

Before you begin looking for alternate solutions to the barking problem take the time to ensure there is adequate food, water, shelter, yard space, exercise and companionship for the dog.

This will vary depending on the breed, age and size of your dog.

If you are unsure about any of your dog's needs consult your vet.

Shelter

All dogs require shelter from the weather elements and may bark for attention if they are uncomfortable due to the hot, cold, windy or wet conditions. They need shelter that provides soft, dry bedding, protection from the heat in the summer and warm and dry in the winter.

Daily Exercise Requirements

Dogs need daily exercise. A walk each day is essential for good health and good behaviour.

Large dogs such as Cattle dogs, Border Collies and Kelpies need more exercise than other dogs.

Dogs like to explore and enjoy new experiences, even ten minutes twice a day will help. A walk up the street gives the dog a great variety of new smells to look forward to.

Interesting Environment

Dogs are very mouth-orientated. Leave plenty of appropriate and safe chew toys available. Raw bones, toys and chew ropes all provide good mental stimulation.

Dogs are social animals and enjoy the company of other dogs and their human owners. Those that are left for long periods of time without companionship can become discontented or lonely.

An old jumper that contains the scent of a family member may offer comfort to the dog, or a radio left on inside the house may give the dog the impression that it is not alone on the property.



Your dog considers itself part of your family; spend time with it every day.

My Pet. My Responsibility. My Maranoa.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional support or information on resolving this issue you may like to contact the following services:

Library

You can contact your local library for books on caring for and controlling barking dogs.

Vets

Your vet can be contacted to assist in diagnosing any medical conditions that may be resulting in the dog barking.

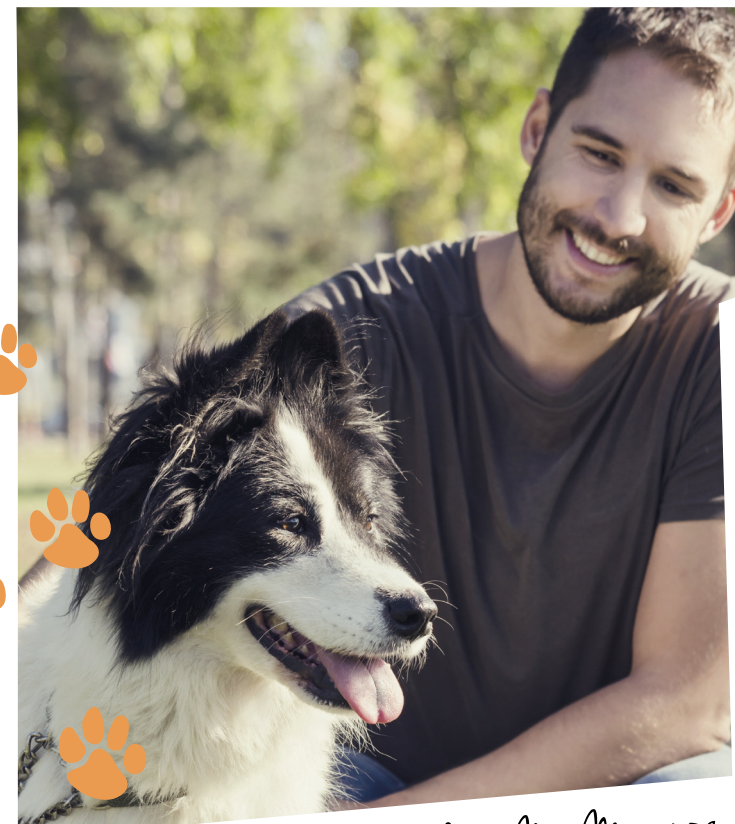
RSPCA

The RSPCA has range of information available on their website www.rspca.org.au to assist with training and caring for your dog.

Website

Visit this website for more information on dog ownership: www.mymaranoa.org.au

BARKING DOGS INFORMATION FOR OWNERS



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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I RECEIVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MY DOG BARKING?

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

Owners should search for the cause and take immediate action to improve the situation. We understand that your dog is an important part of your family and you may not have been aware of this issue.

To help resolve the barking problem you will first need to identify the source of the problem; barking is simply a dog's way of communicating. Once the barking triggers are known then they can be reduced or removed. Research the needs of your dogs breed; consider obedience classes, increase activity, exercise and the time that you spend with your dog. Additional helpful advice is contained in this fact sheet and assistance can be obtained from dog trainers and veterinarians.

STAY IN CONTACT

Please ensure we have your current contact details and keep us in the loop with the actions you are taking to resolve the problem. Our goal is to ensure that your dog can be a happy part of your family and the surrounding community.

REASONS DOGS BARK

All barking is an indication of a kind of stress on your dog. Listen carefully to a dog barking and you will hear an amazing variety of pitch, volume, frequency and type which may help you identify the cause of the barking.

