



Excessive barking greatly reduces people's quality of life and increases neighbourhood tensions. Barking dogs are the most common animal notification Isaac Regional Council receives.

### Why do dogs bark?

- Lack of exercise
- Inadequate yard space
- Boredom or lack of stimulation, both mental and physical
- Not enough human companionship
- Inadequate shelter from weather conditions
- Hunger or thirst
- Medical condition such as an illness or discomfort
- Provocation
- Disturbances
- Changes to family structure/separation anxiety that can lead to destructiveness, howling or escaping
- Movement outside the dog's property

### Some simple tips to reduce barking

- Make sure you do not reward your dog for excessive barking. An idea is not to let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give your dog attention when it is quiet.
- If your dog is barking at people or noises outside your fence, move it to another part of the yard, or put up a physical barrier to keep it away from that area.

- If your dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep it inside or in an enclosed area during these times.
- If your dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in your dog's way as a distraction.
- Ensure your dog has adequate exercise and obedience training, plus food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If the dog is barking at gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in. If your dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking its view.
- Try teaching your dog to stop barking on command. When your dog is barking give a firm command such as "cease" and call the dog to you. Praise your dog when it stops barking.
- If barking persists, seek advice from your veterinary clinic.

### What does the law say?

- A dog is regarded as a nuisance if it creates a noise (by barking or otherwise) which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.
- A dog owner **must not allow** the dog to create a nuisance.
- If Council cannot resolve a barking dog problem it will take the matter to court and obtain a court order requiring the owner to resolve the problem.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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