

Is there anything else I can do to stop complaints happening again?

The library has lots of books on dog behaviour.

Look for references regarding barking dogs, separation anxiety or behaviour problems. This may help you to better understand and deal with your dog.

If your neighbours know you are trying to improve matters they will usually become more approachable. If you talk to them about the problem they may be able to help by letting you know when they hear the dog barking, possibly even what was causing it to bark.

Remember, dogs usually bark or howl for one of the following reasons

- Boredom
- Lack of exercise
- Hunger
- Pain
- People nearby
- Other dogs or animals nearby
- Teasing from passers by
- Loneliness/ separation anxiety



What will happen if I can't keep my dog quiet?

You may be served with a Noise Abatement Notice, which will require you to abate the nuisance being created by your dog.

Under the current legislation (The Dog Control Act 1996- Section 55) you risk being prosecuted or receiving an infringement notice and/or the dog may be removed and held in custody.

A HAPPY DOG IS A QUIET DOG.



NOBODY LIKES A NOISY DOG

Dog noise information



 Nelson City Council
te kaunihera o whakatū

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 Nelson City Council
te kaunihera o whakatū



All dogs bark sometimes, especially if somebody comes to the property. However, if dogs bark for long periods they can really disturb the neighbours. There are various ways of encouraging dogs to stop barking and our Animal Control Officers are always happy to give advice.

Why are dogs noisy?

There are many reasons for dogs to bark including:

- Lack of exercise: particularly if they are chained up all day
- Boredom: lack of attention, training and time spent with others
- Separation anxiety: distress at being left alone
- What they see: people passing by, cats, other dogs
- What they hear: fences being banged, sirens going off
- What they feel: too hot or too cold because of insufficient shelter, uncomfortable because of a tight collar, lack of clean water
- Illness or injury
- Playfulness

Excessive barking can usually be eliminated or at least reduced but it may mean that you must work harder at being a responsible dog owner.

How to help my dog stay quiet

Going out and yelling at or hitting your dog when you are home won't work. Most complaints are about dogs being noisy when their owners are out, so even if you are able to keep the barking under control when you are home, it is different when you are out. You either have to:

Change the dog's environment

When you change the dog's environment, you aren't changing how the dog reacts to things that interest it, you are just eliminating some of the things that make it bark. For example, if a dog is barking at birds in trees, putting the dog inside the house will remove it from the things that are making it bark.

Change your management practices

When you change your management practices, you are changing the way you care for your dog so it is more settled and content. The most effective way is to give your dog plenty of exercise. A tired dog is content and will usually just want to rest. Provide toys, bones etc to keep your dog entertained.



Common causes of excessive barking and possible solutions

Problem	Possible Cause	Possible Solution
Dog is barking at people or animals	Dog is being penned up too often and prevented from interacting with other people or animals.	Take the dog for regular walks and maybe invite another dog owner or friend to walk with you. This way the dog will gradually become used to other people.
Dog appears to be barking for no reason	Could be boredom and/or lack of exercise. Dog is chained up and is frustrated, bored and lacking exercise. Lack of water, shelter.	Carefully watch the dog when it is barking and identify what it is barking at. Once identified, block its line of sight off. Lots of exercise. Possibly change the area the dog is kept in. Avoid having to chain the dog up. Provide proper care and attention.
Fence running and barking	Territorial aggression.	Bark control training collar. Confine the dog.
Barking while owner is away	Separation anxiety, boredom.	Exercise dog before leaving for work. A tired dog is less likely to bark. Provide toys or bones to keep dog busy and distracted. Ensure bedding is clean, warm and dry.