



Dear Neighbour

You may not be aware but your dog is currently causing a noise nuisance in the neighbourhood by barking.

I have contacted the City of Port Lincoln and it has been suggested that as a first step I express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without a formal complaint being lodged.

On the back of this letter is some information that may be of assistance to you in resolving the problem. Please be aware of the following behaviour/s of the dog/s:

The dog/s barks regularly between:

0:00am – 7:00am

5:00pm – 8:00pm

7:00am – Midday

8:00pm - Midnight

Midday – 5:00pm

The dog/s barks at:

People passing the property

Postman

Dogs passing the property

Nothing

When I am in my yard

Other: _____

Neighbours dogs/cats/children

When the dog/s barks it usually:

Runs along the fence

Sits or stands on the spot

Jumps at the fence

Other

Contacting Council

If you require further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issues, please contact Council's Corporate Services Team on telephone 8621 2300 between 8:30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday and you will be put through to a Compliance Officer for advice.

Council's website will also assist you at www.portlincoln.sa.gov.au. You can also contact Council under Dog Behaviourist or Dog Training in the Yellow Pages for someone to assist you.

RSPCA

Phone: 8682 3016

1300 477 722 - A/H Emergency

Website: www.rspcasa.org.au



My Dog Barks - *what can I do?*

All dogs bark, but excessive barking can become a real neighbourhood nuisance that can greatly reduce the quality of life for your neighbours and increase neighbourhood disputes. Barking dogs is the most common animal behavioural problem Councils are requested to deal with.

If a dog barks frequently it is often a sign of another associated problem. Taking the time to understand what makes your dog bark can be a big step towards solving the problem, for you and your neighbours.

Why your dog may bark

- your dog maybe barking as a result of boredom and frustration;
- your dog is a social animal and craves company; dogs often bark when they are lonely;
- your dog may only bark out of stress when separated from you;
- your dog maybe barking to seek attention from you;
- your dog may bark because it is afraid; this could be of other people, objects or other dogs;
- your dog may bark when there is a threat to its' territory;
- your dog maybe stimulated to bark when playing;
- you may need to change your dogs' diet to include more natural foods like lean meat, vegetables, rice, pasta etc.;
- your dog breed maybe particularly sensitive to barking;
- your dog may have an underlying illness, or maybe in pain.

Controlling the barking

Once you have found out why your dog is barking, you can find the cure. Barking can be controlled through many small behavioural changes. The following are helpful hints to consider:

- ensure your dog is walked **twice a day** to relieve boredom. Dogs crave attention from their owners. They are social, pack animals and love attention from their family. If your dog only seems to bark when you are away from the premises, it could be due to loneliness. Provide your pet with stimulants such as balls, chews, raw meaty bones, chew toys and hidden foods. It can also prove handy to have a radio on to provide soothing voice noises. Also, give the dog something old which has the smell of a family member, like a rug. (Be careful not to give old shoes or similar items, these can often be a green light to a dog to steal a new pair of shoes and chew!);
- try giving your dog a bone when you leave the house, this will teach your dog that you leaving does not always mean a negative situation;
- a fence that restricts your dogs' vision to the street, can often be of assistance to stop your dog from barking at external stimulants. Training and discipline can also assist a barking problem;
- a dog can be trained to be alone, and to only bark when there is someone on your premises;
- separation anxiety is a major issue, and one that normally requires professional advice. Vets may administer drugs to control anxiety. This may not resolve the issue, but may help to reduce the stress on your dog. There are many dog behaviourists, trainers and professionals that can offer a more natural assistance in this area.

If you have tried all of the above, and you are still receiving information that your dog is a problem, you may need to seek the services of a professional. Your local vet can assist by diagnosing any medical condition that may be causing your dog to bark.