

# NUISANCE BARKING

## YOUR NEAREST COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE IS AT:

Level 1 & 5,  
Parramatta Justice Precinct,  
160 Marsden Street,  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
Phone: 1800 990 777  
[www.cjc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cjc.nsw.gov.au)



Dogs bark - it's a fact of life. A dog's bark is its way of communicating, just as we talk as our way of communicating. Unfortunately, barking can be annoying for your surrounding neighbours and lead to a dispute. It can cause stress, lack of sleep, anxiety, high blood pressure and bad mental health if the problem isn't fixed.

## WHY DO DOGS BARK?

There can be many reasons why a dog barks, just as there are many ways to try and fix it.

### Some of the reasons dogs bark can be:

- territorial
- playfulness
- provoked intentionally or unintentionally by humans, wildlife or other domesticated pets
- hungry or thirsty
- boredom
- being neglected
- sickness or poor diet
- attention seeking or communication

- lack of space or exercise
- separation anxiety.

If you feel as though a neighbour's dog is barking as a result of neglect or abuse, you should contact the RSPCA or an animal welfare organisation.

## HELP ELIMINATE THE BARKING DOG HABIT

- Dogs should be engaged in training or puppy school at a young age to prevent them from learning the nuisance barking habit. Dog training isn't just useful for your dog, it's also useful for you to understand how to discipline your pet properly.
- Exercise and attention should be your first step in trying to stop the barking. The amount and intensity of the exercise will depend on the breed and size of the dog. For example, a large border collie would need a lot more exercise than a small Maltese.
- Consult a professional such as a vet to eliminate out any medical conditions that could be the cause as to why your dog is barking excessively.
- Give your pet a kennel of some sort to give them

## THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

129 Showground Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154  
PO Box 75, Castle Hill NSW 1765

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shelter and warmth. you may also like to keep your pet inside at night.

- A large, raw bone will draw their attention for hours on end. Chew toys may also have the same effect.
- Move your pet to the backyard or away from the direct line of vision from people walking past. Most dogs are territorial and bark when people walk past to protect their home.
- You must NEVER reward or induce barking. Ignore your dog until they stop, otherwise they will recognise that barking equals attention. Giving comments like "What is it?" or "Go get it!" will make the dog think that barking is a game. Reward your dog when it is quiet, and never when it barks.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY NEIGHBOUR'S DOG IS BARKING?

If your neighbour's dog is barking and causing a nuisance, your first step should be to approach them - they may not realise the barking is causing a nuisance. Maybe leave them something in writing advising them of the problem if you think they are unapproachable or not home often.

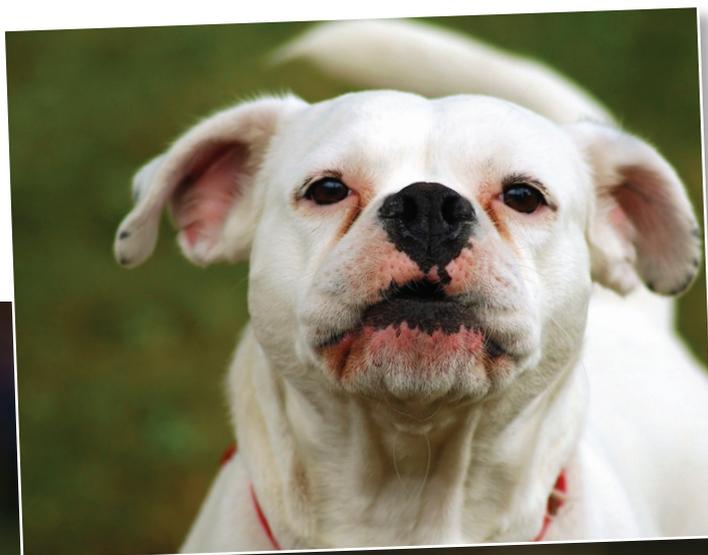
Alternatively, you could use the services of a Community Justice Centre. This government-funded centre provides free mediation sessions for residents having problems with issues such as barking dogs, fences etc.

## LODGING A FORMAL COMPLAINT

If all else fails, you can lodge a formal complaint with Council. Once lodged, Council will notify the owner of your complaint and will provide them with an educational pack on barking dogs and the law.

As the complainant, you will need to fill in a barking dog survey for approximately two weeks, documenting the hours in which the dog barks. Council cannot take any further action until these surveys are completed in full. Council will not be able to take anonymous complaints - if you do not provide your details, we cannot take any action.

To lodge a complaint, visit Council's website and fill in a compliance and enforcement e-request providing as much detail as possible (including hours in which the dog barks, the breed of dog, what action has been taken etc) along with your details.



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