Barking Dogs

Tips for owners of barking dogs

Barking is natural dog behaviour but it can become a problem if a dog barks excessively. Depending on why your dog is barking, you may need to:

- 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 visitors or passers-by, block its view of movement outside the property with solid fencing, shade cloth or hedging (repair any gaps). Alternatively, if the source of provocation is a human (e.g., children teasing the dog), try to discuss the problem with them.
- Make sure your dog is in good health, by taking it to the vet for a check up.
- If your dog barks at night consider letting him sleep indoors.

Nuisance barking can be managed with training and consistency and with the help of a dog trainer. If your dog is barking excessively please contact the City of Burnside or alternatively the websites below provide information on trainers and obedience clubs.