

# Council Information

## Resolving Barking Dog Nuisance

**Dogs that bark excessively often become a major problem in our community. Barking dogs can become a nuisance and create conflict between neighbours.**

### Why do dogs bark?

Dogs bark for many reasons. These include:

- Lack of exercise
- Inadequate yard space
- Boredom or lack of stimulation, both mental and physical
- Not enough human companionship
- Inadequate shelter from weather conditions
- Hunger or thirst
- Medical conditions, such as an illness or discomfort
- Provocation
- Disturbances
- Movement outside their property



### Advice and assistance for dog owners

As the owner of a dog, it is recommended that you consider obedience and socialisation training for your dog so that you can better understand their needs.

Council also recommends that you consult your veterinarian to establish if the barking may be caused by a medical condition.

Council further recommends:

- walking your dog daily,
- altering feeding times, and
- providing toys at different intervals in an attempt to alleviate any boredom your dog may have from living in a backyard.

### What the law says

The Domestic Animal Act 1994 defines nuisance as a dog that creates a noise by barking or similar that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.

A dog owner must not allow their dog to create a nuisance. If a barking dog problem cannot be resolved, the matter may be referred to court to obtain a court order requiring the dog's owner to remedy the problem.

Whitehorse City Council takes all allegations of dogs causing a nuisance very seriously, where a complaint is substantiated.

### Further assistance

You can also consult:

Dogs Victoria  
P: 9788 2500  
[www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)

or the phone directory for assistance with organisations in your area that provide dog training.

More overleaf

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## Further Advice

### Simple tips for reducing barking

- Make sure you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Do not let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give the dog attention when it is quiet.
- If your 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 your 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 your 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 your dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- Make sure that your dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If your dog is barking at gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in.
- If your dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- Teach your 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.
- Attend accredited dog obedience training.

