



Complaint as to a nuisance created by a dog

Barking Dogs Information Sheet & Process Map

Barking is a normal behaviour for dogs, but excessive barking can become a nuisance. The Shire of Denmark process for addressing complaints about barking dogs on neighbouring properties is as follows:

Step 1: Contact Your Neighbour

In many cases dogs bark when their owner is not home. The fairest and most direct way to seek resolution is to make your neighbour aware of your concerns.

You may choose to:

- Have a conversation with your neighbour
- Send a "Dear Neighbour Letter" (See attached)

Remember to keep a copy of your letter or make a record of your conversation.

Step 2: Keep a Barking Dog Diary

Collect evidence to demonstrate that a dog's behaviour is a nuisance and beyond what could be considered normal dog behaviour.

Keep a diary over a seven-day period for each dog (See attached template).

Step 3: Complete a Nuisance Dog Complaint

Only after you have completed steps one and two can you complete a Nuisance Dog Complaint with the Shire.

Complete a 'Form 7' complaint form (see attached) and submit this to the Shire.

A complaint must be received within seven days of completing your Barking Dog Diary. If a complaint is not received within seven days, you will need to complete another Barking Dog Diary.

Step 4: Ranger Investigation

Once the Shire has received a complaint, we will investigate the issue and consider compliance options available under the *Dog Act 1976*.

Investigation may include:

- Notifying the animal owner of our investigation into a nuisance dog
- Attending the property to investigate

The Shire will then review the case and decide on one (or more) of the following actions:

- Issue a warning and provide advice to the owner about possible solutions
- Issue an Abatement Notice or an Infringement to the owner
- Take no action (where appropriate).

The Shire's Ranger Services team will advise you of the outcome.

Step 5: Civil Action

If a nuisance persists, you have the right to lodge a civil matter with your local magistrate's court (at your own cost). You should seek your own legal advice before proceeding.

For more information or if you are concerned about a dog/s barking contact Shire of Denmark Ranger Services (08) 9848 0300 or email info@denmark.wa.gov.au