"Eight hours is a long time to be home alone when everyone is at work!
Bark... bark... bark!"

Boredom bark

Dogs are social animals and need companionship.

"The family is inside but no one is playing with me!
Yap yap... yap yap!"

Lonely, bored or attention seeking

"There is someone on my property!
Grrr... nuff, nuff... grrr!"

Warning or alarm barking

"Yowl, arrooo, yowl..."

Ill health, pain or cruelty

Please don't ignore this bark!

"Duch that hurts!
Yow, yip yow, yow, yip?"

"Bark, bark, bark, yip yip yip, arrooo..."

Separation anxiety

Usually most intense within a half an hour of the owners departing.

Howl

Partly in response to ambulance sirens or breed related (Alaskan malamute, Siberian husky, Bassett hound) or a male chasing a female dog.

TRAINING

Dog obedience clubs provide a formal setting for training. But this can also be done at home in the backyard. Teaching the dog to 'come, sit, stay' will help provide appropriate boundaries for your best friend.

When you're at home, place the dog in a comfortable room (or in the yard where it cannot see you). When the dog barks walk quietly to the closed door (or the fence) and sternly tell the dog to be "quiet". Do not open the door or gate. The dog will usually stop barking at the sound of your voice. Wait 15 to 20 seconds and if the dog does not bark again praise and reward the dog with food or affection. This is not a reward for barking but for being quiet as a result of your command.

If you observe your dog barking, a firm reprimand in a stern voice "No - bad dog" should prevent this. Now, using a friendly tone you should command the dog to "come", "sit" and "stay". Reward the dog for obeying.

Dogs often bark when their owners are not at home because of a combination of social isolation and boredom. A solution to make your dog happy, relaxed and comfortable would be to create its own dog friendly zone. A small comfortable room such as a laundry or bathroom would be suitable.

You must make the dog happy about being confined to this area while you are out, but balance this with extra exercise when you return home.

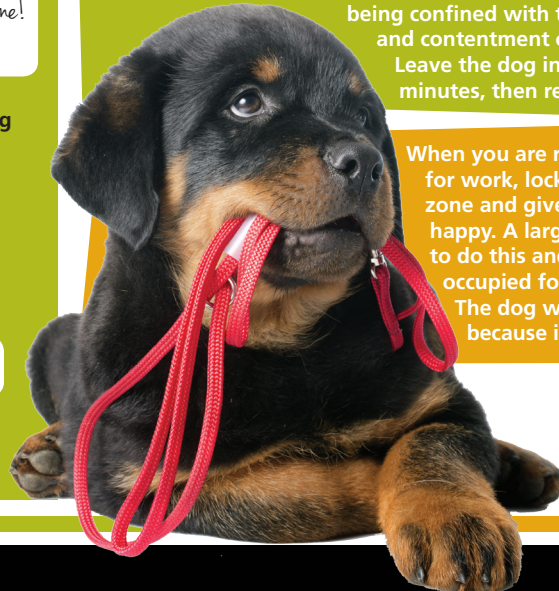
TIPS ON CREATING A DOG FRIENDLY ZONE

Make the room comfortable - not too hot, not in direct sun and with soft bedding.

Place the dog's water bowl inside its zone (and nowhere else) so even when you're at home it has to go into its den voluntarily to drink.

The most important step is to lock the dog in its zone for 15 minutes whenever you feed it. The dog will then associate being confined with the happiness and contentment of being fed. Leave the dog in its zone for 15 minutes, then release and praise it.

When you are ready to leave for work, lock the dog in its zone and give it food to make it happy. A large bone will help to do this and keep the dog occupied for some time. The dog will remain quiet because it is happy.



REASONS DOGS BARK

Until you have controlled the first dog's problem, a second dog will often add to your list of difficulties e.g. two barking dogs.

Sight Barriers

If you need to leave your dog in the yard you may need to modify its environment so that it's kept away from sights and sounds that make it bark.

Providing a barrier to a busy street or neighbour can sometimes remove the dog's need to try to control the situation.

Alternatively fencing off a smaller area of the yard for the dog while you are not at home or sometimes a doggy door for the dog to retreat inside solves the problem.

Pet Minding Service

Ask a neighbour to check on your dog throughout the day or employ someone to walk or play with it.

Details for these services can be found at your local pet store or veterinarian.

Anti-barking Collars

Barking collars are designed to provide behavioural correction when you are not at home.

There are many options and designs available to suit you and your dog.

When using an anti-barking collar you should follow the manufacturer's instructions and complete any training outlined before leaving your dog alone wearing the collar.

Please remember to test the operation of the collar at regular intervals to ensure it is operating correctly.

Consult A Professional

There are professional dog training services available to assist you with a range of dog behavioural issues, including barking.

Details for these services can be found at your local pet store, or veterinarian.