

Try and solve the problem yourself? You can try some of the suggestions already provided in this brochure. The internet also sources a range of information on dog barking remedies and help. Council's Animal Management Officers can also provide some assistance.

Check with Council for information about mechanical products for sale or hire to minimise barking. Some products are designed to reprimand and/or correct a dog's barking behavior.

Get professional help? You can seek assistance from your Vet who can advise about specific treatments or refer you to people that specialise in correcting behavioral problems, like an Animal or Veterinary Behaviorist.

MYTHS ABOUT BARKING DOGS

"It's natural for dogs to bark a lot, dogs bark!" Dogs use barking as a form of communication. If the barking becomes excessive it is not normal.

"If it barks a lot, then it shows that it's a good watchdog". The opposite situation is the case! People, especially the neighbours will get to know which dogs are barking and will not check for intruders because of frequent barking. It is a scenario like "the dog who cried wolf".

"It never barks when I'm home, so I don't think that it barks when I'm 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'll get another one and they'll keep each other company". This does not usually solve the barking problem! If one dog is unhappy because of the way it is cared for, this may apply to a second dog also. Then the problem may be doubled and might result with two dogs barking instead of one.

"De-sexing might stop it". This may only occur if dogs are barking at one another, usually males when a female dog is in season. In other cases, de-sexing will not alter the barking at all.

IT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA TO

Yell at or hit a dog when it barks. By yelling at a dog, you are telling the dog that loud is okay. If you hit a dog, it is still getting the attention that it wants even if this attention is unpleasant. Also, a person may be in breach of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* if a dog is mistreated.

Need More Information or Assistance?

Contact Council's Animal Management Section

☎ (03) 6216 6800

DOES YOUR DOG HAVE A BARKING PROBLEM?



... all dogs can bark, but many dogs bark persistently or excessively.

This brochure was prepared by Glenorchy City Council in the interest of responsible dog ownership.

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Dog owners are responsible for their dogs but can sometimes forget that their dog can affect other people too. Dog barking is the most frequent complaint type received by Council.

WHY DOGS BARK

Dogs bark for many reasons. Some possible causes are:

- lack of exercise
- loneliness and boredom
- hunger or thirst
- attention seeking
- territory protection
- crying (howling or barking) for help
- isolation
- anxiety
- chained or tied up for long periods of time

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR DOG

Exercise your dog regularly. Dogs are pack animals and prefer to go for walks or have a game with you than to be left alone. Walking a dog for at least 30 minutes before you leave your home for the day should calm your dog. Also, if you exercise your dog every afternoon at similar times, it is likely to wait more quietly for this time to arrive. A relaxed dog is less likely to bark.

When walking your dog let it meet other people and dogs, especially neighbours. You may take your dog to exercise areas – only if you are confident that it is sociable and won't attack or harass people or other dogs. Visit new places

and take different routes when walking your dog to allow your dog to experience different sights and smells.

Socialising your dog from an early age will help it to be a confident and happy dog. Socialising your dog can reduce barking at neighbours and people or animals passing by your property.

If your dog comes inside of a night and is then shut outside during the day it may bark because it has been separated from an area it wants to protect. Fitting a dog door, so the dog can go in and out as it pleases may be an option for you. By closing internal doors, you can also control which rooms a dog can have access to while you are away. This may help reduce its line of sight through windows and reduce barking.

Provide your dog with a comfortable kennel in the winter and a cool shady place in the summer. Make sure your dog has fresh water available.

Give your dog something that has your scent on it to reassure and remind your dog of you, and that you are coming back.

Feed your dog before you leave of a morning as many dogs will relax while their food digests.

Give your dog things to do during the day to keep it busy such as hiding treats (treat scavenger hunt), a sand pit with hidden treats or toys, clam shell pools, floating toys, treat filled toys, certain bones or knotty toys soaked in liquid stock, for example.

Interactive toys that allow your dog to lick and chew have been shown to have a calming effect.

Some dogs may suffer from Separation Anxiety when separated from their owners. Common symptoms of separation anxiety can be regular urinating and defecating, barking and howling, chewing, digging and destruction, escaping, pacing and coprophagia. If you believe your dog may be suffering from separation anxiety it is recommended that you seek professional advice from a Veterinary Behaviorist or Veterinarian.

NOISY DOG? WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

- do nothing
- try and solve the problem yourself
- get professional help

Do Nothing?

If a dog owner does nothing and Council is satisfied that the dog is causing a nuisance, an infringement notice may be issued under the Dog Control Act. The penalty of this notice is upwards of \$300. Alternatively, you may be served with an "abatement notice" (a legal document) requiring you to stop the nuisance within a specified time.

If an owner does not comply with an abatement notice Council may issue further penalties, and/or remove a dog from a property and progress the matter to court to have the situation resolved. If the court finds that a dog's owner has; allowed the dog to cause a nuisance, or has failed to comply with an Abatement Notice, the court may impose other penalties and make specific orders in relation to the dog. To do nothing is not advisable.