

Dear Neighbour,

You may not be aware, but your dog is currently causing a nuisance in the neighbourhood by barking.

I wanted to write to express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without recording an official complaint to Council.

Your dog appears to bark at the following times:

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For the below reason/s:

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On the back of this letter is some information from Moorabool Shire Council that may be of assistance to you in resolving the problem.

Your cooperation at this stage would be much appreciated to avoid this matter progressing any further.

Your Neighbour.

## Tips to reduce barking:

### Remove distractions –

- If the dog is barking at noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog away or install a barrier to keep the dog out of the area.
- If there are gaps in the fence causing the dog to bark, fill them in.
- If the dog is barking at regular occurrences such as rubbish trucks or children going to and from school, keep the dog inside or enclosed during those times.
- Should the dog be following pedestrians and noises along a fence line install a barrier to keep the dog from that area.
- If your dog can see pedestrians walking by try to block the dog's view.

### Shelter and care -

- Be sure that you provide your dog with plenty of exercise and stimulation.
- Make sure that your dog has plenty of food & water.
- Ensure that your dog has adequate shelter from the elements.

### Training

- Do not reward your dog for barking. If the dog is barking to get your attention do not let it inside or give acknowledge it. When the dog is quiet, give the dog praise & attention.
- Try to train the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog barks give it a command such as 'cease' and call the dog over. Reward the dog when they stop barking.
- Attend an accredited obedience trainer.

*If you have any questions, please contact the Moorabool Shire Council Community Safety team on 5366 7100.*