



**NoiseActionWeek**

# If your neighbour's dog is barking – what you can do

Dog barking is one of the most common noise complaints received by local authorities. During Noise Action Week and all year round, take simple steps to help keep your neighbourhood peaceful.

# Start with a friendly approach

Barking dogs can be distressing for both owners and neighbours and is often one of the top complaints councils receive. Many barking issues can be sorted out when neighbours work together with understanding and patience.

- Politely let your neighbour know when and how the barking affects you.
- They may not realise the dog is causing a problem. Barking may happen when owners are at work or away, so they may never hear it themselves.
- If you don't feel comfortable talking face-to-face, you can write them a friendly note or letter instead.

If talking doesn't help, you could ask someone neutral (such as another neighbour) to help mediate the discussion.

# Keep a record of the barking

If the barking keeps happening, it is helpful to keep a record (this is sometimes called a noise diary). Some councils may ask you to record this in a specified noise app, or some may ask you to use a written template (for example, see this [template noise diary](#) from Uttlesford District Council). Have a look at your council's website to see how they would prefer you to do this.

In general, you should make a note of:

- Dates and times of barking
- How long the barking lasted
- How the barking impacted you (e.g. "heard in living room, could not hear the TV")
- Keep any messages or notes exchanged with the neighbour too. These records will help if you need to speak to the council later.

# Contact your council if the problem continues

If friendly attempts do not solve the issue, you can report the noise to your local council's Environmental Health or Noise team.

What the council may do:

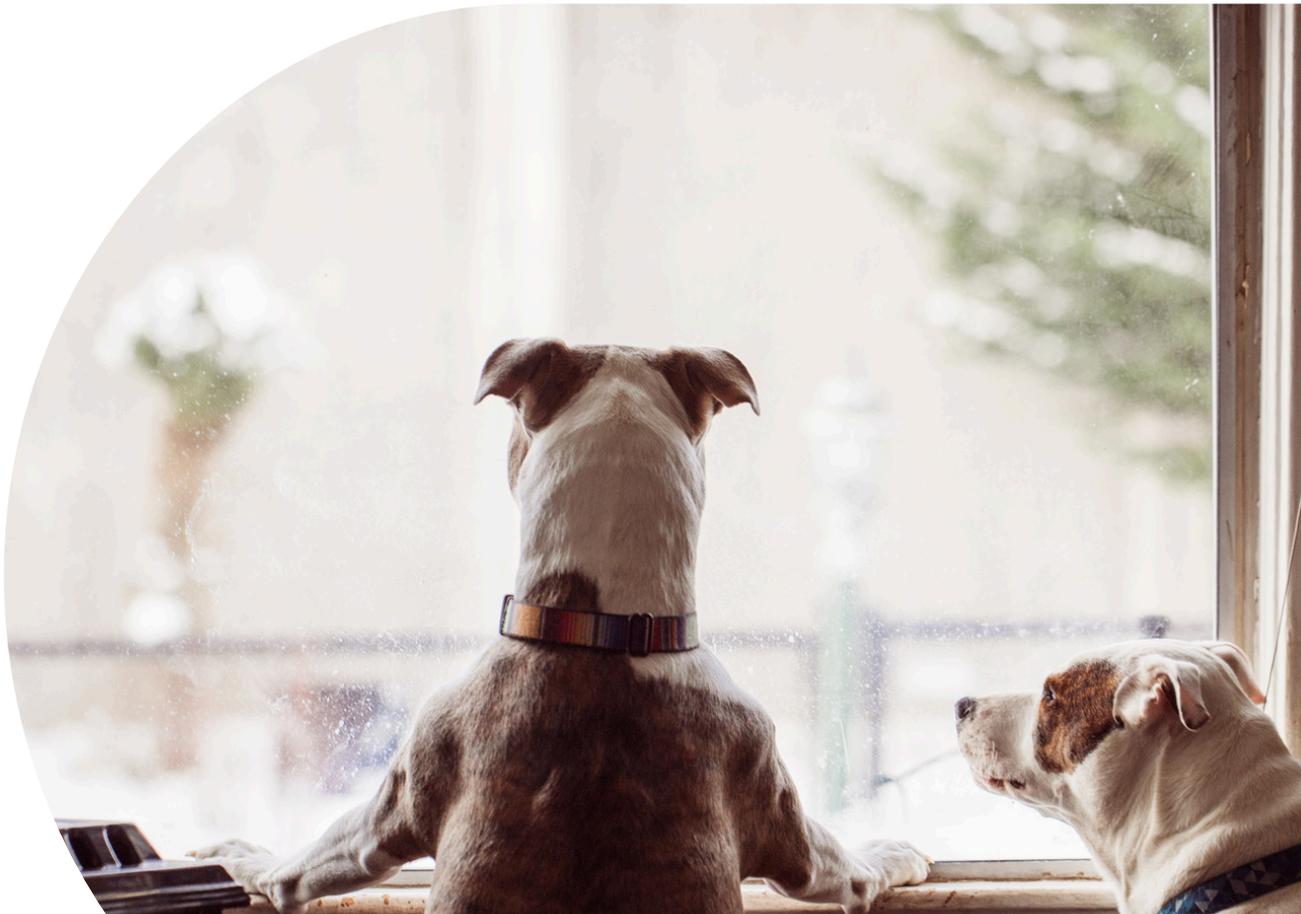
- Review the noise diary
- Use noise-monitoring equipment
- Send an officer to listen and assess the barking

If the council finds the barking to be a statutory nuisance, they can issue a formal warning or legal notice (Noise Abatement Notice) requiring the owner to take action.

Some background noise is expected in daily life. Only barking that is persistent, frequent or significantly disrupts everyday living is likely to count as a statutory nuisance.

## When other organisations may help

- If the neighbour rents their home, their landlord or housing association may be able to support a solution
- If you're worried the dog is being neglected or mistreated, you can report concerns to the RSPCA.
- Barking alone is usually not a police matter. However, if the situation involves threatening behaviour, harassment, or criminal activity, you should contact the police.





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## About Noise Action Week

Noise Action Week takes place from the 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May. It is a campaign to raise awareness and reduce noise pollution across the UK.

Noise Action Week is run by the Environmental Policy Implementation Community (EPIC) and supported by leading acoustics and environmental health organisations.

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