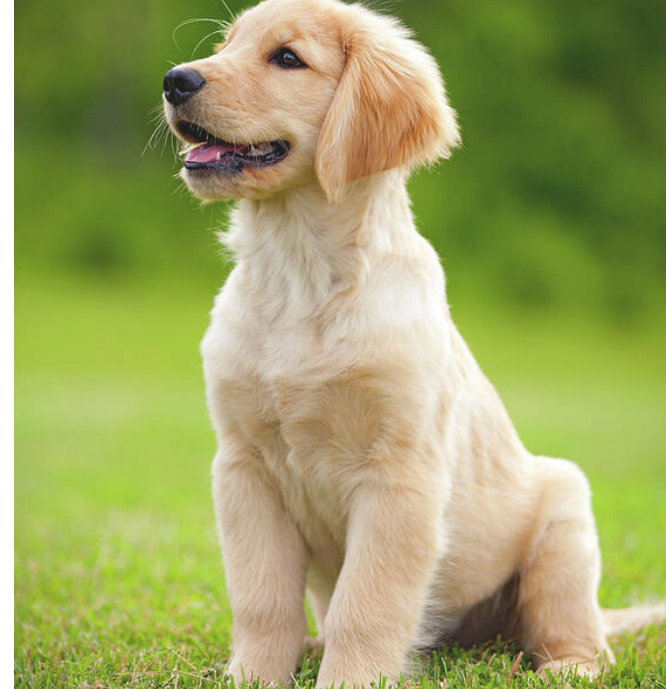




Contacting Council

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Northern Grampian Shire on 03 5358 8700

Information is also available on the Northern Grampians Shire website at <https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au>



Why do dogs bark?

- Dogs are social animals and often bark when they are lonely.
- Separation from an owner may cause anxiety.
- Barking may occur as a result of boredom and frustration.
- Dogs can bark out of fear of people, objects, noise, weather conditions or other dogs.
- Dogs will bark when they feel a threat to themselves or their territory.
- Dogs may also bark if they are sick or injured.
- Some dogs bark during play with their owners or other dogs.
- Certain breeds have a reputation for barking.



Barking dogs and responsible pet ownership



Get the facts on barking dogs

Barking is a natural form of communication in dogs. However, ongoing barking is often a symptom of another problem and taking the time to understand what makes your or your neighbour's dog bark, is the first step towards solving this problem.

The first step is to work out why your dog is barking. Once you know the symptom, you can start working on the cure.

Barking may be minimised through making positive changes around the house and in your dog's routine. Changes could be:

- Walking your dog twice a day.
- Provide your dog with chew toys or raw hides/bones, ensuring you rotate toys each day.
- Leaving the radio on for comfort.
- Leave an item with your scent for reassurance.
- Fencing to reduce your dog's vision of passers-bys.
- Ensure adequate water, food and shelter in all weather conditions.
- Have a routine, regular dog training, reinforcing good manners and provide guidance.



Got a barking dog complaint?

Try talking to the dog's owner about the problem first.

They may not even be aware of the problem if the dog is only barking when they are out. Assist them by giving them this brochure.

If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council for further advice.

The Dispute Settlement Centre provides free advice to help neighbours sort out problems such as barking dogs, phone 1800 658 528.

You can lodge a complaint with your local council.

Council may ask you to keep a diary for a few weeks, to record how often the dog is barking. This is so they can determine whether the barking is causing an unreasonable disturbance. You may also have to get support for your complaint from another neighbour who is affected by the barking dog.

Council may then issue a warning to the dog's owner, or a formal Notice to Comply to stop the barking. If this is not complied with, council can issue an infringement notice. If the problem still persists, council may proceed with legal action and seek a Court Order.

Training your dog

If you need help with dog training, ask your local council, vet or shelter for advice. They may be able to suggest an obedience club, a dog trainer or an animal behaviour specialist.

It is important to remember that training takes time and persistence, and that you should never hit your dog.

You may have to use particular training techniques to treat some problems. For instance, separation anxiety, or desensitising your dog to fears or phobias. Seek professional advice from a dog trainer or behaviourist.

For more advice or information

Call your local council if you have questions about your rights and responsibilities as a dog owner, or if you have lost your dog. Your council will also deal with concerns about wandering or nuisance dogs.

Advice is also available from animal welfare shelters, vets and/or dog clubs. Alternatively you can visit www.vic.gov.au/pets for more information.

