

Barking Dogs

All dogs bark but some barking dogs become a nuisance. Excessive barking is one of the most disruptive neighbourhood issues and requires immediate attention.

Nuisance barking - penalties apply for non-compliance and false complaints

Nuisance barking is an offence. The on-the-spot fine for allowing your dog to bark persistently is \$100. Rangers will respond to reported barking problems. Initially, the owner may receive a letter from the Shire to provide the owner with helpful advice.

If you wish to make a complaint about a nuisance barking dog this must be made in writing to the Shire. All relevant information should be included such as:

- the address where the dog lives
- times and duration of barking
- whether the matter has been discussed with the owner.

A record of barking is to be kept by the complainant. The Shire will follow up on any complaints. Should a noise nuisance be proven, the owners of the dog are required to take the necessary action to alleviate the noise.

Why do dogs bark?

Try to determine why your dog is barking. Dogs may bark because they are:

- Hungry, thirsty, cold, hot, in need of exercise, or perhaps sick or injured
- Bored
- Seeking attention
- Threatened or protecting their territory

Check to see if your dog:

- Has access to clean fresh water and adequate shelter
- Has daily exercise and is not sick or injured
- Is provided with marrow/brisket bones to chew several times a week

Boredom

Excessive barking is more common with some breeds than others. Some breeds – such as cattle dogs, kelpies, border collies and German shepherds – were originally bred to work on farms and may have problems adjusting to a suburban backyard. You should carefully select a breed that is suitable for your lifestyle. Long walks on a lead may not be enough to keep some dogs occupied. They may become barkers through boredom and frustration.