Barking Dogs & Noise Nuisance

The constant barking or whining of a dog can be very disturbing or annoying for your neighbours. Often this occurs when you are out of the house so you do not realise it is a problem or how bad it is until someone complains.

In law, if your dog’s barking is a ‘statutory noise nuisance’, you as the owner could be taken to court if you do nothing to stop your barking. The Council has a noise complaint policy that explains how we investigate a noise complaint and when it could be classed as a statutory nuisance. The full policy is available on the Erewash Borough Council website page for noise

Why Dogs Bark

Don’t blame the dog and think that you will solve the problem by replacing with another. A second dog could also result in more not less problems. All dogs bark and unless you change at the same time, the problem could still be there.

Dogs are by nature pack animals and they need the security of a family group. Pet dogs regard their owners as a substitute family and can soon become distressed when left alone. Your dog may bark for a number of reasons such as loneliness, boredom or frustration, attention seeking, defending territory or a medical problem. You can ask your vet to refer you to an animal behaviourist who can suggest ways to improve your dog’s behaviour.

Training

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at anything that moves. A well-trained dog should be able to tell the visitors allowed into the house and the people who are intruders. Good training is essential at an early age, this combined with affection and companionship should mean that your dog will not develop these bad habits. Start as you mean to go on.

Some dogs just do not want you to go out. Your dog may get used to the idea if you:-

- Leave at different times and for different periods and do not fuss them when you leave.
- Put the dog on his own in another room for a few minutes then gradually build up the time you leave them. Do not return until he is quiet for a period and praise him when you do.
- Some dogs bark because they want to join in with what is going on outside. If this is the problem, try leaving your dog where he cannot see outside.
- Some dogs settle if they hear a human voice by leaving on the radio or television.

Try not to leave your dog for long periods. If you have to, try to organise someone to visit to let out into the garden or possibly take for a walk. If you do have to leave your dog:

- Feed and exercise him before you go out and leave fresh water to drink.
- Make sure that the room is not too hot or cold and there is adequate ventilation.
- Provide a comfortable bed or basket that is not in a draught or direct sunlight.
- Leave a large marrowbone to chew and some favourite toys for play.
- If returning after dark, leave a light on or use a night sensor with a lamp.
- Consider taking your dog to a licensed boarding kennel that offers day care.

If you leave your dog outside all day:

- Ensure the garden is completely secure to prevent your dog from straying.
- Try not to put the kennel near a neighbour’s fence as the dog may be tempted to bark.

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