

BUT NOTHING I DO WORKS

Old dogs can be taught new tricks. Contact Environmental Health for other suggestions.

You should also consider going to your vet. Sometimes a dog will bark because it is ill – anxiety is often the cause of barking. You can ask your vet to refer your dog to an animal behaviourist who is an expert and can suggest ways to improve your dog's behaviour.

SEEKING HELP

Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
PO Box 46, Worcester, WR8 9YS
Tel: 01386 751 151
Email: info@apbc.org.uk
Web: www.apbc.org.uk

The Pet Behaviour Centre
Upper Street, Defford, Worcestershire, WR8 9AB
Tel: 01386 750 615
Email: info@petbehaviourcentre.com
Web: www.petbehaviourcentre.com/uk

DEFRA
Department of Food and Rural Affairs
Tel: 08459 335 577
Email: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Some of the information in this leaflet has been taken from DEFRA's 'Constant Barking Can Be Avoided'

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environmental Health Partnership –
Dartford & Sevenoaks working together


Sevenoaks
DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSTANT BARKING.....



CAN BE AVOIDED

Barking comes naturally to dogs, but the constant barking or whining of a dog, can be disturbing or annoying for neighbours. Often the problem occurs when the owner is out of the house, so the owner does not realise there is a problem until someone complains.

BARKING CAN BE A NUISANCE

Loud, excessive barking and howling from a dog, can be disturbing for the dogs' neighbours. The level of disturbance is increased by the fact that the noise is intermittent, making it difficult to adjust to. Sometimes the noise made by dogs' results in neighbours asking for the noise to stop or be reduced to an acceptable level. Often complainants are not concerned for themselves, but for the welfare of the dog, because they interpret the noise as a sign of distress.

The aim of this leaflet is to help owners of noisy dogs improve the situation through management, understanding why the dog might be barking, and use this knowledge to resolve the problem.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS

Dogs by nature are pack animals. They need the security of a family group. Pet dogs regard their owners as a substitute family, and can become distressed when left alone.

There are many reasons why your dog may bark:

- ❖ *Loneliness*
- ❖ *Boredom or frustration*
- ❖ *Attention seeking*
- ❖ *Defending its territory*
- ❖ *Medical problems*

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at anything that moves. A well trained dog should be able to tell between people allowed into the house, and people who are intruders. Good training combined with affection and companionship, should mean that your dog will not develop bad habits. Start young and start as you mean to go on.



Remember, be a responsible dog owner. Make sure your dog is well cared for and well trained. In particular, train your dog not to foul in public places - if it does, 'scoop the poop'. And make sure the dog has a collar and identification tag - it is the law when the dog is in public places. It is also advisable to chip your dog with a Pet ID tag.

SIMPLE THINGS TO TRY

Some dogs just do not want you to go out. Get your dog used to the idea that you are away for different periods of time, at different times of the day, and do not make a fuss of your dog when you leave the house. That way the dog might not be so concerned each time you leave.

Try putting your dog on his own in another room at first for a few minutes, then, gradually build up the minutes. Do not return to your dog until it is quiet for a significant period of time. When you return, praise the dog.

Some dogs will bark because they want to join in what is going on outside. If this is the problem, try leaving your dog so that it cannot see outside. If you do keep your dog outside, think carefully about where you put the kennel and where the dog can run. Try not to put it near your neighbour's fence or where your dog will be tempted to bark.

Some dogs will settle only if they hear a human voice. Leaving a radio on at low volume might help. But make sure the radio is not too loud - you do not want complaints about that instead.

Try not to leave your dog for long periods. If you have to, see if there is someone who can look in on the dog during that time. Maybe that person could take your dog for a walk or let it out into the garden, if you have one.

If you have to leave your dog for long periods:

- *Feed and exercise the dog before you go out & leave some fresh water*
- *Make sure the dog's bed/basket is comfortable & leave its favourite toys*
- *Check that the room is not too hot or cold & there is adequate ventilation*
- *If you are not coming back until after dark, leave a light on*

Do not blame the dog and think that you can solve the problem by getting a replacement or second dog for company. It probably will not, unless you change your lifestyle at the same time.