

Barking Dogs

Noise Nuisance

Environmental Protection



Noise – Barking Dogs

By far the greatest number of noise complaints we receive relate to barking dogs.

It's normal for dogs to bark, however, when that barking turns to loud and continuous barking or frequent bursts of barking throughout the day and night, it can amount to a statutory noise nuisance. A barking dog complaint will be treated in the same way as any other noise complaint, it could lead to us serving a Statutory Noise Abatement Notice on the owner of the dog.

If someone has complained about noise from your dog, consider the following:

- The more tired a dog is the less it will bark - organise regular exercise.
- Do not let your dog bark or whine for long periods or leave it alone for long periods.
- Don't comfort, pet, hug or feed your dog when its barking for attention or out of anxiety - that would be rewarding the behaviour, and encourages more barking.
- Shouting at your dog to stop barking does not help, it may actually cause it to bark even more and you're causing noise too!
- Try to get the dogs attention with a clap or whistle. Once it is quiet, redirect its attention to something productive and rewarding - like a toy or treat.
- Try not to excite your dog too much when playing as this will lead to barking - try to keep it calm.
- Do not leave your dog outside late at night or very early in the morning if it is prone to barking.
- Consider seeking professional advice from a vet or pet behaviour specialist

Is your dog barking too much? - DEFRA Guide

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402151656/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/neighbour/documents/barkingdog.pdf>

In-depth Information on Barking Dogs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/constant-barking-can-be-avoided-guidance-to-dog-owners>