

Why Dogs Bark

A barking dog is similar to a person talking. It is their way of communicating to others just like we do. If you own a dog, you've probably noticed that your dog may have different types of barks. A whiney-type when he wants something, a deeper scarier bark when someone is at the door, or maybe a high-pitched bark when he wants to play. These barks are different ways of your dog trying to tell you something.



Is your dog barking too much?

Pickering Animal Services receives many complaints about barking dogs. The good news is that if you can determine why your dog is barking, you can easily address your problem.

Boredom

If your dog does not receive enough attention while you are at home, they may bark as a way to get that attention from you. Try paying more attention to your dog, such as playing fetch, or just a good long rub down. Most of the time all your dog really wants is attention from you.

Too much energy

Certain dogs are bred for certain reasons. Some dogs are bred to work, others to hunt, or there are those dogs that are just couch potatoes. If you have an energetic dog, make sure you provide the exercise they desperately need. Take your dog for a long walk, this should tire them out and expel some of that built up energy. We also suggest that you do a little bit of research into what your dog was originally bred for, and some of the breeds' common traits. The more you know about your dog, the easier it will be to address your concerns.

Unfamiliar noises

Some dogs will bark at what is unfamiliar, or things that may startle them. Your dog won't be startled by unfamiliar noises if he doesn't hear them. Animal Services receives many calls about barking dogs left outside during the day. We suggest bringing your dog inside if you are not home. This way you can reduce the unnecessary stress that may be placed on your dog and your neighbours.

Loneliness

If your dog is left home alone for long periods during the day, they may become lonely, and just really want some attention. While you are away try leaving things for your dog to do, such as playing with a toy. There are toys for your dog where you place a treat inside, making your dog work for the reward as

well as occupying their time and keep them busy. It is also a good idea to leave a radio on for your dog while you are away. This will give them the feeling that someone is home, and they are not all by themselves.

If you've tried all of these methods and it still seems that nothing works, there are still a few things you can try.

- Purchase a citronella collar for your dog. This collar is designed to pick up the vibrations in the throat and release a spray of citronella every time your dog barks. Dogs typically dislike the smell, and learn not to bark
- Hire a dog walker
- Look into purchasing sound barriers for the interior of your home. This way if the dog is barking, the noise will not disturb you or your neighbours.
- For other ideas, contact your local veterinarian or pet food store, or trainer.



Is your neighbours dog barking too much?

The City of Pickering's **Responsible Pet Ownership By-law** addresses barking dog issues. Barking may be considered an offence and the owner may be at risk of paying a fine as high as \$5000.

Pickering Animal Services can help you with this situation. Most animal owners do not realize that their pet is disturbing their neighbours. If you have a problem with a noisy dog, consider letting your neighbour know that their dog is barking and is keeping you up at night, disturbing your baby's sleep, etc. In most cases the owner will be sympathetic and try to rectify this problem. It is important to be aware that all dogs will bark at some point, and nuisance barking isn't that the dog barks, it is that the dog continuously barks for long periods of time.

If this approach does not work, contact Animal Services to file a complaint. Animal Services will educate the owner about the City's noise related by-laws, make recommendations to help solve the problem and try to reach a solution that will make everyone happy. If the problem persists, legal action may be taken against the animal owner.

Important Information on Filing a Noise Complaint

In order to assist you in dealing with your noise disturbance, it is essential that we have a full understanding of how you are being affected by the noise. When filing a noise complaint, please keep the following questions in mind.

- Can I identify the noisy animal(s) and where it is coming from?
- What time(s) of the day does the noise occur?
- How often is the noise occurring and how long does it occur for?
- How is the noise bothering me; is it interfering with my day-to-day lifestyle?

To learn more about Pickering Animal Services and pet related City by-laws or to view animals awaiting adoption go online to:

pickering.ca/animals

Pickering 
Animal Services



Barking Complaints



Questions?

Call 905.683.7575

TTY 905.420.1739

email

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