

BARKING DOGS

Treating problem barking

Problem barking can create difficult neighbourhood disputes. The intermittent and piercing nature of a dog's bark can be very disruptive for close neighbours. A dog's bark can reach 90 decibels.

Communicate your concern to your neighbour as early as possible, they may be unaware there is a problem.

Pet behaviour counsellor

The Council Pet Services Directory lists local professionals. Someone outside the situation can take an educated objective view point and offer workable solutions.

Anti-barking citronella collars

These work by distracting or discouraging the dog from barking. They are not a permanent solution and can induce fearful behaviour in some dogs. They are available for hire from Council. Application forms are available on Council's website www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Medication

Drugs used for a specific diagnosis and in an appropriate way by a qualified veterinarian can help alleviate some barking problems.

General advice

Basic health and welfare

Ensure there is adequate food, water, shelter, yard space, exercise and companionship for the dog.

Interesting environment

Dogs are very mouth - orientated. Leave plenty of chew toys available. Raw bones, toys, chew ropes all provide good mental stimulation.

Exercise

Even ten minutes twice a day will help. A walk up two or three houses gives the dog a great variety of new smells to look forward to.

Daily exercise requirements

Dogs need daily exercise. A walk each day is essential for good health and good behaviour. Large dogs such as Cattle dogs, Border Collies and Kelpies need more exercise than other dogs. Vigorous runs at an off-leash area are essential in reducing problem barking. Refer to the 'Off-Leash Areas' fact sheet.

Daily training

Dog obedience clubs provide a formal setting for training but this can also be done at home in the backyard. Teaching the dog to 'come, sit, stay' will help provide appropriate boundaries for your best friend.



Identify triggers

Once the barking triggers are known then they can be reduced or removed. Try using a video or sound recording to identify if roaming cats or strange noises are annoying your dog.

Sight barriers

Providing a barrier to a busy street can sometimes remove the dog's need to try to control the situation. Sometimes a doggy door for the dog to retreat inside solves the problem.

Pet minding service

Ask a neighbour to check on your dog through the day or employ someone to walk or play with them.

Noise nuisance

If you experience unwanted noise such as excessive barking or other problems associated with dogs or cats in your local neighbourhood, there are a number of things you can do.

The first measure is to try and resolve the problem amicably. Often, the cat or dog owner may not be aware that their pet is causing a problem and may be more than happy to make changes for the benefit of all parties.

If this is unsuccessful, contact Council or local Community Justice Centres for further information. Nuisance barking complaints made to Council are investigated by Council's Law Enforcement Officers.

Owners should search for the cause and take immediate action to improve the situation. Research the needs of your dogs breed; consider obedience classes increase activity, exercise and the time that you spend with your dog. Helpful advice and assistance can be obtained from dog trainers and veterinarians.

A Nuisance Order may be issued if your dog is found to be repeatedly:

- Roaming the neighbourhood.
- Making a noise.
- Defecating on other people's property.
- Chasing a person, animal or vehicle.
- Causing damage to property.

