

# A barking dog is annoying me...

Living close to a barking dog can be a real nuisance, especially if it happens during the hours when you would like to be sleeping. Here is some advice about what to do if you have a barking dog in your neighbourhood.

First, try to speak to the owner of the dog. It may be that they are not aware that their dog is barking, especially if it is happening during the day when they are at work and you are at home.

If you continue to be bothered by barking, **phone us on 211 1777**. The person you speak with will take some details, and pass on your complaint to an investigating officer. You can also **email us on [service@icc.govt.nz](mailto:service@icc.govt.nz)**. We will contact you to find out what your concerns are, and keep in touch as we work through the problem.

## WE MIGHT ASK YOU TO HELP US WITH OUR INVESTIGATIONS.

For example, we might ask you to keep a log and note down each time you hear the dog barking, how long it is happening for, and what effect it is having on you. We may also ask your permission to install a recording device on your property.



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I COMPLAIN ABOUT A BARKING DOG?

Our Animal Services team can only become actively involved in a complaint if we have reasonable grounds under the Dog Control Act 1996 to believe that the dog is creating a nuisance by persistent and loud barking (or howling).

If a dog is barking constantly throughout the day and night, or if it is barking aggressively when you pass by, we may well have grounds to do something about it.

This could include:

- **Phoning or visiting the owner to speak with them. We will try to work out a way with them to stop or reduce the barking.**
- **Issuing a warning letter, requiring that they must do something to stop the barking within seven days.**
- **Issuing a letter telling the owner that they must remove the dog from the property within seven days. If this does not happen, Animal Control Officers may then remove the dog. The dog cannot return to that property again.**

We do need to be fair. For instance, if the dog barks for just a few minutes two or three times during the day, we might not consider this to be a nuisance, because it is not reasonable to expect a dog to be quiet all the time.

