

Reasons why your dog might bark

Attention Seeking – your dog could be bored or lonely. Your dog needs lots of attention

What to do:

- Walk your dog regularly
- Reward your dog when they are quiet
- Provide a variety of safe dog toys to keep them entertained
- Leave treats such as rawhide bones etc for your dog when you go out

Excitement

What to do:

- Dogs have a lot of energy. Unspent energy can make them feel tense and come across through bad behaviour. Walk your dog regularly
- Increase the amount your dog is exercised
- Encourage your dog to sit when visitors come to the house
- Praise and reward your dog when they are quiet. Through this conditioning they will learn how you prefer them to behave

Protective Behaviour – your dog is guarding your home

What to do:

- Having your dog spayed or neutered. This will reduce their territorial behaviour
- Keep windows closed to reduce the potential for the sound of barking carrying. It will also muffle any noises outside that may make them unhappy and start them barking
- Closing your curtains when you go out may help
- Speak to your vet to find out who they can recommend as a dog behaviour counsellor for you and your dog. Understanding your dog's needs and knowing how our dog reacts to your behaviour can help to improve the relationship between you and your dog