

Going barking mad?



DOGS BARK. It's ok when it's a warning that someone is at the door or that the mail has been delivered, but it's not ok if your dog's barking is constantly disturbing you and your neighbours.

Barking is a common animal behavioural problem and often reported to Council. Dogs bark because they are excited, stressed, bored, in pain, lonely or just because they can.

The good news is, with a little effort, barking problems can be fixed. Here are some easy tips to reduce dog barking problems.

Hide their food!

Food is a fantastic motivator for training and occupying dogs. Make your dog work for its food! Spread feeding throughout the day by hiding food or scattering dog biscuits around the garden or house – they're likely to find every last biscuit! This is good for anxious dogs left home alone as it gives them a job to do. Best of all, while their mouths are full they can't bark!

Seek professional help

Sometimes there's a medical reason your dog is barking. A visit to the vet will find any underlying medical conditions that might be causing or contributing to problems. If there are no medical issues, consider seeking help from a professional dog behaviourist.

Mix it up

Most dogs have the same daily routines, but bored dogs may need a mix-up in their day. Going for a morning walk instead of the afternoon may be all that's needed to reduce their barking.

W-A-L-K

Dogs need exercise, some more than others. Walking exercises their body and mind. Visit a Redlands off leash dog park and let your dog run off some energy!

For more information call Council's
Animal Management team on 3829 8999.



Fit in some playtime

Play comes naturally to most dogs – even as they age. Playing with your dog at an off leash area can be super exciting for them and they are more likely to settle quietly at home.

Sit, stay, fetch and come!

Simple training, even two minutes a day, can help your dog. Try asking your dog to sit before you feed them, or throw the ball and reward with a treat. Soon you will have a dog that wants to please you.

Problems with other barking solutions

Anti-barking devices

There are many anti-barking products available. Most products rely on punishing your dog for bad behaviour. However, with advancing technology newer anti-barking products are becoming easier to use and kinder to the dog.

Council encourages pet owners to use positive motivational methods and dog-friendly products to encourage good behaviour.

Will another dog help?

Bringing a new dog into your home for company is not an answer to barking. It is unlikely to stop your existing dog barking, and may even double your problems.

Surrendering your dog

Owners often surrender uncontrollable barking dogs to an animal shelter, in the hope they will find a new home. It is very difficult to re-home barking dogs, as they share the shelter with many animals without behavioural problems.

Barking problems can be helped! Council's Animal Management Team is here to give you advice and assistance. We want Redlands' dogs to be happy dogs!

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