



**Some dogs bark periodically and then stop, this is normal and not classed as excessive.**

### **If your neighbour's dog barks excessively**

The best solution is to first approach the dog's owner.

In some cases, the dog owner might not believe there is a problem or does not realise what their dog gets up to when they aren't home.

If you approach your neighbour in a courteous fashion, often you can both work together to solve the issue.

If you feel uncomfortable or unable to approach your neighbour directly, you can write them a polite letter stating how the barking affects you. The letter should not be anonymous as this leads to bad feelings. Keep a copy of this letter for future reference and evidential purposes.

Give your neighbour time – there is no quick fix for excessive barking.

If, after these steps, the barking continues or you are unable to approach the dog's owner, please contact Rangers and Security.



### **Additional resources**

For more information, including tips for being a responsible dog owner, visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership page at:

[www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs)  
or contact 1800 620 511.

**Legal Aid WA – 1300 650 579**

[www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/  
InformationAboutTheLaw/Homes/  
neighbours/Pages/Dogs.aspx](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/InformationAboutTheLaw/Homes/neighbours/Pages/Dogs.aspx)

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## **How to deal with a barking dog**





It is important to remember that barking is a normal behaviour for dogs and an important means of communication.

**A barking dog can be really frustrating. There are laws relating to dog nuisance and Rangers can help.**

## Behavioural problems

Barking dogs are a nuisance and are not conducive to good neighbourly relations. Dogs bark for many reasons including:

- Separation anxiety – dogs are pack animals and they can become stressed when their owner leaves without them
- Fear – nervous or scared dogs will bark out of fear
- Boredom – barking, digging and chewing are common signs of a bored dog
- Territorial – some dogs are very protective of their territory and will bark to ward off intruders
- Fence line distraction – some dogs kept behind a barrier such as a front or back fence may bark at passers-by

## What can Rangers do to help?

Rangers can visit the dog's owner to discuss and explain the problem.

To assist the Rangers, information such as days, times and what may be triggering the barking is required. The more information you provide, the quicker and more effectively Rangers can help.

For more information visit

[www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/home-and-property/pets-and-animals/barking-and-nuisance-dogs](http://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/home-and-property/pets-and-animals/barking-and-nuisance-dogs)

## Why is your dog barking?

- Attention? Give your dog attention when it is quiet and no acknowledgement when it barks
- Sounds over the fence? Move your dog to another part of the yard, or play a radio at low volume between your dog and the sound to block noise that triggers your dog's bark
- Something it can see through the fence or gate? Try blocking its vision to the other side
- Regular disturbances? Keep your dog inside at times when the rubbish truck drives by or children walk to school
- Boredom? Make sure your dog has plenty of exercise and training
- Uncomfortable? Your dog should always have clean water and shelter from the weather

If these don't work, consider obedience training or anti-bark training devices. Barking collars are a temporary training device only.

## If your dog barks excessively

Maintain good relations with your neighbours and avoid fines or prosecution by resolving your dog's problem barking. Failure to deal with excessive barking could result in your dog being de-registered and removed from the City under the Dog Act 1976.

Consult your local veterinarian or a dog obedience club for advice on the best approach for your situation.

Things to remember:

- Getting another dog to keep the barking dog company often creates two problem barkers rather than resolving the issue
- Keeping your dog active might distract from barking
- Discourage barking while playing with your dog
- A regularly barking dog becomes ineffective as a security measure as your household and neighbours stop checking to see why the dog is barking
- The most important step you can take is to determine what causes your dog to bark excessively
- Don't give up! Problem barking won't stop overnight and training your dog will take time and dedication.