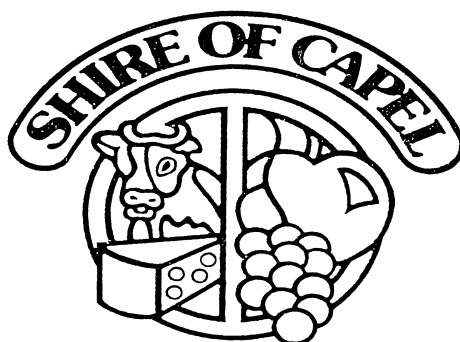


# BARKING DOGS



## **Ranger Services**

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**All dogs must be registered with Council from the age of three months.**

## **SOME COMMON MYTHS ABOUT BARKING DOGS**

### **MYTH 1**

A dog that barks a lot is a good watch dog.

**FALSE!** Dogs that bark excessively make poor security systems as neighbors often ignore the barking.

### **MYTH 2**

My dog does not bark when I am at home, so it does not bark when I am out.

**FALSE!** Many dogs bark because of anxiety and isolation. Most complaints are about dogs that bark when their owners are not home.

### **MYTH 3**

Sterilization will stop a dog from barking.

**FALSE!** Sterilization does not stop barking except where dogs are barking at neighbouring dogs of the same sex, or when a male dog can sense a bitch in season. However, sterilization is strongly recommended for other reasons.

### **MYTH 4**

It is natural for dogs to bark a lot.

**FALSE!** Barking is one of the dogs main ways of communicating. However, it is NOT normal for a dog to bark at every noise, passer by, nor to bark for long periods of time.

### **MYTH 5**

Dogs that bark do so because they are lonely and need another dog for company.

**FALSE!** Getting another dog does not usually prevent or fix a barking problem.

### **MYTH 6**

Dogs only bark too much if they are teased, bored or not exercised.

**FALSE!** Dogs bark for many reasons including breeding, inappropriate confinement, passing distractions, isolation, guarding, anxiety, discomfort and attention seeking. It is important to work out why the dog is barking before the problem can be solved.

## **SOME SIMPLE TIPS FOR BARKING DOGS**

- ◆ Make sure that you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Don't let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give the dog attention when it is quiet.
- ◆ If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- ◆ If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.

- ◆ If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- ◆ Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- ◆ Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- ◆ If the dog is barking at gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in.
- ◆ If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- ◆ An anti-barking collar may be useful for some, but not all, barking dogs. Contact Ranger Services for details.
- ◆ Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking give a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking. If the dog will not listen to you it will need obedience training.
- ◆ **DOGS BARK FOR MANY REASONS AND IF THESE SIMPLE TIPS DO NOT HELP YOU, SEEK FURTHER ADVICE.** Your veterinarian may be able to help you, or refer you to an animal behaviourist. Ranger Services may be able to assist, or provide details of the 'Barkline' Service.