



pasadena humane society & spca

open door. dedicated care.

361 S. Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105 www.pasadenahumane.org
Behavior & Training Department (626) 792-7151, ext. 155 behavior@pasadenahumane.org

Barking

Barking is a way that dogs communicate with each other and with humans. Some breeds, such as terriers, guarding breeds, and some herding dogs, are more predisposed to barking. When a dog barks continually, or for long periods of time, a problem arises. To address the problem properly, it is necessary to determine why your dog is barking.

Reasons dogs bark:

- To protect territory or to threaten intruders. This type of barking may be accompanied by a growl and raised hackles.
- Social isolation or frustration. An incessant, repetitive bark, accompanied by a relatively motionless tail. This is concentrated toward an area associated with the owner (ex. house).
- Boredom
- To induce play. Usually a muffled bark accompanied by a wagging tail.
- Attention seeking
- Barking for a reward

Recommendations:

- If your dog is barking at things outside the house or yard, it is important to manage your dog by restricting his/her view. Block access to windows, doors, or fences where the dog can see other dogs or passersby.
- When a dog is barking to protect territory or threaten intruders, either remove the dog or remove the intruder.
- Barking due to boredom can be relieved by providing a more stimulating environment. Interactive toys such as Kongs, Busy Buddies, or other puzzle toys can help.
- Dogs are social animals and may bark if isolated or left alone for long periods of time. Limit the amount of time your dog is left alone. Neighbors, dog walkers or dog daycare centers can provide companionship and/or exercise for your dog.
- If your dog barks to get your attention or initiate play, do not reward the dog by giving in. Wait until your dog is calm and quiet and then reward him/her with attention and playtime.
- Dogs can be inadvertently trained to bark by receiving a reward. For example, a dog that barks at garbage trucks is rewarded when the truck leaves, a cycle is begun. The dog begins to generalize the barking to other things such as buses, motorcycles, mailmen etc. In order to stop the barking you must break the cycle and interrupt the natural system of reward.
- **Exercise, exercise, exercise! A tired dog is a quiet dog!**

Remember that we are always here to help! It is our goal to maintain the human-animal bond. We strive to do this by providing private training and group classes, and a behavior and training hotline for ongoing support. Please contact any member of the Pasadena Humane Society's Behavior & Training Department via phone or email: (626) 792-7151 x-155; behavior@pasadenahumane.org.