

## WHY IS YOUR DOG BARKING?



### Is your dog:

- ✓ Outdoors and lonely during the day?
- ✓ Frightened by sirens and other noises?
- ✓ Outdoors and over-stimulated by passersby, squirrels, other dogs, children playing nearby, etc ?
- ✓ Outdoors at night?
- ✓ Getting enough exercise?

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT YOUR BARKING DOG?

### 1. Train your dog to be happy and quiet inside the house.

Get your dog used to being alone in a closed room or open crate by feeding his/her meals in this area. Stuff his/her meals in a Kong-type feeder to make them last. As your dog gets used to this area, leave for a few seconds and come back before your dog barks. Gradually extend the amount of time you are gone as long as your dog is calm. Begin closing the crate for a few seconds at a time.

### 2. Crate-train your dog.

When used properly, a crate provides your dog with a safe place to sleep indoors during the day and when you are not home.

### 3. Keep your dog in the quietest room in the house and turn on a t.v. or radio to minimize outdoor noise.

### 4. Modify your yard or fence to minimize what the dog can see when s/he is outside.

If squirrels are causing the barking, trim tree limbs and discard bird feeders to discourage wildlife from coming near the yard.

### 5. Minimize the amount of time your dog spends outside alone.

Your dog wants to be part of your family. If you are home, your dog should be indoors with you.

To avoid disturbing neighbors and reduce the potential for conflicts with wildlife, dogs should always sleep indoors at night.

### 6. Exercise your dog each day.

A good rule of thumb is 30 minutes of exercise twice a day. Active and sporting breeds may require 45 minutes of aerobic activity a day. Consider dog daycare, a professional dog walker or hiring a neighbor to walk your dog during the day.

Find a friend who also has a lonely dog and 'time share' playdates.

Engage your dog's brain and enrich her/his life with dog training classes, learning tricks, puzzle toys, and playing hide & seek for food.

### 7. Hire a certified dog trainer or take classes to help you and your dog communicate.

Visit [www.APDT.com](http://www.APDT.com) for a list of positive-reinforcement dog trainers.



### Please Don't:

Yell at your dog. Yelling won't modify your dog's behavior or solve the reason why s/he is barking.

Don't squirt your dog with water or throw things at your dog. While this may interrupt the barking, it won't change the dog's behavior or address the reason(s) why she/he barks

Don't hit your dog. Hitting your dog will probably make it impossible for you to ever train your dog without professional help.

### **THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS.**

Be a good neighbor and responsible dog owner. Address the problem as soon as you become aware of it and avoid unhappiness and legal consequences.

