

# How to resolve BARKING DOG NUISANCE

## WHY DO DOGS BARK?

Dogs bark for many reasons.

These include:

- Lack of exercise
- Inadequate yard space
- Boredom or lack of stimulation, both mental and physical
- Not enough human companionship
- Inadequate shelter from weather conditions
- Hunger or thirst
- Medical conditions, such as an illness or discomfort
- Provocation
- Disturbances
- Movement outside their property



## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

The *Domestic Animal Act 1994* defines nuisance as a dog that creates a noise by barking or similar that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.

A dog owner must not allow their dog to create a nuisance. If a barking dog problem cannot be resolved, the matter may be referred to court to obtain a court order requiring the dog's owner to remedy the problem.

**We take all allegations of dogs causing a nuisance very seriously, where a complaint is substantiated.**

## ADVICE FOR DOG OWNERS

As the owner of a dog, we recommend obedience and socialisation training for your dog so you can better understand its needs. To reduce the risk of your dog creating nuisance noise, we recommend:

- Walking your dog daily,
- Altering feeding times, and
- Providing toys at different intervals in an attempt to alleviate any boredom your dog may have from living in a backyard.



# 10 TIPS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF NUISANCE BARKING

- 1** Ensure your dog isn't rewarded for barking. Don't let it inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give it attention when it's quiet.
- 2** Make sure your dog has enough exercise and has socialisation training
- 3** If your dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- 4** If your dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- 5** If your dog is barking at passers by, try blocking the dog's view.
- 6** If your dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of the fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- 7** Be sure to provide food, water and shelter from the weather for your dog.
- 8** If gaps or cracks in the fence are what the dog is barking at, try filling them in.
- 9** Teach your dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking, use a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking.
- 10** Attend accredited dog obedience training.

## MORE INFORMATION

### Dogs Victoria

03 9788 2500

[www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)

### RSPCA

03 9224 2222

[www.rspca.org.au](http://www.rspca.org.au)

We recommend speaking to your local veterinarian who may be able to determine if the barking is caused by a medical condition.

