

# Thank you for contacting Barking Solutions



BARKING SOLUTIONS

Dear Sir/Madam

## **BARKING SOLUTIONS PACK**

Please find enclosed information to assist you and your neighbour in resolving the barking dog matter.

Please complete the "Barking Diary" on page 4 of this information pack with as many details as possible and then give it to your neighbour along with the "Information for Dog Owners" on page 7 and "Barking Prevention and Ways to Stop Nuisance Barking" on pages 8 and 9.

After completing the Bark Diary, keep a copy of the completed Barking Diary, as you may need to send it to the Council along with the Council letter on page 5 of this information pack.

This information can be given to your neighbour personally or anonymously by leaving it in their letterbox. Many dog owners are unaware that their dog may be nuisance barking whilst they are not home.

Please, initially allow the dog owner enough time to digest the information and deal with the matter. If after such time no result is achieved, you should contact your local Council to pursue the matter further.

Yours faithfully

BARKING SOLUTIONS

## **COMPLAINANT INFORMATION**

### **Nuisance barking complaints are difficult to deal with for a number of reasons:**

- ❗ Each individual person will have a different view as to what is a noise nuisance. This will vary from the location of the dog to the complainant, noise tolerance level of complainant, type of barking and time/length of barking.
- ❗ Information supplied by complainant is based on personal recollection and findings, as to how the barking affects that individual.

### **Nuisance Barking Can Be Defined As Follows:**

- ❗ Dog regularly barking at every person or dog passing property or using part of the street, with barking continuing for a period of time.
- ❗ Dog regularly barking, howling or whining for periods in excess of 10 minutes when the owners are absent or ignoring the dog.
- ❗ Dog aggressively rushing, jumping, barking or growling at any of the fences.
- ❗ Dog regularly barking during the night.
- ❗ Dog regularly barking at the neighbours.
- ❗ Dog barking excessively for no reason or no apparent reason.
- ❗ The correctness of information relating to the reason, time, date and duration of barking is crucial if the matter is to proceed to court. If information collected is not accurate or legitimate, legal action may be lost. Video or audio taping of dog is usually not admissible in court.
- ❗ Identification of the dog barking is essential. Noise can and will travel in different directions. Ensure the location of the barking dog is correct. Sometimes complainants make the mistake of accusing a dog for nuisance barking when it is really another dog causing the problem.
- ❗ In certain situations the complainant can unintentionally worsen the dogs barking. This can happen by one of the following actions:
  - ❗ Verbally abusing the dog in an aggressive manner.
  - ❗ Hitting the dog or fence.
  - ❗ Hosing or throwing objects at the dog.
  - ❗ Teasing dog through the fence (by children or neighbour).
- ❗ Neighbour's cats entering the dog's property or walking along fence line (if this is the case the neighbour must restrain cats from dog's

yard).

- 🐕 Have the circumstances of the dog owner or complainant changed? Barking may increase if changes have been made to the dog's environment e.g. owners change of work hours, someone leaving house, new person in house, new neighbours, change in the number of dogs, new baby in house etc.
- 🐕 The complainant should consider doing everything within their power to ensure that they or something/someone within their control is not the cause of the nuisance barking. This in conjunction with the dog owner's efforts will help reduce the barking.
- 🐕 Some dog owners find it extremely difficult to believe that their dog is causing a nuisance by barking whilst they are not home. A dog will not usually be barking when the owner is arriving home. Dogs generally tend to bark less when their owners are at home.
- 🐕 The dog owner should be informed as soon as the barking becomes excessive. If the complainant is to directly approach the dog owner, it is important to be civilised when explaining to the dog owner the following:
  - 🐕 Date, time and duration of dog barking
  - 🐕 Reason for dogs barking if known
  - 🐕 Where dog is barking (i.e. front, back or side fence etc)
  - 🐕 Effect the barking is having on complainant's life
  - 🐕 Any other relevant information to assist the dog owner in dealing with the problem.

It is important that a barking dog issue is not made up out of hostility between two neighbours, a neighbourhood dispute or a dislike of the neighbour. The barking nuisance should be considered in detachment to all other matters and is not used as a form of revenge or retaliation against a neighbour, as the dog's life may be at issue here.

