

# Barking Dogs

## Why Dogs Bark

Barking is one way dogs communicate. It can signify anything from playfulness to danger. However, dogs sometimes bark when:-

- Chained to a fix point without enough room to move, or kept in a space which is too small
- Provoked deliberately, or unintentionally, by people or roaming dogs
- Untrained
- Lonely
- Hungry, thirsty, or on the wrong diet and neglected
- Victims of abuse
- Kept in circumstances that are unsuitable for that particular breed
- Under exercised or not exercised at all

Obedience training and discipline are very important when trying to stop a barking problem.

A dog can be trained to be alone and to bark on command. The causes of barking listed above, should not be a part of a dog's life.

As well as indicating a possibly distressed animal, chronic excessive barking can disturb people living nearby.

## Caring For Dogs

Compassion and common sense can eliminate many causes of excessive barking.



A well cared for dog will not generally bark unreasonably and disturb neighbours.

Dogs need enough space to move freely in an enclosed backyard.

Dogs need a place of their own. This can be a ventilated and waterproofed kennel or an indoor area.

## My neighbour's dog barks. What can I do?

Alexandrina Council will always encourage you to talk to your neighbour first, as soon as the problem arises. They may not be aware that their dog is barking or that their dogs barking is bothering you.

If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council for further advice.

## Council's Role

Excessive barking may be considered an offence and Council's Compliance Officers will respond to barking complaints received in writing on the Council complaints form.

Barking problems cannot be resolved overnight. For example, if the owner of the alleged barking dog commences actions to alleviate the barking, this action may take some time to eliminate the problem.

It is requested that the complainant should resist interference with the dog during this period, otherwise the matter can be harder to resolve and could possibly take longer.

Council's process may include the issuing of dog barking diaries to neighbouring properties to help in the assessment of whether a nuisance occurs.

## Curing the Barking Habit

If you feel that your dog is well cared for, but continues to bark excessively, there are several things that you can do:-

- Remove direct line of sight between the dog and children, other animals or the distraction, as this may be provoking the barking.
- Take the dog to a recognised animal trainer to discourage bad habits.
- Keep your dog occupied when you are at work, with toys, blankets and games. Local pet shops sell a range of products specifically designed to keep your dog content.
- Contact Council for a barking dog pack, information brochures, dog training services and bark reduction ideas and new trial devices.