

The Barking Dog

Do your dog(s) bark? Are you frustrated by trying to control your dog(s) barking?

When your dog barks your neighbors may become annoyed. Often neighbors will ignore it until they have had enough. This usually results in an unfriendly discussion between neighbours, due to the high level of frustration. It is common for a dog to bark every once in awhile, however long periods of barking means there is a problem which that needs a solution.

To begin to control your dogs barking habit, you need to determine when and why your dog barks. The reasons for barking might include:

- Being left alone for long periods of time. Your dog might be bored.
- There are no toys for your dog to play with when he/she is left alone
- Your dog is young and does not have an outlet for its built up energy
- Your dog may be afraid of something in its environment.

One way to deal with the energy and restlessness of your dog is take it for a walk. When a dog is continually left in the yard, and is not allowed to explore or exercise, it simply becomes frustrated. By taking your dog for a walk once or twice a day you will notice that your dog is happier. Happier dogs are not likely to bark for long periods of time. Playing with your dog is good for you too. Frisbee, and similar fetch games are an option.

Your dog needs to be stimulated. Much like people, an un-stimulated dog is an unhappy dog. There are many products in the pet market which can be purchased to stimulate your dog. An example of this can be found at <http://www.kongcompany.com/>

If nothing seems to work to cure your dogs consistent barking problem, try a citronella bark collar. This system is an option to the shock collar. It will spray citronella into the dogs nose/mouth area when it begins to bark. These are effective. However, ensure that you replace empty citronella canisters and batteries.

Any anti-bark product will have its positive sides and drawbacks. You need to determine what is right for your dog and yourself.