

Barking

Suspect **under-stimulation** if:

- Dog barks when left alone in the house or yard
- Dog receives inadequate exercise
- Dog spends long periods of time alone; receives inadequate attention
- Dog has no or few engaging toys or chew items

Suspect **watchdog barking** if:

- Barking occurs both when dog is alone and when family is present
- Barking is primarily triggered by visual or auditory presence of other dogs, people, animals; cars or other movement; other noises

Suspect **demand barking** if:

- Barking occurs primarily while owners are home
- Barking appears to be for the purpose of communicating a desire. For example, for attention or to be let out a door or to have a ball thrown

Suspect **barrier frustration** if:

- Barking occurs primarily when dog is behind a barrier (such as a fence) or on a leash

Suspect **separation anxiety** if two or more of the following are occurring. If so, see Separation Anxiety chart document:

- Excessive vocalization when left alone
- Destruction is localized at points of exit and entry (destruction may or may not cause dog bodily injury)
- Dog engages in self-mutilation
- Soiling (often urine and feces) occurs only when owner is gone, and usually within the first few minutes after owner's departure
- Pre-departure signs of anxiety
- Dog will not eat when owner is not home
- Extended or anxious greeting upon owner's return
- Dog is an escape artist