



**Snohomish County Animal Services**  
A Division of the Auditor's Office

# How to Prevent Nuisance Barking

We understand that all dogs bark. However, habitual, excessive, or continual barking to an unreasonable degree can be frustrating and irritating to your neighbors.

Help prevent nuisance barking by being a responsible pet owner and control your dog's excessive barking. Barking can be corrected with proper training and effective strategies.

These recommendations can help reduce barking and lead to a happier, healthier dog!

## *Provide Interesting Toys*



Keep your dog busy when you are not home with puzzle toys. Puzzle toys make your dog work or play with the toy to get a reward. Rotating the toys makes them seem new and interesting.

## *Attend Obedience Classes*

Practice basic and advanced commands every day. Along with physical exercise, mental stimulation is important for your dog.



## *Use Doggie Daycare or a Dog Walker*



Have someone visit or walk your dog while you are not home. Friends and neighbors might be willing to help as well.

## *Play or Exercise Daily*

A good dog is a tired dog. Play and exercise help reduce excess energy and boredom.



## Alternative Tools to Stop Barking

### *Sound Correction*

These units use a loud, high-pitched sound to distract dogs when they start to bark. Three models are available: manual units that are activated when you push a button; automatic units that "go off" when your dog begins to bark; or units that sound after a programmed number of "allowable" barks.

### *Spray Correction*

Spray collars emit an unpleasant blast of air or citronella spray when barking starts so dogs associate the behavior with unwanted correction. The spray is safe for all healthy dogs, people, and the environment.

### *Electronic Stimulation*

An electronic bark collar distracts barking dogs by emitting programmable electric stimulation to the neck. In many cases, only the lowest levels of correction are all that is needed to distract dogs and stop excessive barking. The stimulation may be remote or automatic.