

Application to Council - Barking Dog Information

Dogs are an important part of our community within the Town of Walkerville, however Council recognises that excessive dog barking can cause a disturbance to those within the community and cause irritation between neighbours. These matters can commonly be resolved by initiating communication with your fellow residents, but Council is able to assist if the matter persists. Enclosed is information regarding the management of Barking Dogs within the Town of Walkerville in addition to the Application for Abatement of a Barking Dog application form, should the issue require escalation to Council

Communication

In most instances, communication between neighbours can resolve issues regarding barking dogs. You are able to help your neighbour resolve this issue by making them aware of the issues and how they are impacting on you. You may be able to suggest potential solutions based on what is going on in the locality when you have found the dog to be causing a nuisance.

If you find that your neighbour is unapproachable, please refer to the anonymous Dear Neighbour letter contained herewith. This may be delivered to initiate contact and advise the pet owner of the issue.

Should your neighbour be non-responsive to your efforts to assist them in abating the barking problem, you are able to lodge a complaint with the Council.

Council Actions and Legislation

The Council is able to take action in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to assist you in mitigating issues in relation to barking dogs. Section 45A(5) of this Act advises that: A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a dog is guilty of an offence if the dog (either alone or together with other dogs, whether or not in the same ownership) creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person.

Council will communicate with the dog owner in relation to the barking problem and attempt to find a solution. Should the owner not cooperate and the disturbance is reported to continue, Council is able to issue expiation fines and Control (Barking Dog) Orders under the above Act. If the matter persists, legal action by the Council against the dog owner may be necessary.

Process

If you are experiencing issues with a barking dog in your local area, please follow these steps:

- 1) Identify the address of the dog causing the disturbance
- 2) Communicate with the dog owner to try and resolve the issue
- 3) Complete and submit an application to Council re Barking Dog problem form (attached)
- 4) Council will imitate contact with Dog Owner
- 5) If no improvement, a Barking Dog Diary will be provided to monitor barking for no less than seven (7) consecutive days -
- 6) Submit Barking Dog Diary to Council
- 7) Continue to maintain a Barking Dog Diary in order to assess whether the situation is improves as a result of action by the dog owner. Diaries maintained can also be used as evidence in court if the matter escalates.

Application to Council re Barking Dog Problem

1. Applicant's Details

Given Name _____

Family Name _____

Street Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Postal Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Home Telephone _____ Business Telephone _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

2. Dog Description (if known)

Address dog(s) kept at _____

_____ Postcode _____

Owner's Name _____

1st breed of dog _____ Colour _____

2nd breed of dog _____ Colour _____

3. Barking dog details

Describe the dog's barking and why it is a nuisance to you (use the checklist below to assist you)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How often does the dog bark?• How long does the barking continue for?• What sort of noise does the dog make?• Does it bark at certain times of the day?• Does it bark in response to passers-by or other stimulus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where is the barking in relation to your property?• Does the barking interfere with any of your normal activities?• Does the barking impact on your health or wellbeing?• How does the barking impact on other members of your household?
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Have attempts been made to approach the dog owner to discuss the matter?

Yes. How? _____

No. Why? _____

How long do you estimate that this problem has been going on for _____

4. Declaration

I hereby declare that all particulars given by me in this application are true and correct.

I will appear in Court and give evidence if necessary as a witness to the truth of this Complaint.

Signature _____

Date _____

Lodgement:

Once complete, please lodge this form and any supporting documentation via:

Mail: PO Box 55, Walkerville SA 5081

Email: regulatory@walkerville.sa.gov.au

In person: 66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton SA 5081

COUNCIL USE ONLY

Date interview conducted _____ Date statement taken _____

Date other neighbours surveyed _____

Response from survey _____

Expiation numbers # _____ # _____

_____ # _____

Complaint _____

Enforcement order (if applicable) Barking Dog Order

Date _____ Delivery type (eg post) _____

Reg. Post No _____

Proposed order issued _____

Compliance order issued _____

Appeal lodged _____

Court action _____

Authorised officer – Community Safety Officer

Signature _____ Date _____

Dear Neighbour

This note is being sent to you as you may not be aware that your dog is barking frequently and causing a nuisance. I have noted some of the dates and times the dog is barking in the table below.

In the first instance, I wanted to let you know of the situation so you can investigate what may be causing the problem barking and give you the opportunity to find an effective solution.

If the barking is not managed, I may contact the Town of Walkerville for advice.

The barking is occurring as follows:

Date	Time	What Happened

Information on how to manage your dog/s behaviour can be found on the Dog & Cat Management Board website <http://gooddogsa.com/barking-dogs>.

You can also contact Council on 8342 7100 or email regulatory@walkerville.sa.gov.au and ask for their Community Safety Officer to contact you to help resolve the matter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Regards

Your Neighbour