

If you leave your dog outside all day:

- Try not to put the kennel near a neighbour's fence where your dog may be tempted to bark.
- Ensure the garden is completely secure to prevent your dog from straying locally and causing problems for neighbours.
- Don't punish your dog. It might be mistaken for attention or lead to anxiety problems.
- Don't blame the dog and think that you will solve the problem by replacing them with another. All dogs bark and unless you change your approach at the same time the problem will still be there.
- Considering a second dog for company may help, but a second dog could result in more, not fewer problems.

**It will reassure your neighbours if you tell them the steps you are taking to resolve the problem.**

## Need more help?

If you need further advice or information, speak to a vet, animal behaviourist or dog trainer.

Alternatively you can contact Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Regulatory Services:

**[doete@southend.gov.uk](mailto:doete@southend.gov.uk)**

**01702 215005**

**[www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk)**

**Regulatory Services  
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Avenue  
Southend-on-Sea  
SS2 6ER**

# Dog Barking



## Constant barking can be avoided

Barking comes naturally to dogs, but the constant barking or whining of a dog can be very annoying for your neighbours. Often this problem occurs when you are out of the house and you do not realise that your dog is causing a disturbance.

Talk to your neighbours so that they can help you identify the exact nature of the problem. This may not be obvious especially if you are out for long periods. Stay calm, and try to see it from their point of view.

In law, a barking dog can be a noise nuisance. As the owner, you could be taken to court if you do nothing to stop the nuisance. This information note will suggest some simple things you can try.

## Why dogs bark

Dogs are not by nature solitary animals, they need the security of a family group. Pet dogs regard their owners as a substitute family and can soon become distressed when left alone for lengths of time.

Some of the reasons why a dog may bark:

- Loneliness
- Boredom or frustration
- Attention seeking
- Defending his territory
- Medical problems

## Training

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at everything that moves. A well trained dog should be able to distinguish between visitors allowed into the house and intruders. Good training is essential at an early age. This, combined with affection and companionship, should mean that your dog will not develop these bad habits. Always start as you mean to go on.

## Some simple things to try

Some dogs just don't want you to leave them. Get your dog used to the idea with some of the following suggestions:

- Leave at different times during the day. That way your dog may not be so concerned each time you leave. Don't make a fuss of your dog when you leave.
- Wear different clothes for walking your dog.
- Leave the lead where your dog can see it, so if you leave without taking the lead, your dog will know you are going without them.
- Try putting the dog on their own in another room for a few minutes, then gradually build up the time you leave your dog alone. Do not return until your dog is quiet for a period. When you return praise your dog.
- Some dogs bark because they are guarding their territory or they want to join in with what is going on outside. If this is the problem, try leaving your dog where they cannot see outside.

- Try to keep your dog calm. If they bark with excitement, don't play with them at anti-social times like very late at night.
- Some dogs will settle only if they can hear a human voice. Leaving the radio or television on at a low volume may help.
- Be consistent. Every time your dog is quiet when usually they would have barked, give praise and/or a treat. When your dog barks, tell it firmly to be quiet.
- Try not to leave your dog for long periods, but if you have to, see if there is someone who can look in during that time.

If you do have to leave your dog for long periods:

- Feed and exercise your dog before you go out and make sure fresh water is available. A tired dog barks less.
- Make sure their bed or basket is comfortable and not in a draught or direct sunlight.
- Leave your dog a large marrow bone to chew and some favourite toys to play with.
- Make sure that the room is not hot or too cold and that there is adequate ventilation.
- If you are not returning until after dark, leave a light on or use a night light that comes on automatically when it gets dark.