

Dogs in apartment buildings.

Many residents have dogs sharing their life in apartment buildings. On occasion the barking or whining of a dog may cause distress to other residents.

It is important to understand that barking is a normal behaviour for dogs and an important means of communication. They may bark when calling out to other dogs or respond to other barking dogs or when communicating with their human owners.

However, when dogs bark excessively this usually indicates an underlying issue and they can become a nuisance to their owners and the neighbourhood. Before you can successfully manage a barking problem you will need to determine the cause of the barking. Your neighbours may be able to tell you how often your dog barks in your absence.

Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to work out why your dog is barking excessively. Once the underlying cause and 'triggers' for the barking are identified, training techniques can be used to treat the excessive barking in a humane way.

Some of these reasons for excessive barking include:

- **Boredom** - Dogs that are left alone all day with nothing to do often resort to barking out of boredom.
- **Being anxious when left alone** - Dogs are social animals and it is normal for them to become anxious when they are left alone for the first time.
- **Fear** - Dogs can also bark due to fear. They may be afraid of people coming near their territory or fearful of noises, particularly at night which may stimulate anxieties.
- **Territorial behaviour** - It is natural for your dog to want to warn you about potential intruders. Your dog may not be able to distinguish between welcome visitors, people strolling past your home and intruders.
- **Attention-seeking behaviour** - Dogs can bark when trying to call out to their human owner or when bored through being left alone for long periods of time or having nothing to do while its humans are at work/away from the home.
- **Needs not being met** – Dogs can bark if they don't have enough water, shade or space. Always ensure your dog has adequate water, a shady place to retreat to and enough space for the size of your dog. IE: keeping your dog on a small apartment balcony may not be ideal.

In the interests of a harmonious community please report any barking or distressed dogs to your Owners Corporation Manager so they may address it with the resident/dog owner.

For further resources please visit –

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-can-i-do-if-my-dog-is-anxious-when-im-not-at-home/>
<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/my-dog-is-barking-excessively-what-should-i-do/>