The complainant should remember that as much as the barking may be disrupting their life, the dog owner would need sufficient time to deal with the problem. The complainant's support and information will greatly assist the dog owner in this area.

## **BARKING DIARY**

It has been noted when the dog barks and findings are expressed as follows:

1. Dog is barking regularly during the:  
Day - morning/noon/dusk  
Night - early evening/late night
2. Barking occurs: One/twice/several times
3. Barking may last up to: \_\_\_\_\_minutes\_\_\_\_\_hours
4. Barking increases when: You are out/you are at home  
Other \_\_\_\_\_
5. Barking starts as soon as you leave home:  
No/Yes  
Usually within\_\_\_\_\_minutes
6. Dog is barking at: People and or dogs passing  
the property, neighbour and/or  
neighbour's dog/birds/cats,  
Postman/unknown/nothing  
Other\_\_\_\_\_
7. Dog is barking at the: Front/back/side of fence line  
Other\_\_\_\_\_
8. When dog is barking it will: Run along fence line-front/back/side.  
Sit or stand in one spot  
Other\_\_\_\_\_
9. If more than one dog: Does one dog bark more than other \_\_\_\_\_  
Barking increases when playing/fighting  
Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. Any other relevant information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF OFFENDING DOG/S: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note: If the barking problem has not been resolved within 14 days - please fill in the Council letter and forward it with a copy of the Barking Diary to your local Council Health Dept.



STANDARD COUNCIL LETTER  
ISSUED BY  
BARKING SOLUTIONS

TO: COUNCIL

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Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: BARKING SOLUTIONS PACKAGE**

We have obtained a copy of the Barking Solutions Package and followed the instructions contained within.

As fourteen (14) days have now passed and the problem has not been resolved, we are now passing the problem to Council for attention.

A copy of this Barking Diary and Information for the Dog Owner has been supplied to the dog owner on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Please find attached a diary showing the dates and times of barking.

Yours faithfully,

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



STANDARD NEIGHBOUR LETTER  
ISSUED BY  
BARKING SOLUTIONS

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Dear Neighbour

**RE: UNNECESSARY DOG BARKING**

Unfortunately it has come to our attention that your dog is causing a nuisance by barking/howling at certain times.

We are unsure if you are aware of this problem. Therefore we would like to assist you initially in seeking information on ways to deal with this matter.

We would appreciate that you take action as soon as possible to ease the situation.

We have given you this option rather than making a formal complaint to the Council.

Enclosed is a copy of the Barking Diary noting the common barking times and information and options for dealing with a barking dog.

Kind Regards,

**Your Neighbour**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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(This information can be anonymous)

# INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNER

## WAYS TO VERIFY A BARKING COMPLAINT



STANDARD INFORMATION FOR  
DOG OWNER ISSUED BY  
BARKING SOLUTIONS

It is important that the dog owner investigates the barking and not just relies on the complainant's information. This will assist in identifying if the dog is causing a nuisance and will help if/when dealing with barking. Below are some guidelines to help authenticate or dispute the barking complaint:

- 🐕 Firstly check with all surrounding neighbours to establish if, when and why the dog may be barking. Establish if the dog is causing a nuisance to other neighbours.
- 🐕 Have another neighbour record (diary) details of dog barking.
- 🐕 Leave a voice-activated tape recorder on when you are out.
- 🐕 Check on the dog regularly at the time of the alleged barking (ensure that the dog does not notice you).
- 🐕 Secretly take the dog to a boarding kennel for a few days to a week. During this period request the council check with the complainant (if an official complaint has been made) regarding the activity of barking dog. A signed receipt from the kennel should be obtained.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

There are a number of commonly mistaken beliefs surrounding barking dogs. Below are some facts relating to barking dogs:

- 🐕 A good guard dog is a dog that only barks when it has reason to i.e. intruders, danger, fire etc. A dog that continually barks will be ignored. Just like the recurring car alarm.
- 🐕 A dog will generally bark more when its owner is out rather than home.
- 🐕 De-sexing will not reduce a dog barking or other behaviour problems.
- 🐕 It is not normal for a dog to bark excessively or for a long period of time.

