



# BARKING



## Do's and Don'ts for Dog Owners

- Do find out why your dog barks.
- Do correct the behavior immediately and consistently. If you correct your dog once and not the next time, he will never learn.
- Do be patient. Breaking the barking habit takes time, but with love, patience and understanding you should be able to complete the training in two to three weeks.
- Do tell your pet "good dog" when he obeys your commands or barks for a trained reason.
- Don't hit or hurt your dog. This is not an effective replacement for the water treatment method. Hitting your dog will probably make it impossible for you to ever train your dog without professional help.
- Do consider setting up a tape recorder or video recorder while you are away to see if your dog barks, and how much.
- Do talk with your veterinarian if there are medical issues that may be causing the barking.

*Remember You Are Teaching,  
Not Punishing*



Regional Animal Services of  King County

### Pet Adoption Center

206-296-PETS (7387)  
Toll Free:  
800-325-6165  
21615 64th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032  
pets@kingcounty.gov  
www.kingcounty.gov/pets

### Center Hours

Mon: 3 - 6 p.m.  
Tues - Fri: noon - 6 p.m.  
Sat - Sun: noon - 5 p.m.

 [www.twitter.com/kcpets](http://www.twitter.com/kcpets)

 [www.facebook.com/KCPetsRegionalAnimalShelter](http://www.facebook.com/KCPetsRegionalAnimalShelter)

### Pet Licensing

206-296-2712  
500 Fourth Avenue, Room 403  
Seattle, WA 98104-2395

Licensing your pet is easy and an inexpensive insurance policy for your pet's safety and protection. Pet licensing is also required by law. Currently there are over 125 licensing locations. Call or visit [www.kingcounty.gov/pets](http://www.kingcounty.gov/pets) for one near you or simply click on the Quick Link to license online.

 King County

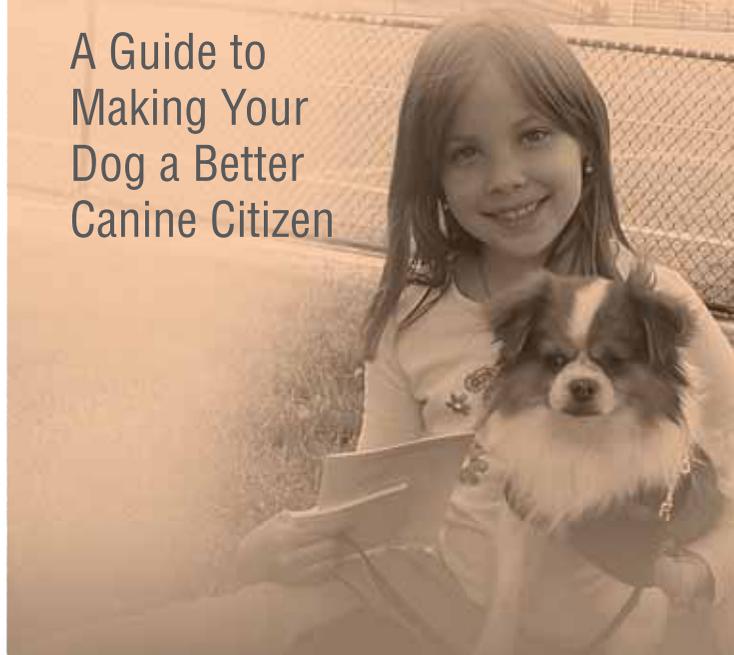


Regional Animal Services of King County provides animal sheltering and field services to contracting cities within King County, and the unincorporated areas.  
RAS 005 (REV 03/13) 1202M 

Regional Animal Services of

 King County

## A Guide to Making Your Dog a Better Canine Citizen





## A Guide to Making Your Dog a Better Canine Citizen

Dogs bark just as people talk. It is normal. Just as some people talk too much, some dogs bark too much. However, in cases of habitual, excessive or continual barking to an unreasonable degree, this can be very disturbing to your neighbors and may constitute a violation of the law.

Be a good neighbor and a reasonable pet owner, and control your dog's excessive barking, or barking at inappropriate times. This problem can be corrected with loving training and effective humane strategies.

The first thing you need to do is determine when and for how long your dog barks, and what is causing him to bark. You may need to do some detective work to obtain this information, especially if the barking occurs when you're not home. Ask your neighbors, drive or walk around the block and watch and listen for a while, or start a tape recorder or video camera when you leave for work. Hopefully, you will be able to discover which of the common problems discussed in this brochure is the cause of your dog's barking.

*Be sure your dog is getting plenty of exercise and attention appropriate for his/her breed, age and interest. Dogs often bark because they are bored or not getting enough activity.*



### Water Training Method

This method works for most dogs and is simple to use. Follow these guidelines:

- First, be consistent and persistent. The dog will not learn if he is corrected one time and not the next. For this reason, plan to teach when you can be home most of the day.
- Fill a plant mister or water pistol with water. When the dog barks, immediately give him one or two squirts of water while the dog is barking and say, "Quiet!" Squirt while the dog is barking, otherwise he will be confused if you wait until he stops barking.
- If the dog backs away, repeat saying, "Quiet" as you move towards him and give him one more squirt of water.
- Repeat each time the dog barks needlessly. With this conditioning experience your dog will soon learn to expect a squirt of water when you shout "Quiet!" Once he has made this association, you will not need to squirt him again.

### If Your Dog...

#### Barks When Nobody's Home:

Try leaving a radio on when you go out. Get the dog used to being in a closed room or the basement by using the following method:

- Tell him to be a good dog and close the door. When the dog starts to bark or howl, burst into the room and scold him, "Quiet!" Then leave and wait to see if the dog barks again. If he does, repeat the commands with more force.
- Try to convince him that you will always be there to scold him if he barks. Increase the amount of time you leave the dog alone until he is comfortable when you leave for long periods of time.



#### Barks at any Little Noise:

These dogs need special attention. Set up a situation where you know he will bark. For example, the arrival of the mail carrier, cars passing by, or the presence of another animal. When he begins to bark tell him firmly, "Quiet!" Until he understands the command, slap a rolled newspaper on your hand, not the dog, to reinforce the command.

#### Barks During the Night:

Feed your dog late in the evening so he will be drowsy and sleep through most of the night. If possible, it is best to bring your pet inside for the night.

#### If These Methods Don't Work:

Consider contacting a reputable obedience training school. A trained dog will stop barking on command. Obedience school will also help to control your dog in other situations. See "Dog Training" in the Yellow Pages or search "Dog Training" (include your location) using the Internet.

#### Is Your Dog In Violation Of The Law?

King County Code 11.04.230, paragraph J, defines animal noise nuisance as: "any domestic animal which howls, yelps, whines or barks or makes other oral noises in such a manner as to disturb any person or neighborhood to an unreasonable degree." City ordinances enforced by King County Animal Control have similar language.

