

EXCESSIVE DOG BARKING

Dogs bark to communicate. However, excessive barking can create noise, nuisance, stress and anxiety amongst people and dogs. It is therefore important to understand the cause of their barking.

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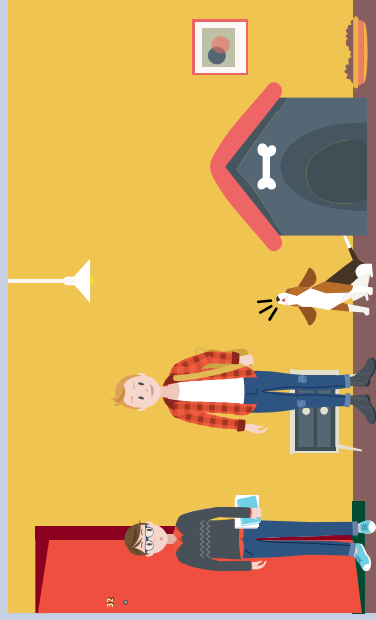


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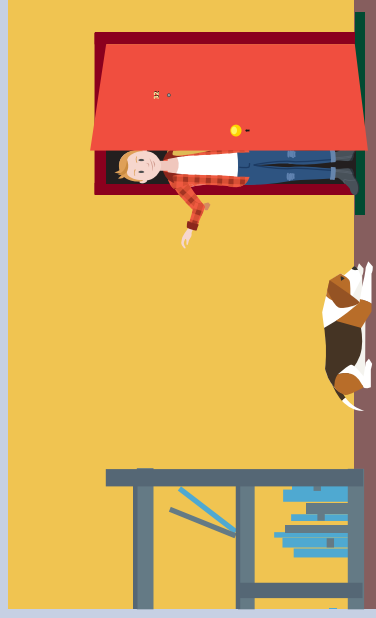


WHY DOGS BARK AND HOW TO LESSEN THE NOISE



1 Territorial / Protective

When a person or an animal comes into an area that your dog considers to be its territory, it will bark. This can be lessened by restricting its visual stimulation, such as covering the windows or putting up screens at the doors.



2 Separation Anxiety

Dogs are social animals and may become anxious when left alone. They may also exhibit other symptoms, such as pacing, destructiveness, depression, defecating and urinating in inappropriate places.

Start by putting your dog in another room on its own occasionally for a few minutes, then gradually increasing the time that it is left alone. Return to check on it when it is quieter. Praise your dog so that it feels good about being alone. It is also advisable to manage your dog's condition with a certified trainer and/or veterinarian if it suffers from separation anxiety.



3 Attention Seeking

Dogs bark when trying to call out to their owner. They may also bark if they hear other animals calling or get startled by unfamiliar noises, such as construction work, objects falling, thunder and children playing.

Do not reward your dog with treats or give it attention when it barks. Give it attention only when it stops barking, or when it is quiet. Teach your dog to stop barking on command. When your dog is barking, give it a firm command, such as "cease", and call it to you. If your dog doesn't listen to you, it may need obedience training. Seek professional assistance before it develops bad habits.