

TIPS FOR BARKING DOG OWNERS

DOGS BARK... IT'S NATURAL AND HOW THEY COMMUNICATE!

We also understand barking can become a real neighbourhood nuisance – reducing the quality of life for neighbours and increasing neighbourhood tensions.

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 DO DOGS BARK?

Dogs bark because they are:-

- 🐾 Bored and lonely
- 🐾 Anxious or frightened
- 🐾 Hot or cold
- 🐾 Hungry or thirsty
- 🐾 Need exercise
- 🐾 Sick or injured
- 🐾 In discomfort from fleas or worms
- 🐾 Suffering separation anxiety
- 🐾 Threatened or protecting their territory
- 🐾 Seeking attention and love

Like humans, dogs have **two types of verbal communication**:-

INTENTIONAL – SOME DOGS HAVE LEARNED THAT BARKING WORKS IN GETTING ATTENTION;
REACTIVE – SOME BARKING IS A SYMPTOM OF AROUSAL, EMOTIONAL OR HEALTH STATE.

HOW DO I REDUCE NUISANCE BARKING?

EXERCISE YOUR DOG

Daily walking especially before you leave in the morning, can reduce problem barking. A tired dog will not bark when it's resting or sleeping. Try doing training activities such as sit or drop at regular intervals during your walk. This will exercise your dog's mind, increase obedience and further tire the dog.

IS YOUR DOG BARKING AT PASSERS-BY?

Try confining your dog to the backyard so it can't see people passing. Maybe you could erect a sight screen to remove the barking triggers? A sight screen can be as simple as attaching opaque material such as black plastic to your fence.

PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT

Your dog may be bored. A chew toy or dog bone given to your dog just before you leave home in the morning will have your dog spending ages engaged in chewing instead of barking or digging. Try leaving your dog in a comfortable single room such as the laundry with their chew toy, a bone and a radio left on for company - and leave plenty of fresh water and dry food.

TALK TO AN EXPERT

It may be worth discussing the persistent barking problem with your local veterinarian.



IS YOUR DOG BARKING TOO MUCH?

You may not even be aware that your dog is barking excessively, especially if you are away from home a considerable amount of time.

A neighbour may approach you regarding the noise your dog is making. If this happens make sure you do not get upset. Remain calm and keep an open mind. Ask your neighbour to record the time when your dog barks excessively, and for how long, to help you identify when it is happening.

Council has developed a template letter that a person in your neighbourhood may place in your letterbox to alert you to the persistent barking of your dog. If this happens do not get offended or offensive, take the matter seriously and appreciate that you have been advised directly without Council's involvement.

Suggest you speak nicely to people in the area and ask them if your dog is barking a lot when you're not home. If that is the case then take action to reduce the nuisance barking.



Further Information

For further information contact Council at 1300 763 903 or email enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au.



Cassowary Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

DSN 3230654