

## Got a barking dog complaint?

Try talking to the dog's owner about the problem first - if you can, or contact Council, we can provide you with an Anonymous letter to assist in bringing this to their attention.

They may not even be aware of the problem if the dog is only barking when they are out. You may be able to help them identify why the dog is barking.

Assist them by giving them this information.

If the barking continues you can lodge a complaint with Council.

We may ask you to keep a diary to record how often the dog is barking so we can determine whether the barking is causing an unreasonable disturbance.

Depending on the available evidence and outcome of the investigation, Council may then issue a warning to the dog's owner, or place conditions on the dog's registration.

In most cases, the dog owner is co-operative and will work with Council to modify the dog's barking behavior, preventing the need for any enforcement action to be taken.

## Dog training providers

**PAWS Darwin**  
pawsdarwin.org.au  
Phone 8947 1272

**Bark Busters**  
www.barkbusters.com.au/dog-training-darwin  
Phone 1800 067 710

**Pawsitive K9 Behaviour**  
www.pawsitivek9behaviour.com.au  
Phone 0451 280 501

**Mind your Paws**  
www.mindyourpaws.com.au  
Phone 0400 298 505

**Freds Pass Positive Dog Training Club**  
www.fppdt.org.au  
Phone 0417 773 095

**Darwin Obedience Dog Club**  
www.dodc.org.au  
Phone 0400 245 619

### CONTACT US

Litchfield Council  
7 Bees Creek Rd  
FREDS PASS NT 0835

Ph (08) 8983 0600 Fax (08) 8983 1165  
Email [council@litchfield.nt.gov.au](mailto:council@litchfield.nt.gov.au)

Or visit our website at  
[www.litchfield.nt.gov.au](http://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au)



# Beat the BARK



## Dealing with a barking dog

Dogs that bark excessively can be a source of great irritation for neighbours.

If you have a problem with a neighbour's dog, or if your own dog is barking too much, this brochure contains information that may help.

Dogs bark for a reason, and there are many ways that excessive barking can be managed.

## Do you have a dog that barks?

Barking is a natural behavior for dogs; it is one way that they communicate. But excessive barking is often a sign that something is wrong. The first step in correcting this behaviour is to determine why your dog is barking.

### Reasons why your dog may bark

- ◆ It may be bored, lonely or frustrated due to a lack of company, exercise, or mental stimulation. If left in the backyard for long periods, barking may be an enjoyable way for dogs to pass the time. Dogs are also social, pack animals, and may suffer from anxiety when alone
- ◆ To seek attention, especially if they are bored or lonely
- ◆ To alert or warn you of something it thinks might be a threat. This could include barking at animals, the postman, noises, or the movement of people or vehicles outside the property
- ◆ Some dog breeds may be more inclined to bark than others
- ◆ Due to fear (eg of thunder, fireworks, or other loud noises)
- ◆ Due to medical reasons (eg fleas, allergy, or illness)
- ◆ Due to physical reasons (eg if hot, cold, hungry or thirsty)

## How to solve the problem

Depending on why your dog is barking, doing any or all of the following may help:

- ◆ Take the dog for a walk at least once a day. Even if you have a large yard, dogs still need to socialise and experience the sounds and smells of walks outside
- ◆ Spend time playing/interacting with your dog daily.
- ◆ Make the backyard environment more interesting. Provide the dog with toys and raw marrow bones to chew. You can also stuff hollow (indestructible) toys with food
- ◆ Ensure the dog has fresh water, a balanced diet, and adequate shelter from weather extremes. If possible, give the dog access to the house through a dog door
- ◆ Take your dog to obedience classes. Practice what you learn regularly to provide mental stimulation for the dog
- ◆ If the dog is barking at passers-by, block its view of movement outside the property with solid fencing, shade cloth or hedging
- ◆ Make sure your dog is in good health by taking it to the vet for a check up
- ◆ Undertake dog training – the approach taken will depend on the reasons for the barking



## Training your dog

It is important to remember that training takes time and persistence, and that you should never hit your dog.

Training can teach your dog what is and isn't acceptable to bark at, and there are various techniques available.

You may have to use particular training techniques to treat some problems. For instance, separation anxiety, or de-sensitising your dog to fears or phobias. Seek professional advice from a dog trainer or behaviorist.

There are several animal behavior specialists and dog trainers in the area whose contact details are listed on the back of this brochure.

### Anti-bark devices

There are many anti-bark devices on the market today that may assist in correcting your dog's barking behavior. It is recommended that you seek professional advice before using any of these products as some may cause harm to your dog if used for long periods of time.

Citronella anti-bark collars may be effective, speak with your vet to see if this an option for your dog.

Collars that shock your dog when it barks are designed as a training tool and should not be permanently worn by your dog.

There are also devices which emit an ultrasonic sound that can be installed on your property and other remote controlled devices available.