

# **DOG BARKING NOISE INFORMATION & DIARY PACK**

**Includes:**

- 1. Diary Sheets/Questionnaire for the recording of barking dogs nuisance**
- 2. A Neighbour Note specifically designed for dog barking issues**
- 3. An information leaflet for the owner of a dog who may be barking excessively**

If you have any additional concerns about the welfare of any animal; please **contact the RSPCA on 03001 234999.**

**Dog Diary Sheet / Questionnaire (DOG NOISE)**  
**ALL PARTS MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED**

Your NAME:	
Your ADDRESS:	
Your Telephone Number:	
Your email Address:	
ADDRESS OF DOG:	
NAME OF OCCUPIER:	
Have you spoken to the person making the noise about this issue? <i>Please give details:</i>	(We are ordinarily unable to help if you have not done so without good reason; such as a history of aggression/violence)
Date you provided owner with barking leaflet & note: & method <i>circle method used</i>	Gave personally      Posted through letterbox      Sent by post
Was either approach helpful; if only for a short period? <i>Details:</i>	
Formal intervention by us may ultimately end in Court action. <b>Are you prepared to attend Court and give supporting evidence if required?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>  (If we are unable to consider Court action, if appropriate, because you are not prepared to give evidence, this significantly limits the things we can do to help you)

This statement consisting of ..... page(s) signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

**Please note that the first four columns marked with \* will be copied to the dog owner**

Signed .....

Dated the ..... day of .....20... LOGSHEET NO: .....of.....

**Continue Overleaf**

**Continuation sheet**

*Date	*Time (Use 24hr clock).		*Description of Nuisance	*Location of the dog	Where were you when you could hear the dog?	Was dog on its own?
	Start	Finish				
20/5/05	10:00	10:30	Intermittent yapping / barking	garden	In my garden & kitchen	Yes, all gone out in car
20/5/05	22:30	23:00	Howling with some woofing too	In house, downstairs	bedroom	?- no lights on

**RETURN TO: HEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House West 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG**

Signed .....

Dated the ..... day of .....20... LOGSHEET NO: .....of.....

**Continuation sheet**

*Date	*Time (Use 24hr clock).		*Description of Nuisance	*Location of the dog	Where were you when you could hear the dog?	Was dog on its own?
	Start	Finish				

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West 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG**

Signed .....

Dated the ..... day of .....20... LOGSHEET NO: .....of.....

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Signed .....

Dated the ..... day of .....20... LOGSHEET NO: .....of.....

## NEIGHBOUR NOTE

*Dear Neighbour*

*You may not be aware that your dog is barking and disturbing me in my home.*

*I have been advised by Swindon Borough Council to contact you first before I make an official complaint.*

*I have been given this leaflet with some tips and suggestions that you may like to try.*

*Thank you*

*Times of day when the dog barking most affects me:*

.....  
.....  
.....

*The location of the dog when I hear it the most:*

.....  
.....

*Possible 'triggers' / causes of dog barking.*

.....  
.....



## Is your dog barking too much?

It is normal for a dog to bark sometimes, it is part of how they communicate.

However, if a dog barks/ howls:

- Too loud
- Too long
- Too often
- Or at an 'unsocial' hour

**It could become a nuisance to your neighbours &, following an investigation, be deemed a Statutory Nuisance by an Environmental Health Officer.** This can ultimately lead to a prosecution, potentially unlimited fines on conviction and, if you rent privately or through the Council; you could ultimately be evicted.

## What can you do about it?

Firstly; try to find out why your dog is barking.

### ***Is your dog barking when it is left alone?***

This is one of the most common reasons why a dog barks. Speaking with neighbours & asking them to let you know times when your dog is barking will help you identify this. The type of barking can also provide you (or your trainer / behaviourist) valuable information as to why your dog is barking.

**The following strategies can help BUT you may need to get professional assistance from a reputable, qualified trainer or behaviourist** (your vet may be able to help you find someone)

- ✓ Leave a radio on at a low volume
- ✓ Restrict your dog's view of passers by
- ✓ Ensure your dog has a regular, adequate exercise regime
- ✓ Ensure your dog has a suitable diet
- ✓ Ensure your dog is healthy & pain free
- ✓ If you are absent for prolonged periods, get someone to tend to your dog (there are professional dog walkers)
- ✓ Teach your dog that being alone is safe, OK & that you will return

## ***Is your dog barking in the garden?***

Many dogs take it upon themselves to guard their territory (from birds, cats, etc) or 'entertain themselves' if left alone by barking ('shouting to') other dogs in the area or barking to get your attention, to let them back in the house, because they are bored etc . If your dog has a tendency to bark whilst in the garden ensure you accompany it at all times so you can prevent the barking.

A golden rule of training is to reward the behaviours you want (by food treats / toys or using the 'clicker training system'), & to be consistent.

Treat your dog properly & fairly; this includes ensuring you engage in a carefully thought through 'training' & living regime – dogs do not automatically understand 'human' – they have to learn & understand; to do this they MUST feel safe.

DO NOT shout at your dog for barking, it will think you are joining in the barking

DO NOT punish your dog for barking, address the underlying cause/trigger

## ***Noise Nuisance***

Do listen to any concerns raised by a neighbour & seriously consider if your dog could be making excessive noise.

A dog barking outdoors usually disturbs more people as the sound travels further & there is more to bark at.

Any remedy to change a dog's behaviour takes patience, persistence, time & understanding; thus if you think you have a problem seek professional help as soon as possible; rather than training another unwanted behaviour or further embedding the ones already wrongly learnt.

If you keep your neighbours informed of your interventions they may be willing to give you the time & opportunity to improve matters as well as providing you with valuable feedback.

## **What happens next?**

Local authorities (councils) have a duty to investigate noise nuisance under The Environmental Protection Act 1990, & have procedures to do so.

If any noise is deemed a Statutory Nuisance a Noise Abatement Notice must be served under the above legislation to formally inform those responsible for the noise that they must 'stop' or 'abate' the nuisance. Breaches of a Notice are a criminal offence & may be dealt with by way of legal proceedings. If found guilty; unlimited fines could result. If you rent, either privately or through the Council; most tenancies include clauses prohibiting the causing of nuisance to those nearby. Your dog barking problem could ultimately get you evicted.

We may use visits in person, or recording equipment to investigate the noise caused by your dog.

Formal action is only used though when informal interventions have failed and/or dog owners have not engaged with the issue.

If you require further information or advice contact Swindon Borough Council, tel: 01793 445500 or

- For advice on dog barking nuisance, please contact [healthyneighbourhoods@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:healthyneighbourhoods@swindon.gov.uk)
- For dog fouling issues contact: Dog Warden, Licensing team: [dogwarden@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:dogwarden@swindon.gov.uk)
- other dog related issues such as aggression, licensed activities contact the Animals Officer in the Licensing team on 01793 466080

*The information in this document is intended as a general guide. For specific advice contact your vet, a qualified Animal Behaviourist, or Trainer.*