



BARKING ISSUES

Dog barking is one of the biggest problems that people come to trainers about. Here are some helpful tips to help you work on your dog's unwanted barking.

- When your dog is quiet, reward heavily. If you know your dog is looking out that window, searching for his favorite squirrel, as long as he is quiet, he should be getting praise .
- Yelling at your dog is not the way to go. Yelling is a form of attention, your dog is getting what he wants. If everybody in your house ignores your dog, the behavior will stop, though it will get worse before it gets better.
- If your dog is tired, he won't be barking. Tired dogs lay around and sleep instead of standing guard for any unusual sound. Play fetch, get your dog out on a walk, visit the dog park! Socialization is a great thing for all dogs.
- Familiarize! Dogs bark because they're startled, or excited. If your dog is used to the item he's barking about, it will lose its excitement for him.
- Interrupt the action. Sometimes dogs can get "locked on" to something and they just don't quiet down. Squirt your dog in the face with a water bottle is a great way of interrupting their thought process, then you can praise when they become quiet.

What to do when your dog barks at your front door:

We've all been there, you have company over and your dog barks at every knock, every doorbell ring, along with the people that are "hidden" on the other side of that door. Here's some steps to help you get rid of that behavior for good.

- Have a friend knock or ring your doorbell. If the dog barks or not, interrupt his barking and give your pet a treat. Repeat this step over and over until your dog starts looking at you for treats instead of barking when he hears the doorbell.
- Once you have your dog's attention when the doorbell rings, have your friend knock and then open the door, treating your dog heavily as the door opens. Your pet will become more interested in you than the person at the door.
- Slowly extend the amount of time between treats until your friend can enter the house comfortably, without being harassed by your pet.

Helpful hint: Give your friend some treats to feed your pet as well as they step inside, so your dog will associate people coming in as a good thing.

Practice this several times a week, or even several times a day until your dog has learned the behavior you desire from him.