



Why do dogs bark?

Barking is a means of communication and a release for bored and under-exercised dogs. They may not be well or they may be stressed, but more often than not, it is a matter of boredom.

Consistency is the key to success in helping to alleviate the barking problem. By using consistent tone and language, the dog will eventually understand that barking is unacceptable.

Inconsistency on the other hand, will lead to failure, and a dog that will continue to bark.



Devonport City Council

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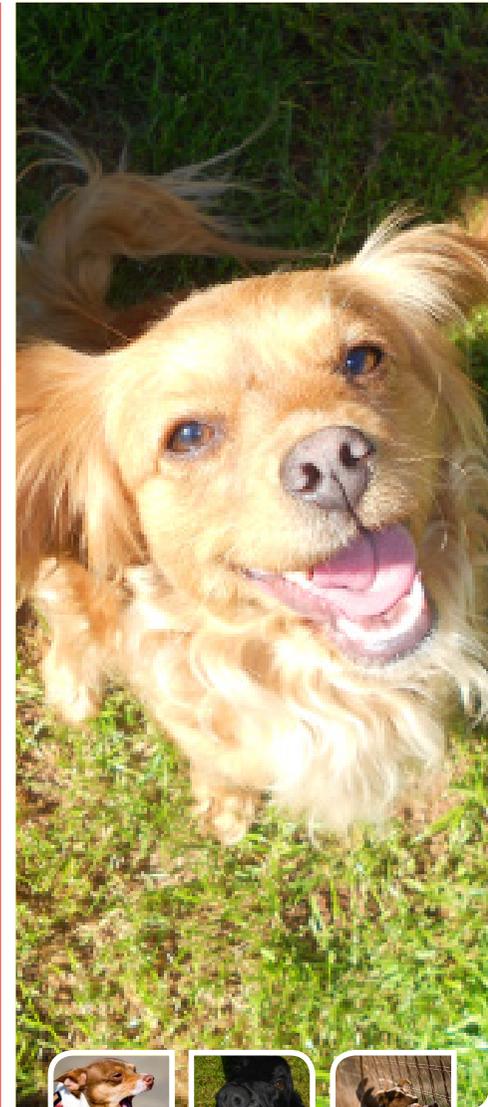
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Disclaimer: This information is provided as a brief and general guide to the main requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000. This information is not a professional legal opinion and should not be relied upon as such.

For further information, refer to the Dog Control Act 2000 at www.thelaw.com.au or discuss with Council's Animal Control Officer.



Barking Dogs





What happens if I choose to ignore my dog barking issue?

Initial Complaint

When Council receives a complaint, they will visit the pet owner to discuss the problem (if one exists) and try to solve the situation through verbal communication. Council officers may follow up with some correspondence.

Further Complaints

If the problem persists, an infringement under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, section 46.2 (Dogs creating a nuisance) will be issued, incurring a minimum 1 penalty unit and not exceeding 5 penalty units (1 penalty unit = \$163.00)

Abatement Notice

If the problem persists further, the Council General Manager may serve an abatement notice which will state the:

- (a) Nature of the nuisance;
- (b) Any action to be taken that the General Manager considers necessary to abate the nuisance;
- (c) The period within which action is to be taken.

Failure to lodge an appeal or comply with an abatement notice will result in a fine not exceeding 20 penalty units (1 penalty unit = \$163.00).



Tips to help with nuisance barking

- 🦷 Avoid growling at your dog for barking. You should rather scold your dog for disobeying the command to stop barking. The second your dog obeys, praise them warmly, with a positive tone.
- 🦷 Exercise your dog as often as possible. Dogs like to go for walks, but more than anything they love to play. A simple game of ball chasing or a good run will keep them happy. This is something you must do with them as they require the stimulation and companionship that goes along with such activities.
- 🦷 As well as physical exercise, dogs require mental stimulation. When not at home, give your dog a distraction from boredom by placing some dry food inside a plastic bottle with the lid off, and they will keep themselves busy for hours. Alternatively, a hollow chew toy with some peanut butter inside the toy will keep them happy for hours, and satisfy their boredom. Leaving a radio on during the day will also provide a distraction for your dog.



- 🦷 Desensitise your dog against things that may make it bark (e.g. lawnmowers). Rather than scolding or disciplining your dog, feed it some treats near the source of the problem. For example, feed them treats near the lawnmower whilst it is running.

Your dog will associate the once fearful noise as a positive thing, rather than a negative through receiving food whilst overcoming their fears.

- 🦷 Remote training collars are an alternative that act as a deterrent through a negative reaction to barking, and can come in the form of an electric stimulant collar or a citronella collar.

The devices deliver a measured dose of stimulant or citronella spray that dogs find extremely unpleasant. The success rate for these devices is low and should be considered after exhausting all other avenues.

