

BARKING DOGS FACTSHEET

Kempsey Shire Council companion animal management

Are you affected by a barking dog?



A constantly barking dog can be a source of irritation and can create conflict between neighbours.

Kempsey Shire Council receives

many barking dog complaints every year and has the power to address barking dog problems under New South Wales legislation.

Is the barking a nuisance behaviour?

Nuisance barking is different from normal dog behaviour and occurs when:

- the dog takes a long time to settle after the barking begins (more than five minutes or at regular intervals), or
- the dog barks for prolonged periods, especially in the night or early hours of the morning.

What can I do if a dog barks persistently when its owner is away?

Most barking dog complaints can be resolved simply by making the owner aware that the problem exists. An owner who's absent for long periods may not be aware their dog is barking constantly.

You should tell the owner of the dog that the dog is barking and how the barking is affecting you. Once informed, an owner can take action to fix the problem.

What can I do if my dog constantly barks?

If your dog's barking is an issue, you can:

- seek advice from a vet or dog trainer
- exercise your dog daily
- provide mental stimulation for your dog, such as toys
- feed your dog in the evening so it's not hungry throughout the night
- provide shelter from the weather, such as a kennel or shed
- get to know your dog's barking triggers, such as storms and emergency sirens
- give your dog companionship.

What will Council do about a persistently barking dog?

You can report a persistently barking dog to Council. Initially, Council will send an information brochure on nuisance barking to the dog owner and the person making the complaint. The dog owner must be given time to implement strategies to overcome the problem.

If the situation doesn't improve after the initial customer request, Council will send a Noise Nuisance Diary to the person making the complaint. This person can then record the dates, times, duration and details of how the barking is a nuisance to them. After this, a Council Ranger may survey other residents to determine if the barking is causing a public nuisance.

If Council finds there's a genuine problem and the owner fails to take measures to resolve it, a Nuisance Order may be issued under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW). If the owner fails to act on the order, they may receive a spot fine.



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Other agencies you can contact

Community Justice Centre

Community Justice Centres are government-funded, independent centres that specialise in settling differences between neighbours without any complicated legal processes. They will suggest mediation, where you meet with the dog's owner and a Community Justice Centre representative to try to resolve the problem. This is a free process and has a 95% success rate.

For information on your nearest centre, visit www.cjc.nsw.gov.au

Vet

Contact your local vet for information and advice on barking.

RSPCA

Phone the RSPCA on (02) 9770 7555 or visit www.rspca.org.au

Local Court

You can issue your own noise abatement directive under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW). To apply for an order, contact your nearest local court.

Contact us

Council Rangers work to ensure that New South Wales legislation is implemented so residents and animals can co-exist safely and harmoniously in Kempsey Shire. For advice on dog ownership, registration or control in public places, please contact us:

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