

Here's some info and tips from the Vincent Rangers to help you with your barking dog. It's by no means an exhaustive list but there just may be some ideas that you haven't considered. Your veterinarian may also be able to provide interim veterinary remedies (we work with My Best Friend Vet in Leederville). We can also recommend Dr Garth Jennens from AMREX Behaviour for particularly problematic pooches. Thanks for your time and for being a good Vincent neighbour and dog owner.



## IF DOGS BARK CONTINUALLY WITHOUT REASON THE CAUSE MAY BE:

- » Insufficient exercise
- » Loneliness/boredom
- » Lack of training
- » Fence line distraction
- » Inappropriate confinement
- » Inadequate shelter
- » Ill health
- » Change of environment
- » Breeding/temperament
- » Isolation
- » Deliberate or unintentional provocation by people or roaming dogs

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Attention to one or several of the following remedies does not take much time and will help reduce continual barking and improve the general health of your dog:

- » Provide enough space for your dog to move freely in your enclosed backyard
- » A dog shouldn't be left on a fixed chain for long periods as this induces savagery and often increases nuisance from barking and odour problems. If a dog has to be chained, it should be on a running chain, which is simple to construct
- » Walking your dog keeps your dog fit. The amount of exercise needed depends on its size and breed - but remember to exercise your dog on a leash in public places, except within the allotted dog exercise areas (see our website for a listing)
- » Your dog will accept kind but firm discipline. We encourage you to take it to a good obedience-training school when young and you will both enjoy the benefits
- » Eliminate direct line-of-sight vision between your dog and any kids or other animals which may provoke barking – erect a high solid fence, wall or other opaque barrier
- » A balanced and varied diet is necessary. Keep feeding hours regular and ensure a supply of fresh water is always available
- » Do not reward or give your dog attention when it barks – instead, try praising your dog when it is quiet
- » If your dog is barking while you are out, a radio as background noise may help (though not too loud because it may annoy your neighbours)
- » When leaving your dog at home on its own, don't make a fuss or an issue about leaving. Leave your dog with something to distract it while you're gone - chewing bones or dog toys are ideal. Even a big block of frozen ice in summer works a treat!
- » Anti-barking collars (citronella collars) work well and can be purchased from vets. When the dog barks loudly citronella oil is released, the odour then distracts the dog which sends the message to cease barking
- » As a last resort, an operation can be done to remove the animal's larynx (vocal cords). This is often unnecessary and should only be done when all other treatments have failed