

Myths About Barking Dogs

- **It is natural for dogs to bark a lot.**

Dogs use barking as a form of communication. If the barking becomes excessive it is not normal.

- **Desexing stops dogs from barking.**

This only occurs if dogs are barking at one another, usually males when a female dog is in season. In other cases desexing will not alter barking at all.

- **If a dog barks a lot then it shows that it is a good watchdog.**

In fact the opposite situation is the case. People, especially the neighbours get to know which dogs are barking and will not check up on it.

- **My dog never barks when I am at home, so I do not believe that it barks when I am out.**

Most complaints are associated with the times when an owner is not home. Dogs often become lonely, anxious, stressed or bored. It is their way of trying to communicate that they are unhappy.

- **I will get another dog and they will keep one another company. This will stop the barking.**

This does not usually solve the barking problem. If one dog is unhappy because of the way an owner looks after it, this may apply to a second dog also. Then the problem may be doubled and might result with two dogs barking instead of one.

What Council Will Not Do

We will not respond to anonymous complaints, as we cannot verify that the complaint has not been lodged for frivolous or vexatious reasons.

Council can not pass on, or receive feed back without a complainant to get back in contact with. Therefore are unable to monitor any improvement or resolution of the complaint.

Important Notes

The fee associated with lodging a Formal Notice of Complaint, is refunded at the completion of Council's investigation unless Council believes that the complaint was lodged for frivolous or vexatious reasons.

By signing and lodging a Formal Notice of Complaint you are also undertaking to give full information to Council and to possibly appear in court and give evidence as a witness to the truth of the complaint.

You Should Not

Never yell or hit the dog when it barks. By yelling at the dog you are telling it that loud is OK or giving it the attention it is seeking. If you hit, kick or hose the animal it is still getting the attention that it wants even if this attention is unpleasant. Dogs will continue to do what works for them and your outbursts may increase or exacerbate the problem.

For More information or assistance with barking matters, please contact Glenorchy Councils Animal Management Program on



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What to do about Noisy Dogs?



This brochure has been designed to assist people whom are troubled by barking dogs.

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

Dogs bark for many reasons

Some possible causes of excessive barking are:

- ♦ lack of exercise
- ♦ loneliness and boredom
- ♦ lack of a suitable sleeping area and shelter
- ♦ flies, fleas, worms or some other ailment
- ♦ hunger or thirst
- ♦ attention seeking
- ♦ protecting territory
- ♦ continual barking or crying may be a cry for help
- ♦ isolation
- ♦ chained or tied up for long periods of time

But What Can You Do?

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 is 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.



At What Stage Does Barking Become A

Nuisance ?

Under section 46(3) of the Dog Control Act 2000 it states that a dog shall be taken to be a nuisance if :

it behaves in a manner which is injurious or dangerous to the health of any person;

or

it creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such an extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any premises or public place.

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.

What Can Council Do About Excessive Barking?

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 be fixed. Hopefully any barking problems can be fixed at this time. If this does not fix the problem there is nothing further Council can do unless you are prepared to lodge a Notice of Complaint as outlined in this brochure.

When Can Council Take Action Against The Keeper Of A Noisy Dog?

The Council will not institute legal proceedings against the keeper of a noisy dog unless the complainant signs and lodges a Formal Notice of Complaint and pays the appropriate fee. Council must also be satisfied that the dog is creating a nuisance. If Council is satisfied a nuisance exists it may serve the occupier of the property where the dog is kept with a notice requiring them to abate the nuisance within set days or alternatively may issue an infringement notice of \$200.00. If they do not stop the dog from creating a nuisance within the set time frame then Council may prosecute them.

What Action Can A Court Take Against The Keeper Of A Noisy Dog?

If convicted the court may impose a large initial fine, together with a further fine for each day that the nuisance continues. The court may also order the dog to be removed from the premises where the nuisance occurs or to be destroyed.

Information Council Requires From You

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 fix any problems that may be contributing to excessive barking.

Forms for recording times and dates are available from the Environmental Health Office.