

## SIMPLE TIPS CONTINUED

- If the dog is barking at gaps in the fence, fill the gaps.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- An anti-barking collar may be useful for some, but not all, barking dogs. Ask your Veterinarian or the Ranger Service should you require further information.
- Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking give a firm command such as "CEASE" and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking. If you have trouble getting the dogs attention tries making a loud noise. If the dog will not listen to you, then your dog will need more obedience training.

**Dogs bark for many reasons and if these simple tips do not help, please seek further advice.**

## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information regarding barking dogs contact the Shire of Katanning Ranger Services Department on (08) 9821 9999

Veterinarians are located at:

Katanning Vet Clinic

Clive Street

(08) 9821 1471

Katanning Regional Veterinary Hospital

Great Southern Highway

(08) 9821 1655

Street Address: 52 Austral Terrace, Katanning WA 6317

Postal Address: PO Box 130, Katanning WA 6317

Phone: 9821 9999

Email: [admin@katanning.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@katanning.wa.gov.au)

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 [www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning](https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning)



## Barking Dogs

Ranger Services



## COMMON MYTHS

### MYTH 1

*A dog that barks a lot is a good watch dog.*

**FALSE!** Dogs that bark excessively make poor security systems, as neighbours often ignore the barking.

### MYTH 2

*My dog does not bark when I am home, so it does not bark when I am out.*

**FALSE!** Many dogs bark because of anxiety and isolation. Most complaints are about dogs which bark when their owners are not home.

### MYTH 3

*Sterilisation will stop a dog from barking.*

**FALSE!** Sterilisation does not stop barking except where dogs are barking at neighbouring dogs of the same sex, or when a male dog can sense a bitch in season. However, sterilisation is strongly recommended for other reasons.

### MYTH 4

*It is natural for dogs to bark a lot.*

**FALSE!** Barking is one of the dog's main ways of communicating. However, it is NOT normal for a dog to bark at every noise or passer-by, nor to bark for long periods of time.

## COMMON MYTHS CONTINUED

### MYTH 5

*Dogs that bark because they are lonely need another dog for company.*

**FALSE!** Getting a second dog does NOT usually prevent or fix a barking problem.

### MYTH 6

*Dogs only bark too much if they are teased, bored or not exercised.*

**FALSE!** Dogs bark for many reasons including breeding, inappropriate confinement, passing distractions, isolation, guarding, anxiety, discomfort and attention seeking. It is important to work out why the dog is barking before the problem can be solved.

## SIMPLE TIPS

- Make sure you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Don't let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give the dog attention when it is quiet.
- If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- A radio playing softly may help to block any noises which the dog is barking at. Place the radio between the dog and the noise.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.