

Barking Dogs



Barking is a natural way for dogs to communicate. But remember **your dog is your responsibility** and when a dogs barking becomes excessive it can cause stress and frustration for those living close by. Often the key to stopping excessive barking is to understand why the dog is barking.

Why do dogs bark?

Dogs bark for a variety of reasons:

- When they are bored, scared, lonely or even just wanting to say hello
- Attention seeking both positive and negative
- Disturbances caused by people or animals passing by or coming to the door
- Discomfort caused by pain, neglect, thirst or restricted play area

If you believe a dog is being neglected or mistreated contact the RSPCA on 9770 7555 or rspcansw.org.au

What can I do about my neighbours dog that is barking excessively?

Your neighbour may not be aware their dog is barking excessively. Letting them know about the problem by talking to them is often the best way to fix it.

Keeping a barking dog diary

If the excessive barking continues you may choose to make a formal report to Council. Council will then write to the dog's owner to inform them of the barking problem and provide them with information to help.

For a Council Officer to see the extent of the issue, you will be asked to keep a diary of the barking. This diary will then be assessed to determine whether further investigation is warranted under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Each day must be completed and if you are not at home on any given day it should be noted on the diary. Every page must be signed and dated by yourself and your signature witnessed by another person.

How to stop excessive barking?

Possible solutions for excessive barking include:

- Walking regularly. Exercise can reduce boredom and works off excess energy. Remember to **keep your dog on a lead** and under the control of a competent person when out in public places
- Providing bones, toys or a treat for your dog when you are away for extended periods of time
- Restricting vision of those passing by
- Ensuring plenty of food, water and shelter from both sun and rain
- Ensure your dog has enough room to move freely. Animals should not be left chained to a fixed point for long periods of time
- Providing veterinary attention when required
- Puppy training or contacting a local trainer
- Be aware of barking habits of different breeds of dogs. Some toy or hound breeds bark more often and may not be suited to highly populated areas. Similarly, working dog breeds may bark due to boredom when kept residentially and may be more suited to acreages or farm life.



Sample Barking Dog Diary Entry

Address of Barking Dog:

Description of Barking Dog:

Day: Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Barking Times		Barking Times		Barking Times	
Start times	Finish times	Start times	Finish times	Start times	Finish times

Additional Notes:

Signed: Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Your Address:

Name (Printed):

Witness Signature: Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Name (Printed):

Please note: This table represents one day of a two-week period. You will need to complete a table for 14 consecutive days in this same manner, prior to submitting your Barking Dog Diary.