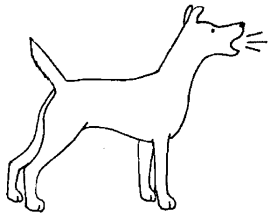


## 🐾 WHY THIS BROCHURE 🐾

As dog owners, we are responsible for the care and well being of our pets, but sometimes we forget that our dogs can affect other people's lives as well as our own. Excessive barking complaints are among the most common received by the City of Milwaukie in regards to dogs.

Often, as owners, we aren't even aware of how much of a disturbance our dogs are causing, or that we may have neighbors that are sensitive to our dog's sounds. To help your dog stop barking, an owner must first determine what is causing the barking.



## 🐾 THE LAW 🐾

The City of Milwaukie Municipal Ordinance states "The maintenance of any animal which causes noise of such type, volume or duration as to disturb any person" is deemed to be in violation the Municipal Noise Ordinance.

Should the barking not be brought under control, the dog owners may find themselves subject to citation.

## 🐾 HEALTH ISSUES 🐾

Healthy dogs are happy dogs. There are times when excessive barking may be caused by a health issue. It is important that your dog receives an annual health checkup and that you discuss changes in your dog's behavior with your veterinarian. Things such as hearing and sight issues may cause excessive barking.

Establish a regular routine for giving your dog attention when you are at home. Leave your dog alone for short periods of time at first, and then gradually increase the amount of time your dog spends alone. Your dog will soon learn that you will return. If there have been changes in your dog's life, don't ignore them.



## 🐾 CONTACT INFORMATION 🐾

City of Milwaukie Code Compliance

🐾 Code Compliance Coordinator

Tim Salyers.....503-786-7409

🐾 Clackamas County Dog Services

Emergency.....503-655-8211

Non-Emergency.....503-655-8628

# DOES YOUR DOG BARK?



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

## 🐾 WHY DOGS BARK 🐾

Barking is a form of communication for dogs. They bark or whine at various pitches and volumes to vocalize their emotions. It may be a high-pitched whine to attract other dogs; a warning, alarm or a challenge to other dogs. Many times dogs bark during times of indecision, anxiety, frustration, boredom or separation from their owners. Dogs also bark to warn others of a perceived threat, to warn strangers and other dogs about their willingness to defend their territory and territory status.

🐾 **BOREDOM-** Irregular or inadequate mental and physical stimulation may contribute to your dog's barking.

🐾 **SEPARATION ANXIETY-** This is a very frequent cause of inappropriate barking. When dogs form a particularly strong bond to one or more members of the household, they can become very distressed when separated from them. Owners are often not aware of the problem, because this type of barking and whining tends to occur most when they are not at home.

🐾 **CHANGES TO A DOG'S LIFESTYLE OR DISTRACTIONS-** Often a move to a different neighborhood, house or having new neighbors move in may cause your dog anxiety. He/she may feel the need to reestablish their status on and in their territory. They may bark at strangers, neighbors walking dogs, children riding bicycles, school buses or other new and unfamiliar sounds and smells.

## 🐾 THINGS TO TRY 🐾

🐾 **SQUIRT BOTTLE-** Keep a squirt bottle of water handy. When your dog barks, after a few barks, tell your dog in a firm voice, "No Bark", or whatever command you would like to use. If they continue to bark, repeat the command and squirt the dog in the face with the water. Repeat this each time your dog barks inappropriately. You must be consistent and your dog will learn quickly. Once your dog has made the association, you probably won't need to continue with the squirt bottle. A day or two is usually enough time to produce significant improvement.



🐾 **EXERCISE-** Alone it may not stop a dog from barking, but it will provide an active release for your dog's energy. Exercise should be varied with 15-20 minutes daily spent walking, training and playing.

🐾 **A PLACE TO CALL HOME-** Instinctually dogs are den creatures. Owners can create a den or a small, enclosed area in the house or outside, which should include something that smells strongly of the owner. This den area should never be used for punishment; it should be a place of safety and comfort.



🐾 **LINE OF SIGHT-** You may consider keeping your dog from areas that allow them to see pedestrian traffic. If your dog is bothered by night-time distractions such as cars, sirens, security lights, shadows, wind or other animals, you might consider keeping the dog indoors at night.

🐾 **FEEDING TIME-** If your dog barks during the day, you may consider an early morning feeding to encourage your dog to nap, or smaller feedings both morning and night might just be the ticket. Full stomachs often lead to drowsiness and better sleep.



## 🐾 OTHER OPTIONS 🐾

🐾 **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION COLLARS-** the most common types of collars tend to be citronella, sonic and static. You should be able to find these collars at your local pet supply store.

🐾 **PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE-** Sometimes hormones can be unstable due to chemical imbalance or depending on whether they have been spayed or neutered. Consult a veterinarian for advice.

🐾 **OBEDIENCE TRAINING-** Not only a good way of providing training, exercise and an outing for both of you, but obedience training also promotes good social behavior with other dogs and people. Well-socialized dogs tend to bark less.