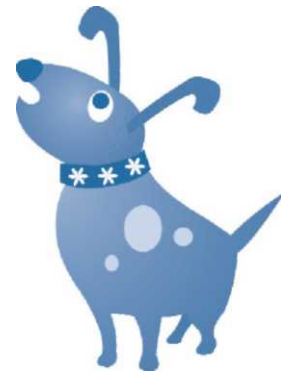


Dear Neighbour,

You may not be aware but your dog is currently causing a noise nuisance in the neighbourhood by barking.

I have discussed this problem with the City of Unley Council which has suggested that as a first step, I express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without recording an Official complaint against you on Council's file.



Also included is some information that may be of assistance to you in resolving the problem.

Your co-operation at this stage is all that is needed to avoid this matter progressing any further.

Your Neighbour,

Date.....

Some simple tips for reducing barking

- Make sure that you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Instead, reward the dog when it is quiet.
- If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- If you have a large back yard, enclosing the dog in a smaller area to allow it to relax and wait for your return rather than run about barking, will allow the dog to believe looking after the place is not its responsibility when you are not home. This can be very stressful to dogs, they like to sleep.
- Ensure the dog has an inviting comfortable shelter/bed/kennel so that it will want to sleep there rather than "*guard*" the property. Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If the dog is barking through gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking give a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking. If the dog will not listen to you, it will need obedience training.
- You may like to check the Animal Welfare League's and RSPCA's web site for further information on "animal training"
- www.animalwelfare.com.au or contact the league on 8348 1300
- www.rspca.org.au or contact the RSPCA on 1300 477 722

Remember, dogs bark for many reasons. If these simple tips do not help, seek further advice.