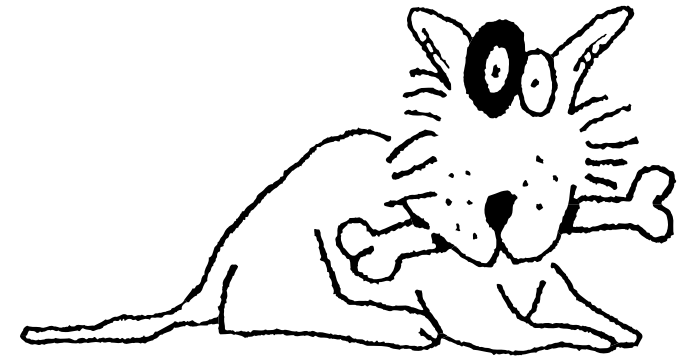


How to Train Your Dog To Stop Barking Unnecessarily...

- **IF HE IS STILL A PUPPY:** Puppyhood is the best time to attack the barking problem. Adult dogs are much tougher to correct. Let your puppy sound his warning signals for a few seconds, then reassure him with calming words, "IT'S ALL RIGHT, SPOT". He'll feel that he's done his job and you've done yours by responding.
- **IF HE CONTINUES TO BARK:** After sounding his alarm and being calmed down, if he continues to bark, speak directly to him with a commanding, "QUIET, NO BARK!" If he still doesn't get the idea, demonstrate by closing his mouth (being gentle and careful not to cut off his breathing) for a moment. Remember that you are teaching not punishing. Don't yell at him. Release him when he is calm again. Soothe him and tell him, "Good Dog."
- **IF HE BARKS AT ANY LITTLE NOISE:** These dogs need special attention. The problem can be helped by settling up a situation where you know he will bark. For example, the arrival of the mail carrier, cars going by, another dog, etc. When he begins to bark tell him firmly, "QUIET, NO BARK!" and be ready to enforce the command with a correction. Until he understands the command, smack a rolled newspaper or magazine **ON YOUR HAND**, not the dog, to re-enforce the command.
- **IF HE IS A BACKYARD DOG:** Daytime and nighttime barking and howling is a common problem. Make sure that your dog has a warm dry place to sleep and something to occupy his time, like a ball or chew toy. If possible, bring the dog into the house or garage to sleep at night. If you must keep the dog outside, to get your message across to your dog, fill a few soda cans with pebbles and toss the can in his direction. The noise of the pebbles and the can will distract him long enough to hear your firm command, "QUIET, NO BARK!"
- **IF HE BARKS WHEN NOBODY IS HOME:** Keep him in better spirits by leaving him in a quiet part of the house with a radio playing softly when you go out. It may fool him into thinking you are home. Try giving your dog an "only when I'm gone chew toy" that has your scent on it when you leave. Tell him to be a good dog and close the door. Wait a few minutes. If he begins to bark or howl, burst into the room and scold him, "NO! QUIET! NO BARK!" then go away again and wait outside. If he starts to bark or cry again, repeat your commands with more force. If the dog has not barked, return and gently praise him. You are trying to convince him that you will always be there to scold him if he barks. Increase the amount of time you leave the dog alone until he is comfortable when you leave for long periods of time.
- **IF HE IS TIED UP:** Make your dog as comfortable as possible. Make sure he has shelter, fresh water, and food nearby. Make sure he can't tangle himself in the line in which he is tied. Make sure he has enough room and won't have to step in his food, water or feces. When you are home, he should be given lots of attention, plenty of exercise and be played with at least an hour a day. Remember a happy, healthy, well-trained dog doesn't bark or howl unnecessarily.
- **BREAKING THE BARKING HABIT:** It is a time-consuming and often frustrating task; but with patience and understanding you should be able to complete training in 2 – 3 weeks. Comfort yourself with the knowledge that you are making your dog a better pet and making yourself a better neighbor and citizen.
- **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS:** Products are available that can assist with the chronic barker. There are a variety of "bark collars" that use noise, citrus spray, or mild shock to train the dog not to bark. They are available through local pet stores. Check with your Veterinarian on what collar is most appropriate for your pet. Obedience training is also useful in correcting various behavior problems. Animal Care and Control has a list of training clubs and professional trainers in the Anchorage area.

What You Should Know About Barking Dogs...



Anchorage Animal Care and Control

4711 Bragaw Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

(907) 343-8118

www.muni.org



Barking Dogs? Neighborhood Problems!

Few things in life are as annoying as having to listen to the constant bark, howl, whine or cry of another person's dog. The noise from a barking dog can disrupt sleep, lower the quality of your leisure hours, disturb your work, and make being at home not enjoyable. The first reaction of many people faced with a barking dog problem is to call the authorities. Believe it or not, this might be the last route taken to resolve the problem. Here are a few facts about the owners of barking dogs that may help you deal with what is really a neighborhood problem:

- The owner of a barking dog often does not know the dog is barking. Owners may leave for work with a quiet dog in the back yard and return home to a quiet dog. The dog may only be barking because its owner is gone.
- The dog barking may be a comfort to the owner. Barking may tell the owner the dog is well and the property is protected. The owner may assume it gives neighbors the same feeling.
- The owner may be desensitized to the barking. People who are around barking dogs all of the time learn to tune out the noise.
- The owner may assume that if it is daylight, everyone must be awake and it is okay to make noise. Owners may not think about people who sleep during the daytime, or that peace and quiet may be desired during normal working hours.
- The owners may assume that because they haven't had any complaint about the noise the dog is making, that the barking doesn't bother anyone.

Owners of barking dogs falling into these categories are best dealt with as neighbors. Letting the owner know, on a personal level, that the dog's noise is disrupting your life can be very effective. People who do not first attempt to solve the problem as neighbors often begin long-term neighborhood feuds. Tell the person very politely, in person, in writing or by phone exactly what the nature of the annoyance is. Communicate things such as "I can't sleep;" "I can't hear my television;" "I work nights and sleep days;" or "I can't study" because of the noise your dog is making. Neighborhood communication is a very important part of neighborhood security; even that act of telling someone his or her dog is bothering you can further communication.

It is also important to be sure that you are not contributing to the annoying barking. Many cat owners, who allow their cats to roam, unwittingly provide the reason for the dog's barking. Cats love to tease dogs and dogs love to bark at cats. If you own a cat, keep it on your property, preferably indoors, where it will be safe. The Municipality of Anchorage requires cats to be controlled or confined and to have a current rabies vaccination.

Sometimes children in the neighborhood also add to the problem by teasing dogs. This is especially worrisome for Animal Care and Control because such teasing can end in dog bites. Make sure your children understand the hazards of teasing dogs and making them bark.

If none of these methods work, then you should call the Anchorage Animal Care and Control Center. Do not try to silence the animal yourself, or wait until you can no longer handle the barking. Tackle the problem early on. Animals are family and disciplining someone else's family member can result in violence.

Animal Care and Control will ask that you provide a written statement of the date, times of day, and duration of the barking. They will ask you for the address and name of the dog owner. A Notice of Violation may be issued based on written statements signed by two people from different households or one signed statement with additional date and time specific evidence. There is a fine connected with the Notice of Violation. Animal owners who have three or more Notices of Violation issued in a one year period may be required to forfeit the animal to the Municipality.

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Shelter Hours:

Monday - Friday
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed:

Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day
Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day