

DOG BARKING NOISE INFORMATION & DIARY PACK

Includes:

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

If you have any additional concerns about the welfare of any animal; please **contact the RSPCA on 03001 234999 or via: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/>.**

Diary Sheet/Questionnaire (NOISE- Dog Barking)



ALL PARTS MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED

Your Name:	
Your Address:	
Your Telephone Number:	
Your Email Address:	
ADDRESS COMPLAINED OF:	
NAME OF OCCUPIER:	
Have you spoken to the person making the noise about this issue? Please give details:	(We are ordinarily unable to help if you have not done so without good reason; such as a history of aggression/violence)
Have you written to them? Please give details:	(We are ordinarily unable to help if you have not done so without good reason; such as a history of aggression/violence)
Was either approach helpful; if only for a short period? Details:	
Formal intervention by us may ultimately end in Court action. Are you prepared to attend Court and give supporting evidence if required?	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Yes No </div> (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 it 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: Information in those columns marked **** will be copied to the person making the noise.

RETURN TO: Upload to your Swindon Borough Council myaccount case via the following link:
https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/353/report_noise_disturbance.

EXAMPLE

EXERCISE 1

Verb	Verb + ing	Verb + ed	Verb + ed + ing
yapping / barking	yapping / barking	yapped / barked	yapping / barking
gone out	gone out	went out	gone out
in car	in car	in car	in car

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/353/report_noise_disturbance

Dated:/...../..... LOGSHEET NO:of.....

Continuation Sheet

[illegible]

Upload to your My Account via:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/353/report_noise_disturbance

Signed

Dated:/...../..... LOGSHEET NO:of.....

Continuation Sheet

[illegible]

Upload to your My Account via:
https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/353/report_noise_disturbance

Signed

Dated:/...../..... LOGSHEET NO: of.....

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 unsociable hour**

It could become a nuisance to your neighbours & following an investigation, be deemed a nuisance in law, that is a Statutory Nuisance by an Environmental Health Officer.

What can you do about it?

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

1. 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

2. 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.

- DONOT shout at your dog for barking, it will think you are joining in
- DONOT punish your dog for barking, address the underlying cause/trigger

Noise Nuisance

3. 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 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 become a criminal offence & may be dealt with by way of legal proceedings. If found guilty; fines could result & could seriously impact any tenancies if relevant. Formal action is only used when informal interventions have failed.

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

- Dog noise nuisance contact: Healthy Neighbourhoods Team: healthyneighbourhoods@swindon.gov.uk . Further information can be found on: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20023/environmental_problems/353/report_noise_disturbance .
- Dog Fouling, strayed or dog ownership education etc., contact: Dog Warden services via: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20091/animal_welfare/567/dog_warden_service or dogwarden@swindon.gov.uk.
- Other dog related issues such as aggression, licensed activities contact: Animals Officer, Licensing team on; licensing@swindon.gov.uk. Further information can be found on: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20027/licences_and_permits/953/animal_licensing

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