address the barking when you are out. These personalities do better if they are in the home or a secure, covered crate. However, don't leave your dog unattended for hours. This personality type needs to be socialised and you may need to seek professional help to deal with any serious fears your dog may have.
- **Boredom** usually identifiable in the fact that your dog will bark, dig and chew. To help fill some of your dog's day, make sure you provide lots of entertainment in the way of toys. A treat toy where your dog has to use its brain is a good boredom buster. Also consider a "dog walking service".
- **Territorial** this type of dog is normally the dominant/confident type and as a rule is not the worst culprit of nuisance barking. However, if you have problems with this type of personality, you will need to seek professional help.

GENERAL TIPS OF GOOD DOG MANAGEMENT

1. Speak to your vet about whether you should desex (neuter or spay) your dog.
2. Register your dog with your local council as soon as it becomes eligible.
3. Never console a frightened, aggressive, or barking dog, this will only add to their fear. Address the behaviour with a firm voice and assertive body language. Never hit or harm your dog. Always praise your dog's positive choices.
4. Do not allow your dog to bark at things that are not a threat to your security, such as passing pedestrians, the postman, neighbours, stray dogs, birds etc.
5. Be a responsible dog owner and remember a good watch dog makes for a happy neighbourhood.
6. Seek professional help if your dog is too difficult for you to train. Humans are naturally human trainers, and it takes special skills to be able to train dogs successfully, especially barking issues.
7. Always walk your dog on a lead and pick up any droppings.
8. Wherever possible confine your dog at night to reduce any annoyance to your neighbours.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

If you have tried all of these techniques and are still having problems, you should contact a professional dog-training organisation for help. Dog training books and videos may also be available through your local library, contact your Council for a list of the outlets where available.



Training Information Proudly Supplied by
Bark Busters Home Dog Training
FREE CALL Australia 1800 067 710
New Zealand 0800 167 710