

Barking Dogs

Service Description

Noisy dogs are governed by the Dog Control Act 2000 and its authorised officers

The law accepts that dogs do bark, however the law also recognises that persistent or continual barking can be a nuisance. Under the Act a dog owner or the occupier of any premises must not allow any dog to cause a nuisance on those premises or in a public place. If they do so they are liable to a fine of up to \$500.00.

Before the problem gets out of hand try and find out why the dog is barking excessively. Talk to the dog's owner and tell them why you think the dog is barking. In many instances the owner does not realise that the dog could be creating a nuisance. Give the owner a copy of Council's information brochure "Does Your Dog Have A Barking Problem". This brochure contains useful information and hints on stopping excessive barking. Brochures are available from the Environmental Health Office or by contacting Animal Management Staff

If this fails then you may consider lodging a complaint. In the first instance we will contact the owner and let them know that a complaint has been received. We will also provide the owner with information on why dogs bark excessively and suggest ways in which this can possibly be resolved. Hopefully any barking problems can be resolved at this time. If however the excessive barking problem does not abate there is nothing further Council can do *unless* you are prepared to lodge a Formal Notice of Complaint

Council must also be satisfied that the dog/s are in fact creating a nuisance by barking. If Council is satisfied we may serve the occupier of the property where the dog/s are kept with a notice requiring them to abate the nuisance, if they do not stop the dog from creating a nuisance, Council may prosecute them. The complainant will be required to give evidence in any legal proceedings.

How to use this service

We will need the correct address of where the dog is kept. We will also need a detailed list of dates, times and possible causes for the dogs barking. We need this information so that we may carry out a fair and impartial investigation. This information may also help the animal's owner understand and resolve any problems that may be contributing to excessive barking.

We will not respond to anonymous complaints, as we cannot verify that the complaint has not been lodged for frivolous or vexatious reasons. Also Council cannot provide feedback to anonymous complaints. This makes it very difficult for dog owners and Council Officers to know if their efforts have been effective or not.

Need More Information or Assistance?

Contact Animal Management Staff.

62166 797

62166 399

Related Links

[What to do about noisy dogs](#)

[Does your dog have a barking problem?](#)

[Your dog and the law](#)

[Formal notice of complaint](#)

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