

Why Do Dogs Bark Excessively?

A dog's bark is its way of communicating with the outside world. While there are many reasons for dogs to bark, excessive or prolonged barking is annoying and disturbing to neighbors.



Excessive barking may be caused by any of the following:

- A dog's feeling of separation or loneliness from the owner or family.
- Boredom and frustration. Some dogs whine, howl or bark because they are bored or frustrated from having little to do. More attention to the animal and exercise like walking will help relieve the dog's feeling of boredom and will reinforce good behavior while giving the dog a sense of belonging to the family.
- Off-property noises may cause a dog to bark as a way of alerting the owner of a possible problem. Dogs sense many things they cannot easily respond to. That frustration, repeated over and over, day after day, month after month, can cause dogs to bark in response. Furthermore, barking may get a dog the attention it craves while its silence only means it remains ignored.

What Can I Do to Stop My Dog from Barking?

Determining the reason your dog barks is the first step in figuring out how to make him or her stop.

If possible keep your pet inside the house. Remember, dogs often bark in response to some particular stimulus. The less an animal is exposed to such things as people walking by your yard, other dogs barking, cars or motorcycles driving down your street, or sirens wailing, the less likelihood there is that your dog will bark.

If your dog lives inside your house, be sure to spend time playing with him or her. Provide constructive exercise like walking. This will give the dog a sense of security and a feeling of belonging to the family.

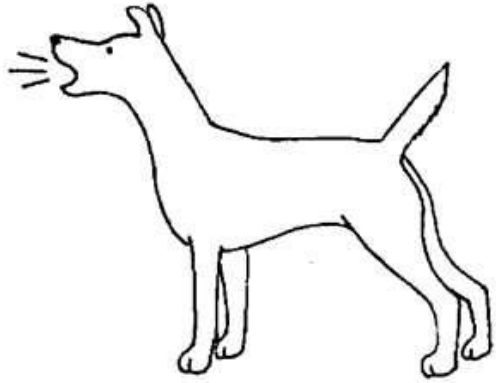
- Behavior correction. When your dog barks excessively, a sharp verbal "No!" command often is enough to quiet down the animal. Never praise a dog for unwarranted barking. That only reinforces the idea that barking is acceptable behavior.
- Act promptly. Correct needless barking immediately, not 10 minutes after the dog has stopped barking. Your dog will not understand your correction if it comes too late after he or she has stopped barking.
- Don't expect to be able to command someone else's dog from barking. In fact, when you yell at a barking dog, in the dog's mind, your reprimand is a reward because it gets him or her the attention he or she was seeking.

What Else Can I Do?

If your dog is an outside dog, make sure he or she has a sturdy dog house. This not only protects your pet from the weather, but also helps subdue outside noise that may cause your dog to bark needlessly. Remember, however, a dog's exposure to outside stimuli is what makes him bark. The more you can control the kinds of sights and sounds your dog experiences, the more chance you have at preventing excessive barking.



Please remember that no one likes to listen to a dog's excessive barking. With a little time and patience and your understanding of why dogs bark, your dog's needless barking can be stopped or at least very much reduced.



Hampton City Code Sec. 22-1

“No person shall be charged with a violation of the provisions of section 22-3.1 or 22-9

(1) a complainant appears before a magistrate and requests a summons to be issued

(2) a violation is committed in the presence of a police officer or

(3) in the case of a violation of 22-9(3) the violation is committed in the presence of a police officer or animal control officer for the city.”

Hampton City Code Sec. 22-9.

Prohibited noises enumerated.

It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or permit to be caused any of the following prohibited sounds or noises:

(3) Noisy animals. Allowing any animal to cause any sound or noise such that it is plainly audible;

(i) inside the confines of the dwelling unit, house or apartment of another person at least once a minute for 10 consecutive minutes or

(ii) at 100 or more feet from the animal at least once a minute for 10 consecutive minutes or after more than one complaint has been received after the owner or other responsible person has been advised of the complaints and that such noise is unlawful.

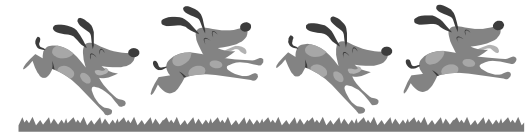
For additional information regarding Hampton City Ordinances, please visit the following website:

www.municode.com

To report an animal complaint or to speak to an officer call

(757) 727-6111

General information dial 3-1-1 or (757) 727-8311



Stop Excessive Dog Barking

