



# Barking

Barking is a normal instinct for dogs but when they bark excessively it can become a nuisance for neighbours. As the owner of the dog, it is your responsibility to ensure that your dog doesn't interfere unreasonably with the comfort or peace of any neighbours.

**Here's 5 easy things you can do to help with barking dogs.**

## **1. Get Educated**

The first step to being an outstanding pet owner is taking responsibility. Learn the peculiarities of your dogs breed such as how much exercise they need, how sociable they are, how often they need to go outside. Knowing the basics about your pet's behaviour traits may assist with addressing what's causing the nuisance barking.

## **2. Reduce boredom**

Dogs sometimes resort to barking when they spend too much time alone, don't receive enough stimulation or may be provoked by sound or movement outside of the property. By making sure your house and garden are enriched with fun toys and food puzzles that dispense treats entertain your dog.

*For more advice to manage barking call the Pet Care Help Line: 8930 0606.*

You can also consider reducing the dog visual stimulation, by blocking the dog's visual sensors, by covering a front fence for example this may reduce the provocation by a postman or foot traffic.

### **3. Exercise and socialising your pet**

Exercise is necessary for your dog's mental and physical well-being. By taking your dog for a walk in the morning, they may be less likely to bark in your absence.

- Meet with other dogs on neutral territory, where nobody feels territorial.
- With humans (neighbours, postman), give them a treat to feed your pet.
- If your dog is barking at the dog next door, arrange a meet and greet to let them play together in a supervised area and get to know each other.

### **5. Be diligent about Vet Visits**

Don't wait for the signs of a sickness. Focus on prevention first. Pets age fast, and when it comes to illness they are programmed to mask weakness. Dogs may bark due to an undiagnosed pain response. It's always best to seek veterinary advice.

### **6. Engage with a local trainer**

Engage a dog trainer to view the dog at home and provide advice. This is often very successful. For other advice and to easily locate some of the pet services providers in your area there is a pet services directory listed at [darwin.nt.gov.au/pets](http://darwin.nt.gov.au/pets).

If you think your dog may have a barking problem, it's best to prevent the issue from escalating by having an honest and open chat with your neighbours as soon as possible before a complaint is made to Council.

