

But nothing I do works

You should also go to your vet. Sometimes a dog will bark because he is ill - anxiety is often the cause of barking. You can ask your vet to refer your dog to an animal behaviourist who is an expert and can suggest ways to improve your dogs behaviour.

And remember...

Be a responsible dog owner at all time. Make sure your dog is well cared for and well trained. In particular, train your dog not to foul in public places - if he or she does, "scoop the poop". And do make sure your dog has a collar and identification tag - it's the law when your dog is in public places.

This information can be made available in large print, braille, audio/CD or in another language upon request.

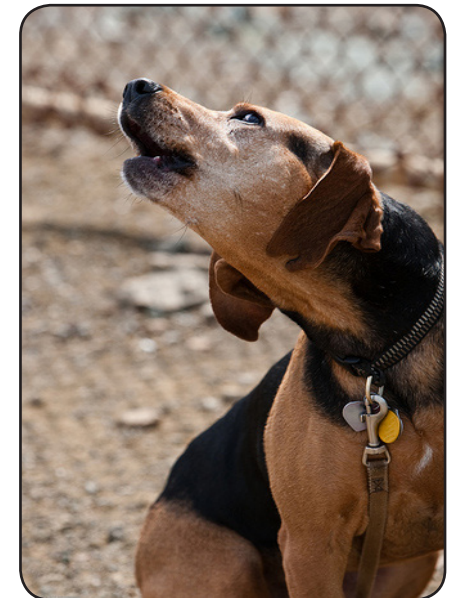
01424 787000
customerservices@rother.gov.uk

Rother and Wealden
Environmental Health Service
Rother District Council
Town Hall
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JX

F 01424 787550
Fax: 01424 787547
email: envhealth@rother.gov.uk
website: www.rother.gov.uk

Constant Barking

Helpful tips to avoid it



Barking comes naturally to dogs, but the constant barking or whining of a dog can be disturbing or annoying for the neighbours. Often the problem occurs when the dog's owner is out of the house and so the owner doesn't know until someone complains.

In law, a barking dog can be a noise nuisance. The owner can be taken to court if he or she does nothing to stop the nuisance. This leaflet suggests some simple things you, as a dog owner can try to improve the situation.

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.

There are many reasons why your dog may bark:

- loneliness
- boredom or frustration
- attention seeking
- defending territory
- medical problems

The importance of training

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at just anything that moves. A well-trained dog should be able to tell between people allowed into the house and people who are intruders.

Good training combined with affection and companionship should mean that your dog will not develop these bad habits. Start young and start as you mean to go on.

Some simple things to try

Some dogs just don't want you to go out. Get your dog used to the idea that you are away for different times of the day. And don't make a fuss of your dog when you leave him/her. That way your dog might not be so concerned each time you leave.

Try putting your dog on his/her own in another room - at first for a few minutes, then gradually build up the time you leave your dog alone. Do not return to your dog until he/she is quiet for a period. When you return, praise him/her.

Some dogs will bark because they want to join in what's going on outside. If this is the problem, try leaving your dog so that he/she cannot see outside.

Some dogs will settle only if they can hear a human voice. Leaving a radio on at low volume might help. But make sure the radio is not too loud. You don't want to have complaints about that!

Try not to leave your dog for long periods. If you have to, see if there is someone who can look in during that time. Maybe that person could take your dog for a walk or let him or her out into the garden, if you have one.

If you have to leave your dog for long periods:

- feed and exercise your dog before you go out and leave him or her with some fresh water
- make sure your dog's bed or basket is comfortable and leave his or her favourite toys
- check that the room is not hot or too cold and that there is adequate ventilation
- and if you aren't coming back until after dark, leave a light on.

Some other points

If you do keep your dog outside, think carefully about where you put the kennel and where the dog can run. Try not to put it near your neighbour's fence or where your dog would be tempted to bark.

Don't blame the dog and think that you will solve the problem by replacing him with another. All dogs bark, unless you change your lifestyle at the same time, the problem will still be there.

Considering a second dog for company may help. But think about this carefully. Do you have the space and can you afford it, a second dog could result in more not less problems.

Ensure the garden is completely secure, to prevent your dog from straying locally and causing problems to neighbours.