

Advisory Note - Dealing with Barking Dogs



All dogs bark at some time but constant barking and whining can be disturbing or annoying to neighbours. There are number of reasons why your dog may bark:

Loneliness

Boredom

Frustration

Defending his territory

Attention seeking

Lack of exercise

What can I do?

There are a few things which dog owners can try in order to help:

- Start training your dog as early as possible. Good training combined with affection and companionship should prevent your dog from developing bad habits.
- Get your dog used to being alone – start by putting him into another room for a few minutes and gradually build up the time. Don't make a fuss when you leave and do not return until he is quiet – praise him for good behaviour.
- Some dogs bark because they want to join in with what is happening outside or people passing by – if this is the case leave him in an area where he cannot see outside or screen your windows.
- Some dogs will settle if they can hear a human voice – try leaving a radio on at low volume.
- Try not to leave your dog for long periods, but if you have to then make sure you walk and feed him before you go out and leave him in a comfortable bed (not too hot or too cold with adequate ventilation) with some toys. See if someone can pop round through the day to walk him or let him out in the garden if you have one.

- Ensure that your dog has adequate exercise, is not bored and has play time with you.
- Don't leave your dog outside if its barking to get back in.
- If your dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school, the postman, keep him inside or in an enclosed area at the time.

Other points to remember...

Dogs which are kept outside are often the cause of more complaints so think carefully before you leave your dog alone in a yard or garden. If you do leave him outside make sure the kennel is not near to a neighbour's fence or in another location where he will be tempted to bark.

Be consistent. Every time your dog is quiet when it would normally have barked, praise him or give him a treat. When he barks, tell him firmly to be quiet.

Talk to your vet – sometimes a dog will bark because he is ill or anxious.

Remember it is far better to train a dog by reward than punishment.

Useful contacts for further information and advice:

- <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/>
- Environmental Health
Darlington Borough Council
Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT
Tel 01325 405111