

## Is there anything else I can do to stop complaints happening again?

Go to your local library and look for books on dog behaviour.

Look for references regarding barking dogs, separation, anxiety or behaviour problems. This may help you to better understand your dog so you can deal with it easier.

If your neighbours know you are trying to improve matters they will usually become more approachable. If they feel that they can let you know when your dog has barking, they will let you know. They may even be able to let you know what was causing it to bark.

## Remember, dogs usually bark or howl for one of the following reasons

- Boredom
- Lack of exercise
- Hunger
- Pain
- People nearby
- Other dogs or animals nearby
- Teasing from passers by
- Loneliness/separation anxiety



### Clutha District Council

1 Rosebank Terrace,  
PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240  
Phone: 03 419 0200  
Fax: 03 418 3185  
Email: [help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz)  
[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



Clutha District Council

## Dog Noise Information



We all expect dogs to bark, especially if somebody comes to the property (his domain). However, if dogs bark for prolonged periods they may cause considerable disturbance to neighbours. There are various ways of encouraging dogs to stop barking and our Animal Control Officers are always happy to give advice.



## Why are dogs noisy?

There are many reasons for dogs to bark including:

- **Lack of exercise:** particularly if they are chained up all day.
- **Boredom:** lack of attention, training and time spent with others.
- **Separation anxiety:** distress at being left alone.
- **What they see:** people passing by, cats, other dogs.
- **What they hear:** fences being banged, sirens going off.
- **What they feel:** too hot or too cold because of insufficient shelter, uncomfortable because of a tight collar, lack of clean water.
- **Illness or injury**
- **Playfulness**

## What will happen if I can't keep my dog quiet?

A Noise Abatement Notice may be served on you, giving you seven days in which to abate the noise.

Under the current legislation (The Dog Control Act 1996 - Section 55), you risk being prosecuted and may have to pay up to \$1,500 (plus Court costs) and the dog may be removed and held in custody.

## How can I make my dog be quiet?

Going out and yelling at or hitting your dog when you are home won't work. Most complaints involve dogs which are noisy when their owners are out, so even if you can't control the noise when you are home, it is different when you are not home. You either have to:

### **Modify the dog's environment**

When you modify the dog's environment, you aren't changing how the dog reacts to things that interest it, you are just preventing it from happening. For example, if a dog is barking

at birds in trees, putting the dog inside the house will remove the dog from the things that are making it bark.

### **Change your management practices**

When you change your management practices, you are restructuring a part of the way you care for your dog so it is more settled and content. The most effective way is to give your dog plenty of exercise. A tired dog is content and will usually just want to rest. Provide toys, bones etc. to keep your dog entertained.

## Common causes of excessive barking and possible solutions

Problem	Possible Cause	Possible Solution
<b>Dog is barking at people or animals</b>	Dog is being penned up too often and prevented from interacting with other people or animals	Take the dog for regular walks and maybe invite another dog owner or friend to walk with you. This way the dog will gradually become used to other people.
<b>Dog appears to be barking for no reason</b>	Could be boredom and/or lack of exercise.  Dog is chained up and is frustrated, bored and lacking exercise.  Lack of water, shelter.	Carefully watch the dog when it is barking and identify what direction it is barking at. Once identified, block its line of sight off.  Possibly change the area the dog is kept in. Avoid having to chain the dog up.  <b>Lots of exercise.</b>  Provide proper care and attention.
<b>Fence running &amp; barking</b>	Territorial aggression	Bark control training collar.  Confine the dog.
<b>Barking while owner is away</b>	Separation anxiety, boredom.	Exercise dog before leaving for work. A tired dog is less likely to bark. Provide toys or bones to keep dog busy and distracted.  Ensure bedding is clean, warm and dry.