



Does Your Dog Bark?

Most dogs bark, often for very good reasons. But few things will alienate you from your neighbors more quickly than letting your dog bark excessively. Nuisance barking is usually defined as howling, yelping or barking that is frequent or habitual.

Why do dogs bark?

Dogs bark to communicate.

Dogs, like people, are social animals. Scolding or yelling at your dog when it barks will not make it stop. In fact, your dog may interpret your yelling as participation in the "conversation."

Dogs bark out of boredom.

A dog that is frustrated or bored may bark just for something to do.

Dogs bark to get attention.

Because they are social animals, dogs crave attention. If the only attention a dog receives is punishment for barking, it will bark to receive even that attention.



How can I keep my dog from barking excessively?

Train your dog to bark only when appropriate.

Interrupt inappropriate barking by distracting the dog. Drop a plastic soda bottle full of pennies or rocks somewhere near it. When it stops barking, praise it in a pleasant voice by saying "Good dog, that's enough."



Spend time playing with your dog every day.

Dogs that do not get enough interaction with people are more likely to bark out of boredom or to seek attention.

Give your dog chews and toys.

Keep your dog occupied when you can't be home.

If the dog persists in barking after trying these methods you may need to look into purchasing a Citronella Spray Collar. This is a very effective form of training for the barking dog. It works on large or small, inside or outside dogs. The collar simply sprays a small amount of nontoxic citronella each time the dog barks. The dog smells it and stops barking due to the scent, which he does not care for. The association with barking and the scent is not favorable to him-- he will stop barking. This type of collar should only be used for limited periods of time (i.e.- at night). These collars can be purchased at your local pet shop or by catalog.

You can prevent nuisance barking before it starts by making sure your dog is happy, healthy and well-trained.