



# BARKING DOGS

## *Why do dogs bark?*

**Barking is a completely normal and natural activity for a dog.**

They will bark as a means of communication with each other, with their humans or just to convey emotion or get attention. They may be alerting you to something that is happening. They may be trying to let you know that they are bored, frustrated, hurt, insecure or hungry.

As there are many reasons why your dog may be barking excessively, it is important to consider the cause so that you can find the right solution.

*Have you considered any of the following:*

- **Lack** of exercise or boredom;
- Separation **anxiety**;
- Kennel or **yard position** (too close to distractions such as horses or a school);
- Kennel or **run size** and condition – dogs should not be tethered for a long time unsupervised;
- Seeking **attention** – when was the last time you played with your dog?
- **Hunger** or thirst;
- Leaving dogs **outside at night** in highly distracting environments (eg. possums or roaming cats);
- **Fleas or ants** or health issues that are causing distress.



## Simple solutions can range from one or a combination of the options below:

- Ensure that your dog is regularly **vet checked** in case of underlying health issues.
- **Reviewing location** and condition of kennels and yards used during the day or evening.
- Locate away from **distracting neighbours** if this is what is triggering the barking.
- Consider bringing your dog **inside at night** or onto a veranda or area closer to their humans.
- Ensure your dog is getting **adequate and regular exercise** appropriate to the age, breed and health status.
- Consider **varying routines**, location of walks or types of games so to provide interest and variety;
- Consider undertaking **regular training** activities with your dog.
- Provide **enrichment activities** for your dog when you have to leave them home alone. Maybe food dispensing toys or other toys that they like to play with or that will give them comfort.
- Spend **more time with your dog**, perhaps they are barking because they are bored and being left alone for long periods.

## Is it a problem?

It can be considered a breach of the *Glamorgan Spring Bay Dog Management Policy 2014-2019\** if your dogs barking unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person or persons. The Code of Responsible Dog Ownership identifies, amongst other points, that it is the responsibility of every dog owner to:

***Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not cause a nuisance, injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person.***

In light of this although barking is normal it can become a problem if it occurs often and for extended periods of time or occurs at inappropriate times such as during the night or early in the morning. You may not even realise that your dog barking is causing a problem to other people.

The Council can spend a large amount of time dealing with problems caused by excessive barking by dogs. It is much easier to resolve these issues quickly and avoid fines and legal proceedings which are costly, time consuming and does not always end up happily for the dog or the owners.

There are many different ways to prevent dog barking and it is good to work together with your neighbours and the Council to help each other and your dog's live happily together.

\* *The Glamorgan Spring Bay Dog Management Policy 2014-2019* can be found at [www.gsbc.tas.gov.au](http://www.gsbc.tas.gov.au)