

Dogs Barking in Carmarthenshire

The Local Authority receives on average 900 noise complaints per year. Noise complaints relating to barking dogs is by far the most common noise complaint received.

We understand that barking is a natural and instinctive thing for dogs to do, yet when they bark excessively, for example for prolonged periods and frequently, this can cause a disturbance to your neighbours and in some cases constitute a statutory nuisance under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The purpose of this leaflet is to give you some useful tips to try and stop your dog barking too much.

Being told your dog is barking too much:

We appreciate you may be annoyed and/or upset when you initially hear that a complaint has been made in relation to your dog barking too much. You may be made aware of the complaint by your neighbour and/or by the Local Authority. This may be the first time you are made aware that your dog is barking too much, try and remain calm should this happen. Try and see the situation from their point of view.

It is important to understand why and when your dog barks in order to effectively stop it from barking excessively. Below are example of actions, which may help stop your dog barking too much.

Steps that can be taken immediately:

- Keep your dog inside when you're out of the house.
- Stay with your dog when you leave it outside.
- Restrict your dog's view of things that may trigger the barking, such as people passing the garden or window.
- If the dog barks at certain times of the day, for example when children go to school, when someone leaves the house, when the post man arrives, try and distract your dog for example by taking the dog for a walk.
- Make sure the dog has plenty of exercise.
- Ask someone such as a relative or friend to look after or visit the dog whilst you're away from the house.
- If your dog barks when it gets excited, for example when you play with it, then ensure you limit this to day time hours and for short durations only.
- Call the dog inside immediately when it starts to bark outside.

Steps for a long term solution:

- Getting advice from an animal behaviourist, vet or dog warden.
- If your dog is quiet reward it with a treat for example. If your dog barks then firmly tell it to be quiet. Do not punish the dog, as this could be seen as attention by the dog and therefore rewarding the behaviour.
- Leave toys and chews for the dog to keep it entertained.
- Leave the radio or television on at a low level to act as company for the dog .
- If your dog barks to guard its territory, keep the dog from the areas where it can see or hear people and/or other animals. Screen these areas, for example by boarding gates to block the dog's view.
- If your dog barks to get attention, deliberately ignore it for a short period. This may also be useful to do before you leave the house to stop the dog barking when you leave.
- Consider the use of a pet monitoring camera.

Dogs bark excessively for a reason, whether it is because they are lonely, bored, need attention or exercise. It is important to address this as early as possible, to ensure that it doesn't become a habit.

It is also important to stop the dog barking excessively to minimise the disturbance caused to your neighbours and to avoid the Local Authority taking legal action against you.

Should you require more information or advice on this matter then please contact us at the Environmental Protection Division on:

 **01267 234567**

 **publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**

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