# BARKING PREVENTION

## AND WAYS TO STOP

### NUISANCE BARKING



ISSUED BY  
BARKING SOLUTIONS

Because most people today buy a dog for protection as well as a companion, it is important that we understand the distinct differences between a good watchdog and a nuisance barker. Allowing your dog to bark at anything it likes is not the correct way to teach it to be a “good watch dog”.

#### **NUISANCE BARKING**

A dog that barks at birds, noises, neighbours, passing pedestrians or other dogs is not actually good watchdog. A dog like this is similar to a car alarm that keeps going off for no reason. People will eventually take no notice when it goes off for a legitimate reason and it will be also be annoying to your neighbourhood.

#### **A GOOD WATCH DOG**

A good watchdog is a dog that only barks when someone attempts to enter your property or there is imminent danger (house fire, snake in the yard etc). Good barking habits can be trained into your dog easily, providing you are clear about exactly what you want your dog to bark at. By doing this, it will teach you to respond to your dog’s bark because it will be a warning sign and not any everyday noise.

#### **BARKING PREVENTION AT THE PUPPY STAGE**

A young pup that barks at people or noises is a good indication that you have a budding nuisance barker developing. This is a sign of a nervous pup that worries about everything. A well-adjusted pup will not usually start barking until somewhere between 8 to 12 months of age.

If you have a pup that is starting to bark at everything that moves, discipline it by growling “**BAD**” at the precise moment it starts. Praise it as soon as it responds. Clapping your hands or throwing a water bomb near the pup and at the same time growling your reprimand word should help cease any premature barking. A puppy that persists even after your reprimand could need some socialising. Try a Puppy School or seek professional help.

#### **TIPS ON CURING NUISANCE BARKING**

When you are home and your dog is outside barking, firstly go out and reprimand yell “**BAD**”. The reason you use the word we have suggested is so the dog will learn these words are directed at it not at whatever it is barking at. The other reason for yelling is you will need to be louder than the noise the dog is making. If you use the “**BAD**” word every time your dog does something wrong it will soon catch on. Be sure to praise your dog as soon as it stops what it is doing wrong. Monitor the barking and only reprimand for those things that do not constitute a good watch dog, i.e. birds, noises, the neighbours, passing pedestrians and other dogs, etc.

#### **WHEN YOU ARE OUT**

Because dogs are pack animals they can become stressed when the pack leaves

without them (where you or your family leave the house). Some of the reasons can be:

- 🐕 **Separation Anxiety** usually identifiable by barking as soon as you leave. You will need to sneak back and catch the dog barking and reprimand the way mentioned above.
- 🐕 **Apprehensive/Fearful** usually found in the nervous, confidence-lacking dog that barks out of the fear of the unknown. Also the fact that it is the only one home and it is not reprimanded for this barking when the owner is out. Your dog needs to be socialised and you may need to seek professional help to deal with any serious fears your dog may have.
- 🐕 **Boredom** usually identifiable in the fact that your dog will bark, dig and chew. To help fill some of your dog's day, buy a large bone and chain it to a tree or post (the bone, not the dog) the idea being that the dog cannot bury it. Also consider a "dog walking service".
- 🐕 **Territorial** this type of dog is normally the dominant confident type and as a rule is not the worst culprit of nuisance barking. However, if you have problems with this type of dog, you will need to seek professional help.

### **GENERAL TIPS OF GOOD DOG MANAGEMENT**

1. Desex your dog at an early age (but it is never too late).
2. Register your dog with your local council as soon as it becomes eligible.
3. Never console a frightened, aggressive or barking dog. Reprimand for undesirable behaviour and only praise for good behaviour.
4. Do not allow your dog to bark at things that are not a threat to your security, such as passing pedestrians, the postman, neighbours, stray dogs, birds etc.
5. Be a responsible dog owner and remember a good watchdog makes for a happy neighbourhood.
6. Seek professional help if your dog is too difficult for you to handle, and if so, don't feel like you have failed. Humans are naturally human trainers and it takes special skills to be able to train dogs successfully.
7. Always walk your dog on a lead and pick up any droppings.
8. Wherever possible confine your dog at night to reduce any annoyance to your neighbours.

