

IMPORTANT!!

DO YOU OWN A DOG?

KEEPING OF DOGS – BARKING DOGS.

Young Shire Council wishes to advise the owner/occupiers who reside in this area that council is receiving a number of complaints concerning dogs that are barking uncontrolled for long periods of time. Excessive barking is unreasonable and can impact of the comfort and health of neighbours.

If you are a dog or animal owner, **you are responsible** for controlling your animal to ensure that reasonable conditions within your neighbourhood are maintained.

WHY DO DOGS BARK?

Dogs do bark.

Barking is one of the ways in which dogs communicate and can signify anything from playfulness to danger.

However, dogs sometimes bark because they are bored or frustrated when confined and/or because they are under-exercised and under-stimulated. Dogs may also bark because they are provoked, untrained, sick, neglected or being abused.

Dogs also bark to alert their owners of trouble such as an intruder entering the property or perhaps fire. Although a dog's idea of an intruder may differ to that of the owner. It could include cats, possums, other dogs, or even birds flying across the property.

While it is acceptable for a dog to bark to warn its owner of an intruder, it is the owner's responsibility to train the dog not to bark at 'normal occurrences' such as possums, cats, birds etc. Barking at 'normal movement/noises' from adjoining properties should be considered to be unacceptable behaviour.

Some reasons why dogs bark:

LACK OF EXERCISE
INADEQUATE YARD SPACE
BOREDOM
NOT ENOUGH HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP
INADEQUATE SHELTER FROM WEATHER CONDITIONS
HUNGRY OR THIRSTY
MEDICAL CONDITION
PROVOCATION
DISTURBANCES
CHANGE TO FAMILY STRUCTURE
CHANGE OF TERRITORY
ANXIETY

WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO?

Under section 21 of the Companion Animals Act 1988, a Dog can be declared a Nuisance Dog, if the dog:

- (b) 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.

If you have received a nuisance order and your dog continues to bark, you may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$880 for a first offence and a maximum penalty of \$1,650 for any further offences.

It is in you and your neighbours' interests and in the interests of the health and well-being of your dog to stop it from barking excessively.

In most instances, you can achieve this through training and by ensuring that your dog is well nourished, regularly exercised and not bored.

Penalties and fines exist to assist Council in enforcing regulations to preserve peace and healthy living conditions within the Community. Your assistance as described above would ensure that Council does not need to use these powers.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR DOG IS BARKING EXCESSIVELY

Compassion and common sense can eliminate many causes of excessive barking. A well cared for dog will generally not bark unreasonably and disturb neighbours.

The following suggestions should help:

Make sure your dog is well nourished, exercised and not bored.

- provide plenty of fresh water and well-balanced dietary food every day.
- Exercise your dog regularly and adequately for their breed and size
- Leave dogs on a fixed chain for long periods (if it has to be chained use a running chain)
- Spend time with your dog.
- Socialise your dog with other dogs and other people
- When you are away - leave your dog an old jumper with your scent on it or leave on a radio inside the house.

Find out why your dog is barking and attempt to minimise the triggers.

Try to remove direct line of sight between the dog and any triggers, including children and other animals

Possible external Triggers

Birds
Possums
Dogs and cats
Neighbours' activities
Sirens and alarms
Uninvited visitors
Storms and thunder
Moving house.

Provide soft, dry bedding and shelter from hot, cold, windy and wet weather conditions.

- Provide noise insulation for the kennel

Take your dog to a recognised animal trainer to discourage bad habits

Take the dog to the vet - it may be sick

REMEMBER - ALL DOGS MUST BE

- Microchipped at 12 weeks of age or point of sale/exchange (whichever comes first).
- Registered by 6 months of age.