

BARKING

Why Do Dogs Bark When Alone?

Most dogs bark because they are bored or want attention. Accustomed to a lot of attention, they don't know how to behave when alone. We want our dogs to be happy, so we spoil them. Our dogs usually get treats and petted whenever they wish.

Your dog must learn that barking for your attention doesn't work. If your dog is unhappy outdoors and barking eventually makes you bring him in, he learns that barking gets results. Even if barking makes you yell at him; well, that's better than nothing. "I'm bored. Maybe I can get them to yell at me again." Although yelling doesn't work, some negative reinforcement can still be useful.

Barking While You Are Away

Make sure you have done the basic things: See that your dog has food and water, and a comfortable place to relax where he can't see people or other pets.

Often, the problem barker has never learned to be alone. He is accustomed to lavish attention without having to earn it. He thinks he is the center of the world and upon finding himself abandoned he is distraught, so he barks.

Be A Good Role Model

The words you say mean nothing to a dog. What matters is the way you say those words and the message delivered by your body language. When you overdo it by repeatedly reassuring your dog that everything is ok and you'll be back soon, you make things worse. Excitedly greeting the dog on your return reinforces the idea that staying alone for the day really is a big deal.

Stop Saying Hello And Goodbye

Start your morning schedule ten minutes early. Feed your dog and try to get him settled in with a chew toy. Get completely ready to walk out the door and then sit down with the newspaper.



Ignore your dog completely. After several minutes of calm separation, quietly walk out the door and go to work. Do not say goodbye, do not even look at your dog. You are leaving for the day. This is not a big deal. Your return home must be equally calm. Initially ignore your dog. No petting, no excited greeting. Change clothes or whatever. After he has settled down, acknowledge your dog by telling him to sit. Only then does he get a pat on the head and a simple "good dog". You were gone for the day. Remember, this is not a big deal.

Give Your Dog Something To Do While You Are Gone

Dogs left alone during the day are in a terribly unnatural situation, isolated with nothing to do. Instead of barking and tearing up the house, your dog can keep himself busy by earning his food.

Kong chew toys are hollow and open at the ends, leaving room for food or dog treats. Put a dog biscuit in there. If you use peanut butter, tine pieces of meat, etc., try freezing them first. The challenge of eating them takes longer.

Instead of using Kongs, you can also find adjustable feeding balls which work with dry food. To get food, your dog must roll the ball around, so the food falls out through the holes. When adjusted properly, getting a full meal takes a long time. You might also try leaving the television on for entertainment while you are gone.

YOU WILL ALSO FIND THAT ONCE YOUR DOG DEVELOPS GOOD OBEDIENCE THE BARKING PROBLEM WILL LESSEN.

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Homestead Dogs • 1964 Ford Road • Delaware, Ohio 43015 • 614 963-9711 • www.homesteaddogs.com

			
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