

Dog Barking

Barking is a natural behaviour for dogs, it's one of the ways they communicate.

While barking is a natural behaviour, it may be an issue if it occurs too often and at inappropriate times of the day or night for extended periods of time.

Neighbours have informed the City of Marion that your dog has been barking and it is unreasonably interfering with their peace and comfort.

Some important information for you to consider

What triggers dogs to bark:

- boredom
- being anxious when left alone
- fear
- territorial behaviour
- attention seeking behaviour.

Action that you can take:

- spending more time with your dog
- providing mental stimulation and toys
- more physical exercise
- socialising your dog
- addressing veterinary issues
- training
- attending dog training classes – RSPCA offer some options: rspcasa.org.au/services/dog-services/dog-training/
- ask a friend or family member to visit or care for your dog during the day
- doggy day care and professional dog walker services
- a radio set in the background to ease your dog's anxiety.

If you need assistance

You can speak to your vet or an animal behaviourist for more information and advice.

Other useful tips can be found at:

Dog and Cat Management Board:
dogandcatboard.com.au/dogs/barking

RSPCA Knowledge base:
kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/my-dog-is-barking-excessively-what-should-i-do/

What can happen if you do not address your dog's nuisance barking

The City of Marion has the power to investigate dog barking nuisances under The Dog and Cat Management Act.

Our Community Safety Inspectors in the first instance will work with you to address the issue giving you a probationary period to resolve the excessive barking.

If you fail to take appropriate action to reduce your dogs barking the following enforcement action may be taken:

- an expiation may be issued
- a Control (Barking Dog) Order may be issued.

What is a Control (Barking Dog) Order?

- A control order is a legal document and that is how council can place restrictions and/or requirements on you as the owner of the dog.
- A Control (Barking Dog) Order requires you as the dog owner to take all reasonable steps to reduce the nuisance barking.
- This may include undertaking specific training courses or to seek professional assistance to address the dog's barking.
- If barking continues after a control order is in place.
- If unreasonable barking continues after a Control Order has been served, the matter will be investigated further.

If you fail to meet the requirements of the order:

- an expiation may be issued
- prosecution may be commenced through the Magistrates Court which may lead to strict controls being imposed on the dog and/or
- temporary or permanent removal of the dog.

Barking issue resolved

The nuisance barking will be deemed resolved, when:

- the persistent barking has been addressed and no longer interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person
- a letter will be sent to you advising that the matter has been resolved and the report will be closed
- if the nuisance barking commences the report will be reopened starting at the relevant stage of the process.