

# DOG BARKING FACT SHEET



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**Problem barking can create difficult neighbourhood disputes. The intermittent and piercing nature of a dog's bark can be very disruptive for close neighbours. A dog's bark can reach 90 decibels.**

**You may not be aware that your dog is barking when you are not home. It's important to make sure your dog has enough toys and space so they can occupy themselves when you aren't home.**

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## **How can I make sure my dog is not annoying the neighbours?**



### **Basic health and welfare**

Make sure there is adequate food, water, shelter, yard space, exercise, and companionship for the dog.



### **Keep things interesting**

Have plenty of chew toys for your dog to play with. Raw bones, toys, chew ropes provide good mental stimulation.



### **Daily exercise**

Dogs need daily exercise. A walk each day is essential for good health and good behaviour. A ten-minute walk twice a day will help as a walk past two or three houses gives a great variety of new smells to look forward to.

Larger dogs such as cattle dogs, border collies, and kelpies need more exercise than other dogs. Vigorous runs at an off-leash area help reduce problem barking.



### **Daily training**

Training can be done easily at home. Teaching the dog to come, sit, and stay will help give good boundaries for your pet. You can also contact dog obedience clubs for more formal and intense training.



## **My dog is barking how can I help?**

### **Possible causes of barking**

When you listen carefully to a dog barking you will hear a variety of pitch, volume, frequency and type. Each of these means something different.

#### **Boredom bark**

Dogs are social animals and need companionship. Eight hours is a long time to be home alone when everyone is at work. A bored dog's bark might sound like: "bark...bark...bark..."

#### **Lonely or attention seeking bark**

'The family is inside but no one is playing with me' attention seeking bark might sound like: "yap, yap...yap, yap..."

#### **Warning or alarm barking**

'There is someone on my property' bark might sound like: "grrr...ruff, ruff...grrr"

#### **Ill health, pain or cruelty bark**

Please don't ignore this bark. An 'ouch that hurts' bark might sound like: "yow, yip, yow, yow, yip"

#### **Separation anxiety bark**

These barks are usually most intense within half an hour of the owners departing and might sound like: "bark, bark, bark, yip, yip, yip, arrooo..."

#### **Howl**

These noises are partly in response to ambulance sirens, may be breed related (Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky), or a male chasing a female dog.



## Identify barking triggers

Once you've found the barking triggers, they can be reduced or removed. Try using a video or sound recording to see if roaming cats or strange noises are annoying your dog.

### **Sight barriers**

Providing a barrier to a busy street can sometimes remove the dog's need to try to control the situation. Sometimes a doggy door for the dog to retreat inside solves the problem.

### **Pet minding service**

Ask a neighbour to check on your dog through the day or employ someone to walk or play with them.

### **Aboistop (anti-barking citronella collars)**

These work by distracting or discouraging the dog from barking. They are not a permanent solution and can induce fearful behaviour in some dogs.

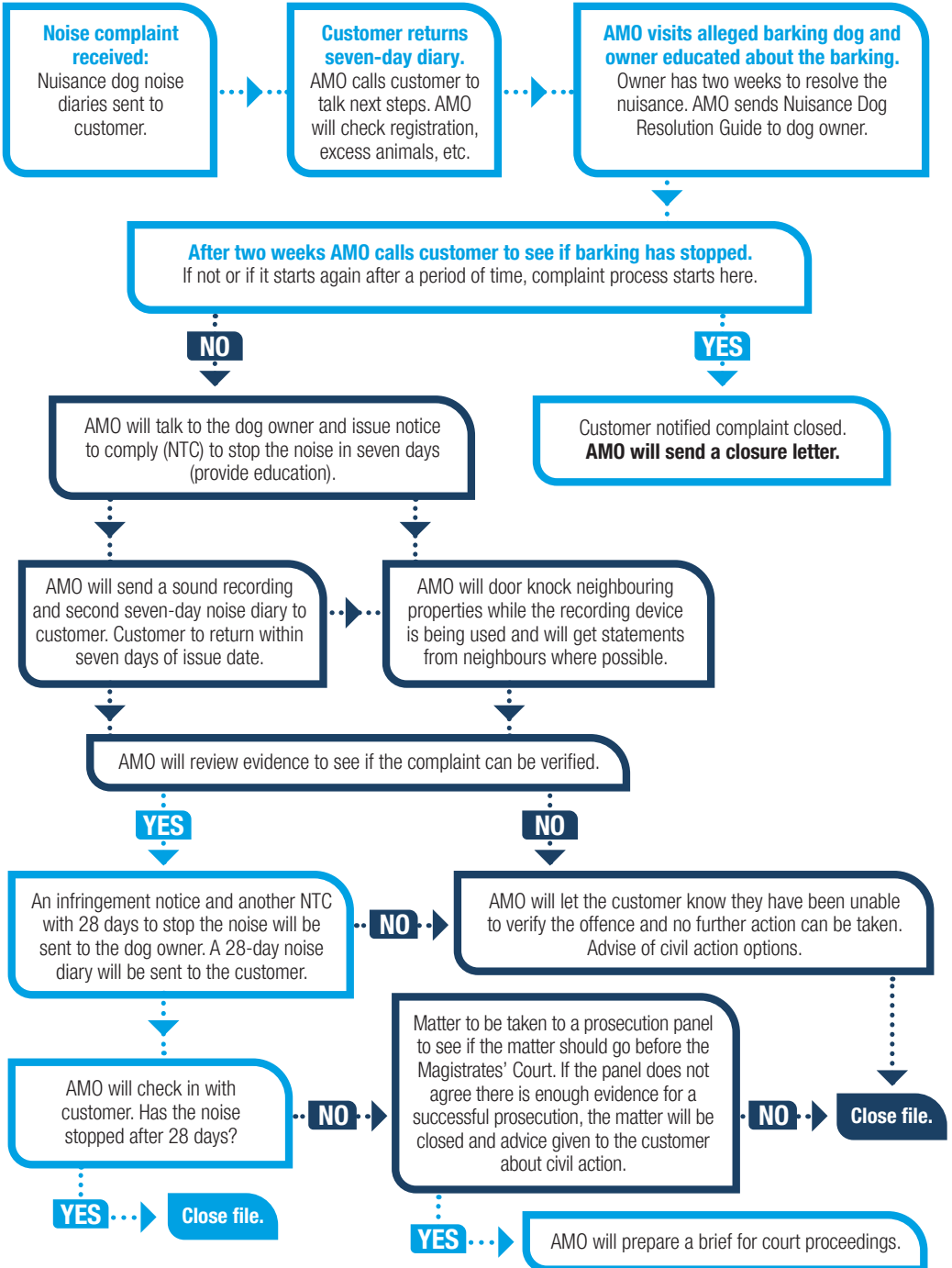
### **Pet behaviour counsellor**

Someone outside the situation can offer workable solutions. Your local vet can recommend a counsellor.

### **Avoid getting a companion dog**

Until you have controlled the first dog's problem, a second dog will often add to the problem e.g. two barking dogs.

# BARKING DOG INVESTIGATION PROCESS FACT SHEET



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