

Barking dogs

All dogs bark, but some barking dogs become a real neighbourhood nuisance, greatly reducing the quality of life for their neighbours and increasing neighbourhood tensions.

Barking dogs are the most common animal behaviour problem Council is asked to deal with.

Why dogs bark

- Dogs are social animals and often bark when they are lonely
- Separation from an owner can cause dogs stress
- Barking may also be the result of boredom, frustration, or a dog's way of seeking attention from its owner
- Dogs bark out of fear - this can be fear of people, objects or other animals
- Dogs bark when there is a threat to their territory
- Playing with your dog often stimulates barking
- Some breeds have a reputation for barking
- Some dominant dogs bark until they get what they want.

My neighbour's dog is barking excessively - what can I do?

People are sometimes unaware their animal's activities are causing a nuisance. Council encourages you to approach the dog's owner as soon as the problem arises. State your case clearly and politely as they may not be aware of the issue.

If the dog's owner is unapproachable, or you are not comfortable approaching the dog owner Council has developed a **notification letter** and **Barking Dogs - Dog Owner Fact Sheet** which you can place in the dog owner's letter box or mail.

It may take some time for the dog owner to change the dog's behaviour. Council asks that you wait 14 days for the barking to be addressed.

How to report a barking dog

If the barking continues to be a problem and can't be solved by talking to the dog owner, you can report the problem to Council online or contact us by phone on 07 3205 0555.

Provide as much information as possible:

- correct address of where the dog is kept
- description of the dog
- detailed list of dates, times and possible causes for the dogs barking
- how the barking is affecting you.

This information will assist us to carry out a fair and impartial investigation and may also help the dog's owner understand and resolve any problems that may be contributing to excessive barking.

What happens when you report a barking dog?

If you lodge a barking dog complaint with Council, we will:

- contact the dog's owner and let them know a complaint has been received
- provide the dog's owner with information about why the dog may make excessive noise and suggest ways it could be resolved
- give the dog owner two weeks to resolve the noise problem.

If the noise nuisance continues Council will ask you to complete a Noise Nuisance Diary and send it to us.

Your responsibilities when you report a barking dog

If you report a barking dog, you should:

- keep us informed - give the dog owner some time to resolve the problem and let us know what happens
- keep complete and detailed records - keep an animal noise diary when the dog barks and how long the barking continues
- be prepared to go to court - if we take legal action against the dog owner, you may be asked to attend court and give evidence.

Investigation process

After a completed animal noise diary has been returned to Council, a Council officer will review the diary to assist further investigation. The returned animal noise diary is a key piece of information that assists Council understand the nature of the situation.

Council will take necessary actions to ensure the complainants identity will remain anonymous. However, as enforcement action may be reliant, in part or whole, on the evidence put forward by the complainant, and if the matter progresses to court, the identity of the complainant may become known. A person making a complaint and supplying evidence should be aware of this fact.

What will Council do if the barking continues to cause nuisance?

Should a further complaint be received from yourself regarding the nuisance barking dog, a Council officer will contact you to obtain a version of events or statement and gather any evidence that you may have to support the complaint.

Council will contact the dog's owner and let them know that a complaint has been received.

If the officer determines the animal is causing an ongoing noise nuisance, Council may issue a notice to remedy. If the animal owner still takes no action, an infringement notice may be issued. Alternatively, Council may determine that education is the most appropriate response.

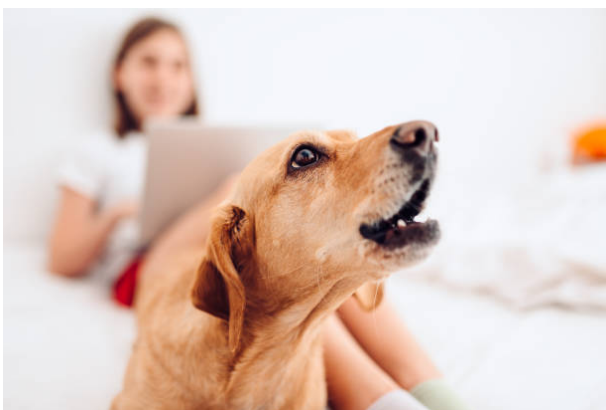
Without your willingness to assist with this requirement, Council is unable to investigate the complaint or commence enforcement action.

Further information

Under Council's Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management), a person must not allow an animal to cause a noise nuisance.

An animal can be considered a nuisance when it unreasonably disrupts or inhibits activities at adjoining or nearby land by making a noise which is repetitious or incessant.

Further information is available on Council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au.



Barking dog

Dear neighbour

You may not be aware that your dog is making a lot of noise. The barking is causing a nuisance for surrounding residents and rather than making a complaint, I just wanted to let you know that it's starting to impact on our lifestyle.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has provided this letter to assist in mutually resolving this matter. I have decided to let you know about your dog/s, as I am sure you would prefer the opportunity to resolve this matter yourself.

Typically, your dog/s is barking at these times:

Date: Barking start time: Barking end time: This appears to happen when:	Date: Barking start time: Barking end time: This appears to happen when:
Date: Barking start time: Barking end time: This appears to happen when:	Date: Barking start time: Barking end time: This appears to happen when:
Other information:	

Attached is a fact sheet from Council which may help you identify why your dog is barking and possible solutions to reduce or stop the noise.

For more detailed information and tips on how to stop excessive barking you can visit www.mbrc.qld.gov.au/animals

Regards

Your neighbour