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DOGS: BARKING

Why do dogs bark?:

1. Because there is something unusual or exciting going on
2. Because another dog is barking
3. As part of boisterous play

This is normal, acceptable dog behaviour: when other dogs bark it is natural that yours will want to join in. Do not be cross. Quieten him with distractions: food, a warm kennel & other comforts: or take him into the house with you. Dogs with interesting companions and surroundings don't need to bark.

4. Because they enjoy it.
5. Because it has become a habit.
6. Because they are lonely, cold, bored or anxious and they hope their bark will attract attention [as it does when you pop your head out and yell at them! They bark – you pop out: that is fun! if they keep barking long enough maybe that head will pop out again . . . !]

This is "problem barking", now it will take persistence and consistency on **your** part to overcome the problem.

THE CURE: You need to stop the barking being fun, to break the habit
AND You need to remove the anxiety or loneliness that started them barking in the first place.

TRADITIONAL APPROACHEvery time the dog nuisance barks, the same distasteful experience should occur.

A loud or unpleasant noise Perhaps a folded newspaper knocked against his kennel roof?

But ... if the dog sees you do it, then it becomes fun!

Also ... you will only be able to do this when you are at home, yet a lot of problem barking occurs when owners are out.

MODERN AIDS

DAP Pheromone Collars ... emit a natural dog-pacifying pheromone whenever the dog barks, so they stop feeling worried or anxious. They have no need to bark. **DAP** is also available as a vaporizer or spray.

THUNDER JACKETS ... especially useful for timid or lonely dogs. They fit snugly, &, like 'swaddling' a baby, they confer a feeling of comfort and safety.

Citronella Anti-barking Collars ... emit a wiff of citronella, each and every time the dog barks. Dogs don't like the smell & learn very quickly not to bark while wearing that collar! **BUT** they may still bark when the collar is removed.

Other anti-barking collars:

Some emit high frequency noise to deter barking, but they can cause confusion for other nearby dogs which will also hear the noise but have not themselves been barking! [Hand-held devices are also available, but do not provide the same consistency]

Others give the dog a small electric shock whenever it barks: considered cruel . . . we do not sell or recommend them.

Anti-barking Muzzles: made of leather or vinyl, allow dogs to breathe easily, to pant & to drink, but not to open the mouth wide enough to bark. "**Hushers**" are the best [costing about \$55 - \$65]. They do annoy the dog at first, and they don't stop him whining! Excellent for dogs that bark [or bite, or eat seat-belts etc!] when in the car. Take care not to leave an unsuitable muzzle on a dog whilst you are away: they may overheat, be unable to drink, or choke on vomit,.

Debarking surgery is generally considered a mutilation and is discouraged by law.. It leaves dogs with a soft 'hoarse' bark. You should always try other methods of control or retraining before considering surgery. A veterinary consultation is needed to discuss this surgery, its effects, costs and advisability.

Products mentioned are available from Penguin Vet [phone 0364371331 or email penguinvet@gmail.com]

We also have periodic "Evenings" when behavior [or other] issues can be discussed in a group [Free for Our Clients]