



Animal Management

Barking Dogs

Noisy dogs are governed by the *Dog Control Act 2000* and its authorised officers.

The law accepts that dogs do bark, however the law also recognises that persistent or continual barking can be a nuisance. Under the Act a dog owner or the occupier of any premises must not allow any dog to cause a nuisance on those premises or in a public place. If they do so they are liable to a fine of up to \$500.00.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A NUISANCE?

The *Dog Control Act 2000* states that a dog shall be taken to be a nuisance if

- It behaves in a manner which is injurious or dangerous to the health of
- any person; or
- It creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such an extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any premises or public place.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Before the problem gets out of hand try and find out why the dog is barking excessively. Talk to the dog's owner and tell them why you think the dog is barking. In many instances the owner does not realise that the dog could be creating a nuisance. Give the owner a copy of Council's information sheet "Is your dog a noisy dog". This fact sheet contains useful information and hints on reducing excessive barking. These brochures are available from the Council Chambers, or available via download from Council's web site.

If this fails then you may consider lodging a complaint. In the first instance Council will contact the dog's owner and let them know that a complaint has been received. We will also provide the owner with information on why dogs bark excessively and suggest ways in which this can possibly be resolved. Hopefully any barking problems can be resolved at this time.

If however the excessive barking problem does not abate there is nothing further Council can do unless you are prepared to lodge a Formal Notice of Complaint.

Council must also be satisfied that the dog(s) is in fact creating a nuisance by barking. If Council is satisfied we may serve the occupier of the property where the dog(s) are kept with a notice requiring them to abate the nuisance, if they do not stop the dog from creating a nuisance, Council may prosecute them. The complainant will be required to give evidence in any legal proceedings.

HOW TO LODGE A COMPLAINT:

- We will need the correct address of where the dog is kept.
- We will also need a detailed list of dates, times and possible causes for the dog's barking.

We need this information so that we may carry out a fair and impartial investigation. This information may also help the animal's owner understand and resolve any problems that may be contributing to excessive barking.

We will not respond to anonymous complaints, as we cannot verify that the complaint has not been lodged for frivolous or vexatious reasons. Also Council cannot provide feedback to anonymous complaints. This makes it very difficult for dog owners and Council Officers to know if their efforts have been effective or not.

Need More Information or Assistance?

Please contact us.

Development & Environmental Services

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