

Barking dog information



What constitutes a dog noise complaint?

A dog barking nuisance occurs when a dog makes excessive noise by barking that persistently occurs, or is permitted to continue to such a point that it is considered not normally habitual in dogs.

What can I do to resolve the issue?

Your neighbour may be unaware that their dog is causing a nuisance in their absence, or they have become accustomed to the noise and are not aware of the effect it is having on other people. In the first instance the City recommends that you take the time to speak with the owners to alert them to the problem so that they have the opportunity to address the nuisance first-hand.

What if I have spoken to the neighbours but the dog is still barking?

If the owners are unapproachable or do not agree that there is an issue, you may lodge a nuisance barking complaint with Ranger Services who will manage your complaint. You will then be required to provide a written complaint including details such as where the dog resides, a description of the dog, details of the dog owner (where possible), what the dog is doing, for how long and at what times. Along with your written complaint you will also be asked to complete a Form 7 and two continuous weeks of dog barking diaries to ascertain the continuity of the nuisance barking. The guidelines for completing the diary must be adhered to as this enables the City to make an accurate assessment of the alleged nuisance and have the necessary evidence to prove a case in the Magistrates Court if required.

What happens next?

Once the diary has been correctly completed and returned to the City, the owner of the dog will be provided a copy of the diaries which outline the times the dog is a problem. Your name and other details will be redacted from the document. This allows the owner of the dog to examine the dates and times of the barking and take necessary steps to remedy the problem. If the owner of the dog does not resolve the issue of dog barking they can be issued with an Abatement Notice. This notice requires the owner or the person in charge of the dog to abate the nuisance within 14 days. This order stays in effect for six months from the date specified in the order.

Legal action

If the abatement notice is ignored, then the City may consider taking legal action against the dog owner. This action is not taken in every case and will depend on detailed assessment of the dog barking diaries and other evidence. Should court action be necessary, you will be required to attend court as a witness. If you do not wish to do this the City cannot proceed with the matter. Please note that Section 44(2)(c) of the Dog Act 1976 allows for complainants to take civil action against the dog owner.

To find out more, visit nedlands.wa.gov.au, call the ranger team on **9273 3500** or email council@nedlands.wa.gov.au