

Information for Dog Owners

Please be advised that complaints about your dog's barking has been received by Council.

The Companion Animals Act 1998 defines nuisance barking as *"a dog that makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises."* [Refer to the Companion Animals Act, Section 32A](#) to learn more about this legislation.

While barking is a natural form of communication for dogs, excessive barking is a behavioural problem which needs to be addressed for both the wellbeing of your dog and your neighbours.

If you suspect your dog may be a problem, ask your neighbours questions like the time it occurs or what may be triggering your dog to bark.

Council has a process for dealing with complaints about nuisance barking.

Dog Nuisance Barking Diaries have been provided to residents to complete and submit to Council to help determine if there is a problem. It is suggested that you use the diary to assist you to understand if there is a problem and so it can be cross referenced against other diaries.

[Download a Dog Nuisance Barking Diary](#) from Council's website.

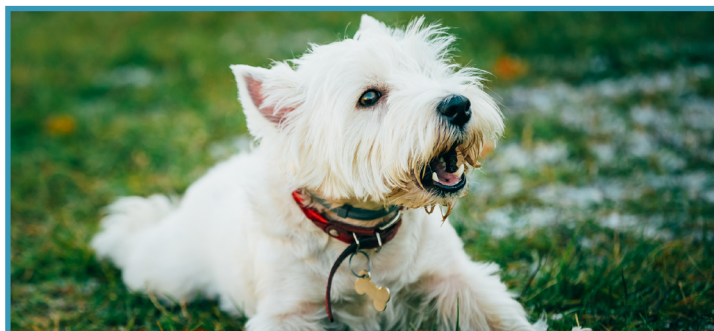
What happens if your dog's barking is deemed to be a nuisance?

Council will give you a two-week timeframe to attempt to rectify the issue. Please use the Dog Nuisance Barking Diary to record your animal's behaviour during this time.

If Council is satisfied that an offence has been committed under the *Companion Animals Act 1998 Section 32A*, then a **Notice of Proposed Nuisance Dog** will be issued to you as the dog owner.

Upon receiving a **Notice of Proposed Nuisance Dog**, an owner has seven (7) days to respond to Council. Upon receiving a representation from the owner, Council will determine if a **Nuisance Dog Order** is to be issued. Both the complainant and owner will be advised in writing of the outcome.

If a **Nuisance Dog Order** is made it will remain in force for six (6) months. Once a Nuisance Dog Order is issued, the order is not subject to any further appeal or review process. Penalties apply for non-compliance.





How to prevent nuisance barking

- ☐ Provide your dog with adequate food, water & shelter
- ☐ Provide your dog with regular, quality exercise, play time & training. Try a dog off leash exercise area
- ☐ Provide stimulation for your dog such as bones, smart toys or chew toys
- ☐ Screen the area that may be inciting your dog to bark & remove any stressors
- ☐ Consider blocking your dog's view of passing traffic
- ☐ Contain your dog within the house or garage at times when the dog is most likely to bark
- ☐ Enrol you & your dog in a behavioural training course
- ☐ Take your dog to doggie day care so s/he can socialise with other dogs
- ☐ Leaving a radio on or an item of your clothing in their bed can comfort them
- ☐ Provide regular health care including worming, flea control, heart worm, vaccinations & grooming
- ☐ Visit your vet in case there is an underlying problem

Note: It is illegal to use electrical or shock collars on dogs under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

For more information

Information and resources are available to help you look after your dog and prevent excessive barking at epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/neighbourhood-noise/dealing-with-barking-dogs. This website also explains the law applying to noise from dogs and provides information that is intended to make life better for dogs, dog owners and their neighbours.

Further information is also available at rspcansw.org.au/learn/dogs/barking.

Refer to the Companion Animals Act, Section 32A for definitions of Nuisance Dogs at legislation.nsw.gov.au.



Local dog training clubs

Take your dog to a training club. It could provide you with more enjoyment than you think.

Local clubs include:

- Shoalhaven Dog Training Club
shoalhavedogtraining.org.au
- Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club
mudtc.org.au

Use your search engine to look for other resources such as Dog Day Care.