

Dealing with barking dogs

Barking is one of the ways dogs communicate. It can signify anything from playfulness to danger. Understanding the cause of the barking is the easiest way to solve the problem.

Why dogs bark

- Loneliness and separation anxiety
- Boredom – lack of exercise or seeking attention
- Protecting territory from people or other animals
- Night disturbances such as possums or bats

Caring for dogs

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

**If you suspect a dog is being mistreated:
call the RSPCA on 9770 7555**



9424 0000
krg.nsw.gov.au/pets



Try the following to help reduce excessive barking:

- Give your dog enough space to move freely around the yard
- Do not leave your dog on chains for long periods of time
- Protect your dog from the elements and give them a place to call their own such as a kennel or indoor area
- Dogs need regular exercise according to their breed and size
- Give your dog something to do e.g. a chew, dog puzzle with treats, scatter kibble in the yard



Curing the barking habit

Start by asking:

When – barking times and duration?

Where – through the fence, from the verandah?

What – at people, animals, nothing, everything?

This should give you the 'why'. Once this has been identified, training can be focused around the cause to quickly resolve the problem.

Common causes and solutions

- **Separation anxiety** – seek advice from a behavioural trainer to work out a training program
- **Boredom** – increase exercise, training and provide toys and raw bones to occupy their time
- **Barking through the fence** – remove the dog from that area and/or block the vision with shade cloth
- **Barking at night (possums or bats)** – put the dog in an inside area

Getting help

Local dog training and businesses specialising in dog behaviour:

**Northern Suburbs
Dog Training Club**
Meet at St Ives Showground
9449 1941

Hornsby Dog Training Club
Meet at Rofe Park,
Galston Rd, Hornsby
9990 7301

**Metropolitan Mid-Week
Dog Training Club**
Meet at Princess Park,
Primula Oval, Lindfield
0410 035 667

