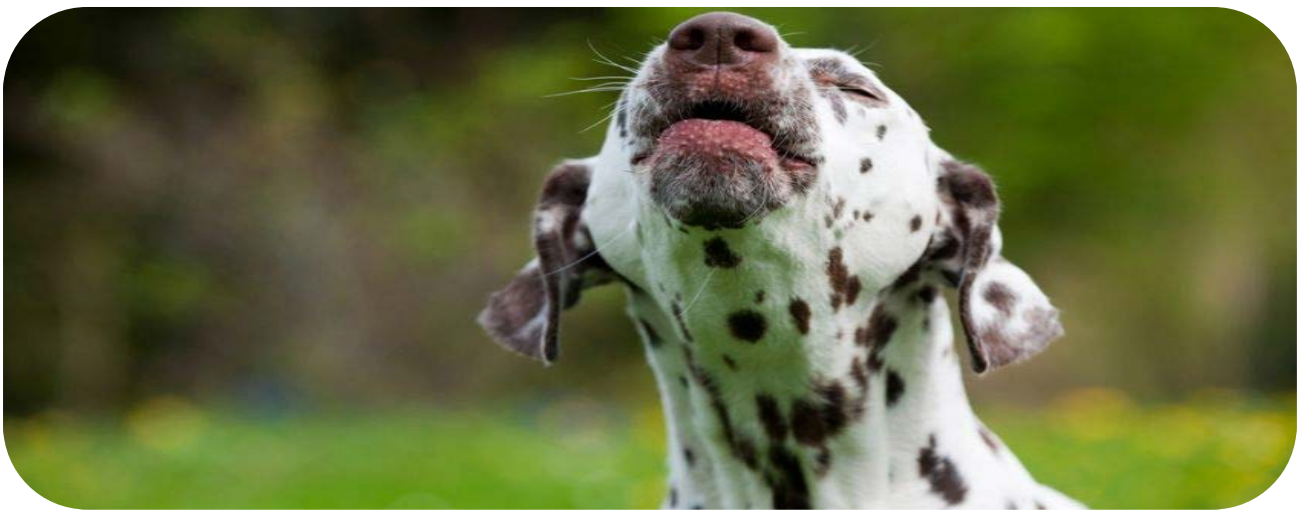


Barking Dog Information for Dog Owners

From companions to playmates, dogs are valued and, in most cases, loved by their owners. Council recognises and supports responsible pet ownership.

Barking is one of the ways that dogs communicate. It can signify playfulness, distress, danger or an alert to their discomfort. It is quite normal for dogs to bark and barking is usually not considered a nuisance or a breach of the Companion Animals Act 1998. However, on occasions, some dogs do cause a nuisance through excessive and continuous barking. Nuisance barking is generally dealt with under Section 32A of the Companion Animals Act 1998.

The Companion Animals Act 1998 provides that the lawful responsibility lies with the owner of the dog. This means that they must ensure that the dog does not create a noise by barking or otherwise, to such an extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.



There are many factors that may be triggering this type of barking. Some of the possible causes include:

- Chained to a fixed point and don't have enough room to move around.
- Being provoked deliberately or unintentionally by people or other roaming animals.
- Not getting enough exercise.
- Not trained properly.
- Bored.
- May suffer from separation anxiety.
- Lonely, sick, hungry, or generally neglected.

Chronic or excessive barking is a sign that something is wrong and can be a nuisance to others in the community. Sometimes stopping a dog from barking can be as simple as taking care of their basic needs.

What can I do about my barking dog?

- Exercise your dog – dogs who have worked off their excess energy are less likely to bark from boredom (this could include walking your dog for at least 15 minutes each day).
- Play with your dog when you are home.
- Make sure your dog receives veterinary attention when required.
- Leave toys out for your dog to play with.
- Make sure your dog has plenty of food, water and shelter from the both the sun and the rain.

But my dog still keeps on barking

- Confine your dog in the back yard, away from interference and/or provocation by passing traffic.
- Restrict your dog's vision through the fence and or gate.
- Consider training, talk to specialist dog trainers and/or dog behaviourists.
- Insulate the kennel against noise and weather.
- Keep your dog inside or confined to the garage or a similar enclosure at night.

Anti-barking collars

Council has available for sale Citronella collars. The collar is adjustable and has a housing which contains a microphone and citronella reservoir. When the dog barks, the microphone picks up the noise and a mechanism triggers a spray of strong smelling citronella towards the dog's lower jaw which deters it from barking. Citronella does not harm the dog in anyway.

