

FACT SHEET

Barking Dogs Need Love Too!

All dogs bark, but some barking dogs become a real neighbourhood nuisance – greatly reducing the quality of life for their neighbours and increasing neighbourhood tensions. Barking dogs is the most common animal behaviour problem Council is asked to deal with.

Ongoing barking is often a symptom of another problem, and taking time to understand what makes dogs bark – especially your pet or other dogs in your neighbourhood - is the first step towards solving this problem, both for the dog involved and your neighbours.

Why Dogs Bark?

- Dogs are social animals and often bark when they are lonely or are suffering from separation anxiety,
- Barking may also be the result of boredom and frustration,
- Barking is a dog's way of seeking attention from its owner. Playing with your dog often stimulates barking,
- Dogs bark out of fear – this can be fear of people, threat to their territory, objects or other dogs,
- Some breeds have a reputation for barking

You Can Control Barking

The most important first step is to work out why your dog is barking. Once you know the symptom, you can find the cure. Barking can be controlled through several small behavioural changes. Some behavioural changes could be as small as walking your dog twice a day to relieve boredom.

Provide your pet with stimulants

e.g. balls, chew toys or leave a radio on

Inside dogs/Bones as a treat

e.g. leave bones or treats or provide your dog with a single room to relax the dog when left alone

Fences/Obedience Training

e.g. Obedience training or a restricted fence to restrict the dogs vision

Try an Anti-barking Collar

There are 3 basic types:

1. Electric shock collar
2. Sonic collar (emits a high pitched noise when dog (barks)
3. Citronella collar (works by spraying a small amount of citronella past the dogs nose when it barks).

A CHAT TO YOUR VET MAY HELP YOU DECIDE THE APPROPRIATE OPTION FOR YOUR DOG.

My Neighbour's Dog Barks - What to do?

Talk to your neighbour as soon as the problem arises. They may not be aware that their dog is barking or that their dog's barking is bothering you. If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council for further advice.

Excessive Barking

Excessive barking is an offence and Council staff will respond to reported barking problems. Initially, Council will send an administrative letter to the owner.

If the problem continues and further complaints are reported, the Council will request that you complete a monitoring form, detailing the duration and time of the barking. Irresponsible owners who fail to comply with Council recommendations may face significant penalties or can be issued with a Compliance Notice.

Where do I go for help?

Councils Officers are available to discuss any concerns or complaints relating to Barking Dogs. Complete information on Council's Local Laws is available via the Mareeba Shire Council website - www.msc.qld.gov.au

