



BARKING DOGS

A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT DOGS ARE DUE TO EXCESSIVE BARKING.

Dog owners have a legal duty to "take all reasonable steps" to prevent their dog's barking from becoming a nuisance to others.

Barking is a normal and healthy form of communication for a domestic dog. However, if it isn't responded to properly, it can become a nuisance.

Under the Dog Control Act 1996, a dog is allowed to bark, but not in a way that creates a nuisance through persistent and loud barking or howling. Barking and howling can come from boredom or a desire for attention. Barking may also signal that an intruder is nearby or result from excitement during play, but a dog usually barks only when there is a reason.

Here are some good suggestions you could try

Barking due to boredom

When dogs are bored, they can misbehave by barking. You can increase their stimulation and try to stop this by:

- Using a sand pit and hiding doggie treats in it
- Getting a small child's bucket and mixing gravy and doggie treats in it, filling it with water, freezing it, and giving it to your dog as a treat.
- letting them play with safe and appropriate dog toys
- Exercising your dog before leaving them alone
- leaving the TV or radio on when no one is home
- Place treats in different places, the lawn, hanging from a tree on a rope
- Rotate and restrict the toys your dog can play with at one time. Easy access to all toys will easily lead to boredom.

You can use shade cloth or brush stick fencing to block off any sight stimulus. Confine your dog to the backyard or in a way that it is unable to see things to bark at.

If your dog has had puppies, ensure there is enough space for mum to get her own time out away from the pups in your section. Have an area where the pups may be entertained during this time while weaning them off.

It is important that your dogs are properly exercised, entertained, and looked after to avoid nuisance barking.

*If you're a dog owner, your dog will learn from you
be a great example for them*

Preventing nuisance barking

Keep your dog occupied.

**Ensure your dog is
comfortable.**

**Ensure your dog has
adequate daily exercise.**

**Ensure that each day you
spend time with your dog.**

**Bones, toys, balls, etc, will
help keep your dog amused
during the day.**

**Leave your dog with friends,
family, or doggie day care if
you think this may help.**

**House the dog in a position
where he/she cannot see
things to bark at.**

**House the dog near other
animals for companionship.**

**NEVER hit your dog.
This only builds mistrust and
will not stop nuisance
barking.**

**Obedience exercises help
stimulate your dog and
prevent behavioral issues
like barking.**

