

Barking Dogs

Dear Neighbour,

We felt you should be made aware that your dog is causing a nuisance by barking.

Rather than making a formal complaint to the council, we wanted to take this opportunity to advise you of the situation so that you can take action to rectify the problem.

1. **Your dog barks during the** Day / Night / Both
2. **Barking occurs** Once / Twice / Several Times
3. **The barking continues for periods of** _____ Minutes/ Hours
4. **The barking is worse when you are** Home / Not home
5. **The dog barks at the** Front / Rear / Side
6. **Your dog appears to be barking at**
Person walking past _____
Noises _____
Another animal _____
Weather _____
Other: _____
7. **Description of Dog Barking** _____

By bringing this matter to your attention I hope we can resolve this issue in a neighbourly manner.

I printed this template off the Council's website to help me write to you and let you know of my concerns over your dog barking.

Regards,

A Concerned Neighbour

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Some simple tips for reducing barking

- Take the dog on more frequent walks (once or twice daily) and include it on family outings. Even if you have a large yard, dogs still need to socialise and experience the sounds and smells of walks outside.
- Make the backyard environment more interesting. Hide food around your garden, provide games, sand pits full of buried toys and bones.
- Provide the dog with toys and a large raw marrow bone 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 people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area. If the dog is barking at visitors or passers-by, block its view of movement outside the property with solid fencing, shade cloth or hedging (repair any gaps). Alternatively move the dog to another part of the yard or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- Make sure your dog is in good health, by taking it to the vet for regular check ups
- If your dog barks at night, consider letting him sleep indoors.
- If the 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.
- If you have a large back yard, enclosing the dog in a smaller area to allow it to relax and wait for your return rather than run about barking, will allow the dog to believe looking after the place is not its responsibility when you are not home. This can be very stressful to dogs; they like to sleep.
- Ensure the dog has an inviting comfortable shelter/bed/kennel so that it will want to sleep there rather than "guard" the property. Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.

Remember, dogs bark for many reasons. If these simple tips do not help, seek further advice.