

WATER TRAINING METHOD

The Humane Society of the United States has endorsed a method of breaking the dog of a barking habit that is both inexpensive and humane. The solution is based on animal conditioning and the method is almost 100% effective when properly carried out.

Every time a dog barks unnecessarily, it is sprayed with water from a plant mister. The spray is harmless, but it stops the barking. Usually, a day or two of training is enough, as the dog learns to expect a squirt of water if it barks for the wrong reason. Be ready for an immediate response.

Have a mister filled with water ready for use when needed. Say "Quiet" and give one or more squirts at the dog while it's barking. Spraying after it stops barking will confuse the dog. Repeat "Quiet" and give one more squirt of water each time the dog barks needlessly.

With this conditioning procedure, your dog will learn to expect a squirt of water when you say "Quiet," for once the dog has made the association you won't need to squirt the animal again, only when he forgets.

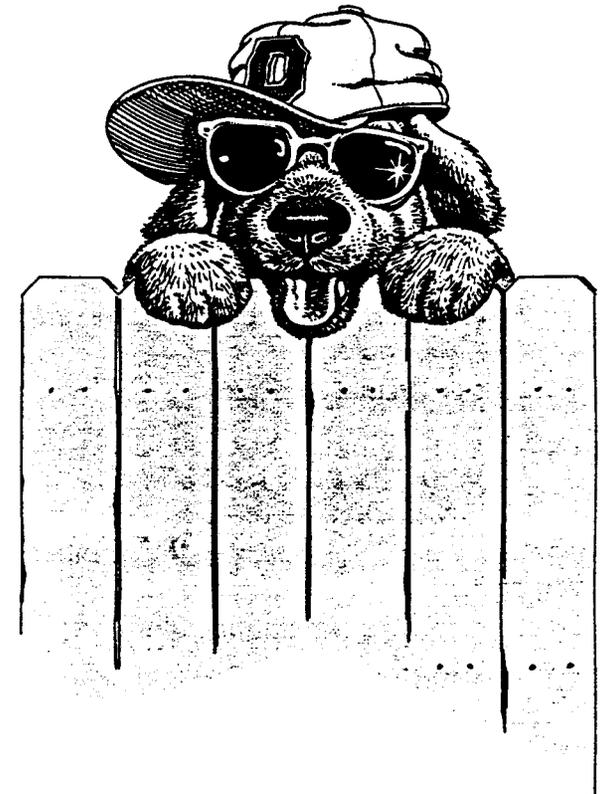
Remember to reassure the dog that you are still friends by petting him later when he is quiet.

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS

As a dog owner, you know the companionship, loyalty, love, and fun that your dog adds to your life, but you must also realize your responsibility toward your neighbors. Dog owners are sometimes insensitive to the barking of their own dog. Put yourself in your neighbor's place to see how your dog's habits affect them. Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as well as to those who have to live with a noisy dog. The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as enjoying a peaceful and quiet neighborhood, is well worth the effort.

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER AND A GOOD NEIGHBOR

NOISY ANIMALS ARE NOBODY'S "BEST FRIEND"





WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT A BARKING DOG?

- Alerts owners of potential problems.
- Warns an owner of a stranger's presence.
- Alerts neighbors of intruders when the owner is not home.
- Indicates an animal in distress.

WHAT IS BAD ABOUT A BARKING DOG?

- One dog barking usually starts another dog barking.
- Excessive barking is extremely annoying.
- Barking disturbing one's sleep is aggravating.
- Citizens can obtain a complaint for this code violation.
- Usually indicates a highly nervous bored animal.
- Excessive barking can be harmful to dogs.
- Unless stopped, barking may develop into a type of hysteria.

DO YOU OWN A WATCHDOG OR A NUISANCE?

Determine for yourself whether your dog is a good companion and watchdog or a neighborhood noise nuisance by asking yourself these questions:

Does your dog bark excessively....

- ...when someone rings your doorbell?
- ...when garbage collectors, mail carriers, paper carriers, etc. come to or go by your house?
- ...when children are playing outside?
- ...when another animal comes into view?
- ...when hearing a siren?
- ...when wanting to get into the house?
- ...when you leave or get home?
- ...when left alone and lonely?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, your dog could be a neighborhood nuisance. This disturbance of the peace is one of the quickest and most common ways to become a bad neighbor. Persistent barkers are more likely to be ignored if there is a real emergency since they seem to bark all the time.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT YOUR BARKING DOG?

- Determine what causes the dog to bark.
- Dogs are less inclined to bark if a barrier blocks their view.
- Be alert to stop the barking as soon as it starts.
- Train your dog to respond to a command to be quiet.
- Reward your dog whenever it barks for a watchdog reason.
- Don't leave an animal unattended for long periods of time.
- Train your dog to stay quietly within its quarters when you are away.

BREAKING A BAD HABIT

The best cure for the barking habit is prevention early in a dog's life. If a dog already has a barking habit, then you must make efforts to correct the situation. Whatever training method you choose, be consistent and persistent with the animal. Simple scolding and punishment may be sufficient.

When left alone in a house, help the loneliness by leaving a radio on. To help either an indoor or outdoor dog with boredom, be sure to have some toys available for amusement. Don't make a big thing out of leaving or returning home; an overly excited dog is more likely to bark and yelp.

You may consider taking the animal to obedience training school if the dog is too neurotic for an inexperienced trainer.

Your dog will soon learn that his silence pleases you.