### **WHERE TO GO FOR HELP**

If you have tried all of these techniques and are still having problems, you should contact a registered dog-training organisation for help. Dog Training books and videos may also be available through your local library, contact your Council for a list of the outlets where available.



**Training Information Proudly Supplied by  
Bark Busters Home Dog Training  
FREE CALL 1800 067 710**

# Want a Well Behaved Dog?

**We Make It Easy!**



Who ya gonna call!  
**BARK BUSTERS**  
HOME DOG TRAINING

**Written Lifetime Guarantee**

**1800 067 710**  
[www.barkbusters.com.au](http://www.barkbusters.com.au)

## Written Lifetime Guarantee

Bark Busters is the only worldwide dog training company to offer a written lifetime guarantee, which means that Bark Busters will return to a home free of charge to provide further training if problems recur at any point in a dog's life - or even if new problems develop. If a customer moves, the guarantee is valid in the new location. If for any reason the dog is relocated to a new home, the guarantee is transferred to the new owner for a nominal charge. This guarantee provides owners with the peace of mind that their dog will always have the benefit of a professional trainer for the rest of the dog's life.



## About Bark Busters

Bark Busters was founded in Australia in 1989 by Sylvia and Danny Wilson, whose vision was to save as many dogs as possible from euthanasia or surrender because of behavioural problems.

With the experience of training over 500,000 dogs worldwide, Bark Busters therapists offer clients a variety of services right in their homes to correct any behaviour or obedience issues in dogs of all ages and breeds, including puppies.



## World's Largest, Most Trusted

### The Bark Busters Approach

The Bark Busters training system involves learning how to communicate with a dog in a language it understands, using voice tones and body language for effective leadership. Training takes place in your home, one on one, where your dog is relaxed and learns faster than in a group setting - all without the need for harsh methods or treats.

### Puppy Training

Bark Busters' methods work especially well with puppies. Puppies instinctively respond to voice tones and body language; therefore, their learning curve is accelerated by using Bark Busters' natural training techniques.

Because a puppy's learning capability increases as it ages during the first 4-6 months, the Bark Busters therapist schedules lessons to be aligned with this natural learning curve. Of course - dogs can be trained at any age!



**Bark Busters' Training Takes Place in Your Home. No Travel, No Distractions, Fast Results.**

*This form of training is so simple, it's brilliant! I now have a new dog - a happy one - and most of all, a happier dog owner. I can't praise this training highly enough... it's amazing and great value for money. The best outcome too is the number of comments I'm getting from people on how well behaved and different my dog is. That says it all.*

Gayle, Adelaide SA

*As a professional, I am confident to refer my clients to Bark Busters because I know I can rely on them.*

Dr Karl Northall, Bowral Veterinary Hospital NSW

**We train all breeds, any age, any problem - including puppies**

**Bark Busters Home Training is ideal for:**

- 🐾 Nuisance barking
- 🐾 Aggressive behaviour
- 🐾 Pulling on the lead
- 🐾 Jumping up
- 🐾 Separation anxiety
- 🐾 Toileting in the house
- 🐾 Not coming when called
- 🐾 Scratching at doors
- 🐾 Over exuberance
- 🐾 Not responding to commands
- 🐾 Basic obedience
- 🐾 Chewing and destruction
- 🐾 Digging in the yard
- 🐾 Puppy training
- 🐾 And more ...



*Unbelievable! Our family couldn't (or wouldn't) believe our two naughty dogs could change so drastically in such a short time - until they actually saw them behaving so well with their own eyes! We are so happy with our 'new' dogs, making life so much easier for all of us. We recommend Bark Busters to anyone... it's easy when you know how!*

Frank & Barbara, Brisbane QLD

Australia

**1800 067 710**

[www.barkbusters.com.au](http://www.barkbusters.com.au)

New Zealand

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