

Date: / /

Dear Neighbour,

You may not be aware, but your dog is currently causing a noise nuisance in the neighbourhood by barking.

Wellington Shire Council, recommends as a first step, I express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without recording an official complaint against you on the Council's official register.

On the back of this letter is some information that may be of assistance to you in resolving the problem.

Your cooperation at this stage by preventing your dog from barking excessively would be much appreciated to avoid this matter progressing any further.

Thank you,
Your Neighbour.

PS...

Your dog appears to bark at the following times:

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For the following reason/s:

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Simple tips to help reduce dog barking

- Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from weather.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- Make sure that you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Don't let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead give the dog attention when it is quiet.
- If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow down.
- Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- If the dog is being left alone for long periods of time, ensure you leave it items such as toys to provide stimulation.
- Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking give a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking.
- An anti-barking collar may work for some barking dogs. Citronella spray collars can be effective and are harm free for dogs.

If it is not clear what is causing the barking, you can consult your vet. If the vet cannot resolve the issue, try an animal behaviour specialist or a dog training organisation.