

# Dogs Barking Information leaflet

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

July 2022

## WHEN IS A DOG BARKING TOO MUCH?

It's normal and natural for dogs to bark. But when barking happens a lot, goes on for a long time, or at anti-social times, it can be annoying and upsetting for the neighbours.

A dog may bark for a number of reasons; it is bored, anxious, wants attention, doesn't want to be alone or can see/hear people or other animals.

A common cause of dog barking is being left alone, for example whilst the owner is at work. In these cases, often the dog's owner is unaware of the problem.

## TALKING IT OVER

If a dog's barking is causing you a problem, your approach will depend on whether you feel you could directly approach your neighbour.

If you choose to speak directly to your neighbour, the best way to go about it would be to go round and see them and say that you're just checking that everything is OK. Saying "I just popped round because your dog's been barking for the last 2 hours and I thought there might be something wrong?" avoids direct confrontation.

If you feel that this approach won't work, you could tell your neighbour that you're having difficulty getting to sleep as a direct result of the dog barking. This will emphasise that the barking is causing you a problem.

If you feel you are unable to approach your neighbour yourself, then you can contact the Council, who will advise the dog owner that a complaint has been made, whilst keeping your identity anonymous.

If you have received a complaint about the noise your dog makes, stay calm, and try to see it from their point of view: perhaps they're working shifts, or have got a baby or small children. Bear in mind that they might be worried about whether the dog is OK and remember, you might not know how serious the problem is if your dog is barking more when you're not at home.

Speak to your neighbours and ask them if they have noticed your dog barking excessively, and if so, when. If you are out a lot, ask them to note down the times when the barking happens. If you are in, make a note yourself.

## IDEAS TO STOP A BARKING DOG

- Find out what is making him bark and if you can, prevent him from seeing, hearing or smelling it.
- Keep him away from windows or close the curtains, so he can't see people or other animals.
- Put the radio or television on at a low level to drown out offending noises, and reassure him.
- If your dog barks at things outside your yard or garden, don't let them go outside on their own.
- Try to keep your dog calm. If he barks when he excited, don't play with him at anti-social times like very late at night.
- You could find a dog walker, or ask a trusted person to care for your dog if you plan to be away for longer than four hours.
- Take him out for exercise before you leave for work, or try some mentally stimulating games and training. A tired dog is a quiet dog!
- Problem solving to find food is a very natural thing for dogs to do, so we can use this in many ways to encourage them to use their brains and keep them happy.
- Buy an interactive toy such as a Kong. These toys that can be filled with food and treats so that he has to work to get them out. Licking is a calming action for a dog.
- Try a clear plastic soft drink bottle; wash it out thoroughly and cut a few holes in the sides. Half fill the bottle with small treats or dry food and encourage your dog to roll it around the floor, so that the treats fall out. Remember not to put the cap back on as it could come off and he could swallow or choke on it.
- Scatter dry food and treats around your house. Hide food under cushions or behind easily accessible furniture. This encourages scavenging behaviour.
- Use a fairly large cardboard box (depending on your dog's size) and fill it with treats and layers of scrunched up newspaper and blankets. He'll have a lot of fun digging and pulling out the stuffing to get to the treats.
- Provide your dog with chew toys and treats. Try him with synthetic bones, dental chews, pigs' ears, large raw meaty bones or rawhide chews, but always check that these are suitable for your dog, and are safe to be left unsupervised.
- Rotate the chews and toys that you give him every day, so that he doesn't get bored with them.
- If your dog suffers from separation anxiety or excessive barking, you may need to seek the help of a qualified dog behaviourist or trainer.
- Dogs Trust has further advice on stopping dog barking on their website [www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/training/stop-your-dog-barking](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/training/stop-your-dog-barking)

## **MAKING A DOG BARKING COMPLAINT TO THE COUNCIL**

You can report a dog barking problem to the council, by the methods below.

In order to investigate noise complaints, you may be asked to fill in some diary sheets, recording the times and duration of the noise. Therefore we cannot investigate complaints reported anonymously. Details of your names and address will be kept confidential; we do not give out personal information.

### **Online:**

An online report form can be found on the website:  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk/dogs/barking-dog-complaint](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/dogs/barking-dog-complaint)

### **By post:**

Dog Warden  
East Cambridgeshire District Council  
The Grange  
Nutholt Lane  
Ely, Cambs  
CB7 4EE

### **By telephone:**

01353 665555

### **By email:**

[customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk)

