



**DOGGIE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**  
**815-566-5893, [www.ddacademy.com](http://www.ddacademy.com)**

## **ELIMINATING BARKING FOR ATTENTION**

Here are a few simple guidelines that you can use to help eliminate barking for attention. Note that this is just for general cases and specific issues may require a more directed treatment plan.

First there are a few DON'T'S:

- NEVER encourage barking in any way, shape, or form if you wish to eliminate it. A command can be taught later if desired once the uncontrolled barking is corrected.
- NEVER use any form of physical punishment to correct barking (i.e.: hitting). If there is a case where the barking can't be stopped, remove the dog from the situation and try treating it again at the next opportunity.

Next, follow the LEADERSHIP EXERCISES (either given by the trainer or available on our website). This will help establish you as the pack leader and help dictate to the dog what behaviors are acceptable and allowed.

If the dog barks in order to gain attention, ignore the dog completely until he stops. How long this takes varies from dog to dog and may pick up in intensity but remain firm and patient. Once the dog stops, praise and reward the dog (either by treat or petting) for being quiet. This also helps to mark the correct behavior.

If the dog is barking at things outside and this is not a desirable behavior, there are a few things that can be done to help eliminate it. If you see something out the window before the dog does, divert his attention onto something else like a chew toy or treat but make sure to have him earn it. If the dog is already barking, get his attention with a chew toy or treat and have him come to you. Give the dog at least TWO obedience commands (so you aren't praising him for the barking) and praise and reward with the chew toy or treat. For extra help, use a particularly favorite treat or toy so the dog looks forward to offering the correct behavior. If the dog starts barking again, repeat the above steps.

Always make sure to reward any time when the dog doesn't bark and shows the correct behavior to help make that behavior permanent. Always be consistent and persistence with the training.

If you have questions or need a more specific treatment plan, please contact us.