

Noisy Dogs and the Law

Council has By-Laws in place to assist the community with nuisance dogs (including barking dogs). In the interest of neighbourhood amenity, Council will look to work with dog owners and the neighbourhood to rectify nuisance dog issues however, should this prove ineffective, Council has the ability to issue infringements.

Barking Dogs

Barking is a normal instinct for dogs but when they bark excessively it can become a nuisance for neighbours. As the owner of a dog, it is your responsibility to ensure that your dog does not interfere with the comfort or amenity of your neighbourhood.

Dog Management

The RSPCA website provides more information about proper care and management of dog behaviour at www.kb.rspca.org.au under Companion Animals > Dogs > Behaviour.



Do you own a dog that barks?

You may find this information helpful.

Katherine Town Council

Office Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 8:00am - 4:15pm
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DEALING WITH BARKING DOGS

Katherine Town Council



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

Why Dogs Bark

Dogs can bark excessively for a number of reasons, including boredom, excitement, distress, territorial defense, fear and anxiety or a way of communication. Therefore the solutions to problem barking can differ from one dog to the next.

It is important to try and determine why your dog is barking. Here are some possibilities to consider;

- Hungry, thirsty, hot, cold, in need of exercise or perhaps sick or injured.
- Boredom.
- Seeking attention.
- Threatened or protecting their territory.

Did you know...
Dogs also use barking as a form of communication?



Curing the Habit

Reduce Boredom

Dogs sometimes resort to barking when they spend too much time alone, don't receive enough stimulation or may be provoked by sounds or movement outside of the property. By making sure your house and garden are enriched with fun toys and food puzzles can help keep your dog entertained.

Exercise and Socialise your Dog

Exercise and socialising is necessary for your dog's mental health and physical well-being. Walking your dog in the morning can help reduce anxiety and their need to bark in your absence. Here are some ideas on ways you can improve your dogs behaviour:

- Socialise and meet with other dogs in neutral territory.
- If you dog is barking at the dog next door, arrange a meet and greet to let them play together in a supervised area.
- Bones are a great distraction for your dog and can provide hours of chew time.

Speak with your Vet

Dogs can sometimes bark due to other underlying health issues (particularly if the issue is causing pain or discomfort). It is recommended that you consider taking your dog to your local Vet for a check-up to discuss the barking and identify any possible short and long-term solutions.

Addressing Problem Barking

Dog owners are often not aware of their own dogs excessive barking.

Firstly the owner should be approached directly and the problem explained to them. It may be helpful to provide them with times the dog is barking.

Katherine Town Council has developed a an '**Animal Noise in the Neighbourhood Letter**' online resource that can assist with this. The letter is available for download from Council's website or you can obtain a copy from Council's Civic Centre.

If after this the barking continues to be a problem, please lodge a request through Council for Rangers to undertake further investigation. In the first instance Rangers will need to be satisfied that a nuisance is being created. This can be established by talking to neighbours, observing behaviours or asking you to keep records. Rangers will then work with the owner of the dog/s to provide advice and guidance to address the issue.

Council Rangers are here to help, so if you have a barking dog in your neighbourhood or are the owner of a barking dog, please reach out to Council to understand how we can help you in addressing the issue.

