

Barking Dog Advice

Excessive barking is usually the symptom of an underlying issue whereby there is a need for greater awareness and understanding of dog behaviour. Dogs owners are responsible for taking all reasonable steps to ensure their dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person by loud persistent barking or howling. In this document are some suggestions to help you reduce the barking nuisance your dog may be causing. These solutions are by no-means a quick fix, they will take some time and commitment, however they will provide a quieter and more content environment for both dog and people.

Why Dogs Bark

Dogs usually bark because they:

- Are bored or frustrated.
- Are reactive to people/dogs/other animals walking past/into the property.
- Have separation anxiety.
- Are demanding attention.
- Are going deaf/blind or have other medical issues.



Boredom Barking

Giving your dog something to mentally stimulate their brain will prevent boredom barking and destructive behaviours.

- Frequently exercise your dog.
- Rotate the toys your dog has access to. Boredom can arise from having easy access to ALL toys.
- You can play “hide and seek” with treats hidden around the area your dog is kept in. Or scatter treats in your yard. You can google enrichment games online.
- Teach your dog a new trick or enrol in obedience classes.
- Socialise your dog with other dogs safely.



- Frozen carrots to chew on
- Frozen raw bones or Kong's filled with frozen wet dog food.
- Get a friend or dog walker to pop in to walk your dog or play with it in the yard.
- Take your dog to work with you if appropriate.
- Enrol in doggy daycare.

A physically **and mentally** tired dog is a quiet dog.

Reactive Barking

Training your dog to only alert bark

Dogs get excitement and satisfaction from barking and getting a reaction/attention, this can continue and escalate if not addressed quickly.

1. Remove the motivation or opportunity your dog has to bark at something. The most effective way is to remove your dog's line of sight from this thing.
 - a. If the dog is barking at people walking by you can:
 - i. put the dog somewhere else on the property where they can't see people passing by
 - ii. cover gate or fence (with e.g. weed mat) to prevent the dog seeing out.
 - iii. close the curtain the dog is looking out of (if inside)
 - iv. crate the dog inside in a room away from the front of the house.
 - b. If the dog is barking at cats or other animals at night
 - i. Put the dog somewhere inaccessible to cats etc e.g. the garage or inside when you're not home or at night.
 - ii. Use corrective devices when nobody is home to correct the behaviour.
2. When you allow your dog in the yard attach a dragline. When your dog barks at something like someone going by:
 - a. Say "thank you".
 - b. Grab the drag line and remove the dog from the trigger (e.g. bring inside if barking at the fence line)
 - c. Once the dog is quiet, give them a treat/praise/ a pat.



There is enough space between the reaction to the trigger and the silence after barking to reward calm behaviour. Consistency is the key in teaching your dog this trick. Do not console a dog who is barking, this will just reinforce the behaviour.

Dogs with Separation Anxiety



Dogs may persistently bark if they feel isolated or stress if left alone.

Some possible solutions are:

- Keeping them occupied (as mentioned in the boredom barking section)

- Keeping the dog inside in a crate when nobody is home or if the dog is outside, keeping them close to the front door.
- Using doggy daycare, a dog walker or leave the dog with family.
- Make arriving home and leaving no big deal.
- Play music.
- Exercise your dog before leaving.
- Practice leaving the house, without actually leaving and build up to leaving the dog for a short amount of time. Only come back into the house or reward when the dog is quiet.
- Buy a Reolink E1 Camera to monitor dog and talk through to settle the dog.

Anti-Barking Devices

There is some good technology available to dog owners which are designed to **aid training** and prevent excessive barking when you're unable to supervise the dog yourself.

These devices are to be used to help teach a dog when it's appropriate to bark, because dogs do bark, but it is not to be used to replace the above training methods first.

With all of technology, the most expensive products will provide the most accurate and effective result is used appropriately.



 The Easy and Safe Way to Train Your Pals

Bark-Stop Collars

These collars are a tried and safe and effective method of enabling you to re-train your dogs' barking habits. There are many brands to choose from but it's important to ensure that the collar provides an accurate and effective stimulus to interrupt the undesirable behaviour. Ensure your collar is waterproof.

Citronella Spray Collars

This is effective in startling your dog and providing an unpleasant smell which irritates the dog's nose. These collars are effective for short-faced breeds (such as pugs), for other long faced breeds (such as German Shepherds) the citronella tends to hit their neck rather than spray towards their nose.

Citronella is 100% natural and safe for all dogs, people and the environment.



<https://www.k9control.co.nz/bark-collars/citronella-spray-collars.html>

Vibration Collars



These collars will produce a static correction at a low level, if the behaviour continues the corrections increase. The correction is activated by sound and vibration combined usually; thus, a neighbour's dog barking will not activate the collar by mistake. The collar listed below is the most highly recommended and effective product for bark-stop collars.

<https://www.dogmaster.co.nz/garmin-barklimiter-deluxe-rechargeable-bark-control-collar/>

No Shock Technology

When a barking silencer detects barking it automatically sends a short sharp high-frequency sound heard only by dogs. Dogs find this extremely annoying and learn quickly that this behaviour results in undesirable consequences.

This technology should be used in close proximity to where the dog barks. If using it outside, ensure it is water resistant. The sound from the silencer will not travel through walls or floors.



This technology can result in the dog being confused as it's not a direct reinforcer or punisher, meaning the dog could start barking at the sound box rather than stopping the behaviour.

Some links to products which can be used:

https://edog.co.nz/products/barktec-bt-300-silencer-birdhouse-ultrasonic-bark-control?tw_source=google&tw_adid=&tw_campaign=20320833327&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlalQobChMIrZWa-6DXhgMVoyCDAx3MWg2cEAAAYASAAEgL82fD_BwE

<https://edog.co.nz/products/goodlife-dog-silencer-ultrasonic-bark-control-system>

Other Training Tips

- Yelling at your dog will not stop them from barking, in fact they think you're joining in.
- Training is best when it's short, sharp and sweet.

- Ensure everyone in the family is on the same page, has the same commands and rules for the dog.
- **CONSISTENCY IS KEY**
- Have a training session for your dog each day.
- You can try some anxiety-relief pheromones for your dog while you're away.
- Reward and reinforce good behaviour.
- Play with your dog.
- Your dog wants to be part of your pack, don't leave them outside unsupervised all day and night.
- Set your dog up for success each day before you leave them in a situation where they could nuisance bark.

