

Barking Dogs

Dogs bark for many reasons and in order to stop the annoying over the top barking it will be necessary to find out why they are barking and then deal with the root cause accordingly.

You may need to ask yourself some simple questions when asking yourself why my dog barks - Does my dog get ALL the physical and mental exercise it needs? Does my dog know where it fits in within the family, and know it's NOT their job to protect or warn. Has my dog been socialized?

Some the basic reasons dog bark and some simple things to try may include:

- Boredom – dogs who are bored make up their own activities, including barking.

Answer : Stimulate the dogs environment with some mind stimulating games, and also include a regular good walk to run off some energy.

- Separation Anxiety – Some dogs are unable to cope with the thought their owners have left them and bark to call them to come back i.e. stress. This often commences from a puppy being a little spoilt or and re-homed dog over attaching itself to it's new owner. This is the most difficult form of barking to deal with and a professional behaviorist maybe required.

Answer : Separation Anxiety is over bonding with the owner, so the close bond between dog and owner must be broken. No collar or reprimanding will cure this type of barking. Professional help will be required.

- Territorial – When dogs have taken it upon themselves to be the protector of a premises they will bark at anything they feel is a treat to their area. (they bark to warn the rest of the pack and also to warn the intruder away) This would include possum barking.

Answer : They need to be reprimanded when they bark. This needs to be done every time they bark! This may require you restricting his movements to an area you can loosely monitor and correct the barking when he starts..

- Excitement/Frustration – Playing games (or not playing games when THEY want to) can be a reason they bark.

Answer : They need to be taught this is not appropriate, also you would stop the activity if it during play, and start again when they are quiet.

Citronella Collars, shock collars etc maybe considered an alternative and in some circumstances they may work (they are banned in some states, and highly frowned on by

the RSPCA),but I think it's a better way is finding out 'why are you barking?' Sometimes professional help maybe needed.