

Tips to Resolve Barking Dog Complaints

Created by The Islands Community Association

Identify why & when your dog barks...

According to experts, determining why and when the dog barks is the first step in training the dog not to bark. The typical causes for barking dogs are the following:

- Attention seeking - boredom
- Neighbors; children or others teasing the dog
- If they've been encouraged to
- Separation anxiety; feeling unsafe
- Changes to a dog's life or lifestyle
- Possible health issues (such as discomforts)
- Distractions; Frustrations
- Lack of shade, food or water
- Compulsive; Breeding
- Alarming; Territorial

Once you know your dog's motivation and time for barking, you can identify tricks and tools to stop it. Barking can be a real pain in the ears, but the right combination of tools and training will help your dog learn when to keep quiet.

When training your dog, remember to:

- Don't yell at your dog to be quiet—it just sounds like you're barking along with him.
- Keep your training sessions positive and upbeat.
- Be consistent so you don't confuse your dog. Everyone in your family must apply the training methods every time your dog barks inappropriately. You can't let your dog get away with inappropriate barking some times and not others.

The Solve It! Community Mediation Service is available to residents for neighbors to work together to resolve issues. They can be reached at 480-732-7296 located at 2626 E. Pecos Rd, Chandler, AZ 85225.



The Islands Community Association created this document in hopes to resolve nuisance complaints received by neighbors of barking dog concerns.

- **If neighbors have indicated that your dog is disturbing the peace, take action whether you feel the complaint is warranted or not.**
- **Different people have different levels of tolerance to noise.**
- **What you believe is a reasonable amount of barking, may not be acceptable to your neighbors.**
- **Your successful efforts to quiet the dog will maintain goodwill among neighbors.**
- **Talk to your neighbor in a polite and considerate fashion to figure out specific details of the dog barking nuisance, especially if your dog barks when you are away from home and you are unaware.**

Ways to stop the barking...

Provide your dog the attention they need. *Don't let your dog become bored or frustrated. Keep your dog tired by making sure your dog gets sufficient physical and mental exercise every day. This may depend on age, size and breed. Ideas include:*

- Enroll in doggie day care for companionship.
- Take them on multiple walks
- Play with them using interactive toys

Research and purchase bark deterrents such as anti-barking collars that are designed to offer a quick solution. *There are some products on the market that effectively control barking in a gentle, humane way. Ideas include:*

- Spray or stress reducing collars
- Ultrasonic devices
- Anxiety jackets

Utilize the advice, knowledge and education of a professional. *Ideas include:*

- Veterinarian
- Dog Trainers can be easily searched for online from a private, in-home trainer to a dog school or class at a location reserved for such activity.

Remove the motivation of why your dog is barking. *Figure out what they get out of barking. Don't give your dog the opportunity to continue the barking behavior. Manage the environment and block your dog's sightline to potential barking triggers.*

- Cover the bottom of the gate and fence with privacy fencing.
- Close the curtains or put your dog in another room where they can't see outside.
- If he barks at passersby when he's in the yard, bring him into the house. Never leave your dog outside unsupervised all day and night.
- Plant privacy hedges to both beautify and bark-proof the yard.

Teach your dog commands. *There are lots of tricks and tools you can use to help control your dog's barking. Ideas include:*

- "Recall." Useful to call your dog away from barking triggers (like the doorbell ringing, or a neighbor dog outside)
- "Speak." Training your dog to bark on command can help teach them *not* to bark at other times.
- "Settle: or "quiet." Helps your dog "calm down" on cue.
- "Sit/stay". Useful for keeping your dog otherwise occupied when a barking trigger is nearby. If your dog tends to bark on-leash, have her practice being still and quiet.

Gradually get your dog accustomed to whatever is causing him to bark. *Ideas include:*

- Start with the stimulus (the thing that makes him bark) at a distance. It must be far enough away that he doesn't bark when he sees it. Feed him lots of good treats.
- Move the stimulus a little closer (perhaps as little as a few inches or a few feet to start) and feed treats.
- If the stimulus moves out of sight, stop giving your dog treats. You want your dog to learn that the appearance of the stimulus leads to good things (treats!).

Setup a doggie quiet zone. *Confinement inside for outspoken dogs can cut down on the nuisance. Ideas include:*

- A crate decked out with a comfy bed and privacy cover, or a baby gate to block off other areas.
- A stuffed Kong toy or puzzle feeder to keep them busy (and keep their mouth occupied with something other than barking!)
- A white noise machine to mask exterior sounds and produce soothing soundscapes. (A TV or radio for background noise works too.)

Information provided by the following sources: The Humane Society of the United States – Rover.com – Town of Gilbert - The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals