

Excessive barking



Dogs communicate through barking and body language with certain breeds known to be more vocal than others.

There are many reasons a dog may bark including excitement, warning, guarding, fear, frustration, anxiety, learned behaviours and behavioural disorders. For example, Border Collies often display a high-pitched bark when excited and Beagles are known to howl.

Working breeds and high-energy breeds can be more prone to bark when their mental stimulation needs are not met, so be sure to explore options when considering the best dog for your family.

How to help your dog at home

- **Provide a sand pit** (or shell pool filled with water or sand) with a variety of toys for your dog to play with.



- **Hire a dog walker** to provide mental and physical stimulation while meeting the socialisation needs of your dog.
- **Speak with your immediate neighbour** about rewarding your dog for calm behaviour when you are away.



- **Use shade cloth** or a tarp to block the view where your dog is prone to bark.
- **Crate train your dog** to provide a 'safe space' for dogs with anxiety-based barking.



- Install an ultrasonic sound emitting device which lets out a high frequency ultrasonic noise when your dog barks (this sound is off-putting to dogs).
- Use natural behavioural supplements such as calming treats, tablets and pheromone diffusers to help calm your dog.



- Try a citronella barking collar but please note these can be less effective than other types of barking collars due to the smell staying on the dog's fur after the correction has been made.
- Try a static barking collar to discourage barking. Please do your research and follow the instructions for the device to ensure they are safe for your pet. Local pet stores sell the two most recommended brands of these collars.

For additional advice speak with a dog trainer or veterinarian to help shape good behaviours from your dog.

