



Barking Dogs

Why do dogs bark?

Dogs bark for many reasons, and even though they appear to be ‘barking for no reason’ they are in fact trying to communicate something to their owner or anyone who is willing to pay attention.

The following are some of the main reasons why dogs bark:

- lack of exercise
- inadequate yard space
- boredom
- not enough human companionship
- inadequate shelter from weather conditions
- hunger or thirst
- a medical condition
- provocation
- disturbances
- changes to family structure
- movement outside the dog’s property

Of course dogs also bark to alert their owners of trouble, such as an intruder entering the property or perhaps a fire. Remember, a dog’s idea of an ‘intruder’ may differ to that of the owner. It could include cats, possums, other dogs, or even birds flying across the property.

Whilst it is acceptable for a dog to bark to warn its owner of an intruder, it is the owner’s responsibility to train the dog not to bark at ‘normal’ occurrences such as possums, cats or birds.

Barking persistently at normal movements or noises from adjoining properties should be considered to be unacceptable behaviour.