

Controlling barking dogs – what Council will do

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Barking dogs can cause a real nuisance to other people and animals within the community.

Council is required to act upon all complaints received for barking dogs.

The owner will be advised that a complaint has been received and of their responsibilities in relation to this issue. The identity of the complainant will remain confidential in any correspondence from Council.

Council will also provide the owner with information that may assist them in assessing the problem and controlling their barking dog. The owner must take steps to minimise the nuisance being caused within 14 days from the date the complaint was received or Council will take further action.

Both parties will be encouraged to discuss the issue with their neighbours initially to try and achieve a resolution.

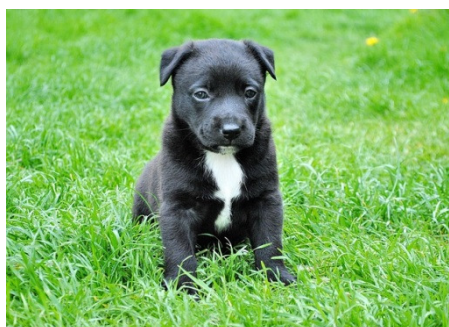
If the nuisance persists, during this period, the complainant will be asked to submit their concerns in writing with sufficient information to provide Council with grounds to investigate by completing an Animal Noise Complaint Form. This includes details of the alleged barking dog and related property address, as well as an accurate log of the dates and times when the barking is causing a nuisance.

After 14 days, Local Laws will collate the information from the complainant and if necessary survey the adjoining neighbours to determine if others have similar concerns and assess the impact of the nuisance within the immediate community.

If the alleged nuisance is proven to be a breach of *Local Law No 2 (Animal Management) 2011*, Council may issue the owner with compliance notices and/or penalty infringement notices.

The owner can dispute the complaint, as they have the right to have the matter heard before a Magistrate's Court. If this happens, the complainant(s) will be required to provide evidence in person. A more detailed statement or affidavit may be requested, as Council must be satisfied that evidence is available to support legal action.

So talk it out with your neighbour and try to resolve the issue amicably, if you are having any concerns about a barking dog!



**For more information contact
Council's Customer Service Centre on the below details**