**Dog Barking**

Dog barking is the UK’s second most complained about noise nuisance after loud music. Constant barking can be very disturbing and infuriating for those residents within earshot. Dog owners need to understand this and take steps to address it.

**Dogs do bark**

If everyone knows dogs bark why do people complain about it? Dog barking is so unpredictable, it can happen at any time of the day or night. Unlike loud music, you can’t just turn down the volume.

When a dog is left alone, that is it until the owner returns. Firstly, you need to find out if the owner knows that the dog is causing a nuisance and you can do this by approaching them calmly to ask them to deal with the problem.

If the owner is aware but doesn’t know how to stop it, the advice below may help.

**Why do dogs bark?**

Dogs are not by nature solitary animals. A dog’s behaviour, including their level of barking, is a reaction to their circumstances within the family. Just as a baby cries for a reason a dog will likewise bark. The way to stop a dog barking is to understand what is making it behave like this and then taking the right steps to address the problem. Some of the reasons may include:

**Loneliness – Boredom – Frustration – Attention Seeking – Defending**

**Territory – Illness – Separation Anxiety**

If your dog barks, it is trying to tell you something.

You have gone to a lot of expense to invest in a pet that you intend to keep for years so it is a huge commitment. An attentive dog owner can go a long way towards having a happy pet and a happy home.

**Tips for Dog Owners**

* Get your dog used to the idea that you are away for different periods of time to reduce the anxiety
* Deal with separation by putting your dog in another room on his own for a few minutes then build up the time. Do not return until the dog is quiet and praise him if he has been quiet.
* Exercise your dog before you go out so they will have run off any excess energy
* Leave plenty of water especially on a hot day
* Leave your dog a bone or toy to chew on to occupy them
* Leave a radio or TV on with the volume low. If you return after dark, leave a light on
* Ask a friend or neighbour if they can let your dog out in the garden if you are out all day
* Try a professional dog walker if you have difficulty getting out and about with your dog

The Dog’s Trust is a useful advice resource and provides factsheets about a whole range of dog related problems. You can find this information at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

If you are suffering from ongoing and persistent dog barking, you can report this to Tamworth Borough Council at [www.tamworth.gov.uk](http://www.tamworth.gov.uk) and following this link - <https://mytamworth.tamworth.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it/anti-social-behaviour-incident/>