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Dog Barks When Left Alone

By Adam Katz

Please let me know if you have any suggestions to help curb a barking problem when we are not home. Our 2 year-old Shepherd/Chow mix rarely barks when we are home, but when we leave her in her nice pen outdoors when we are gone she yips and barks. We have tried stuffed animals and kong toy with food inside. Do we need to get a bark collar? Any other suggestions or info on the collars would be appreciated.

Thank you, Beth Nordstrom

Dear Beth:

First, I would try to figure out what is causing the dog to bark. It may be nothing more than nuisance barking. In which case, a bark collar would work best.

But I'd first rule out all other factors, such as:

- A neighbor's kid who may be taunting your dog.
- Lack of exercise/stimulation.
- Throwing a toy outside of the pen and then barking in an attempt to "make it come back"
- Any number of other factors that could be eliminated before dropping \$100 on a bark collar.

I don't know what type of exercise regimen you've got your dog on now, but it probably wouldn't hurt to buy a bicycle and start taking your dog for long runs. (It's good for you, too!)

As for which bark collars to use... the ones that I've had the most success with are the Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter. I've tried the cheap yellow ones they sell at the pet stores and have found them to be poorly engineered, consistently over or under-correcting your dog, and resetting themselves too quickly.

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The citronella collars are largely a joke. They get clogged and jam frequently. The citronella runs out. Plus, I'm not crazy about spraying the stuff in your dog's eyes.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

Is Your Dog Annoying The Neighbors? How To Deal With Excessive Barking

By NS Kennedy

Along with a baby's crying, the persistent barking of a dog is one of the most annoying sounds. But is there anything you can do as a dog owner to 'persuade' your pooch to stop barking? Here are a few suggestions from an experienced dog owner.

The bark. It can be annoying. But, in effect, it is the way the dog is communicating to you. For example, it can mean, 'hello' or it can mean 'go away.' It can mean that they want to play or that they are protecting their territory. You may think your dog is barking too much, or your neighbors may think so. But, before you can put an end to your trouble, it's best to figure out why she is barking in the first place.

Some dogs have been bred to bark so it is instinctive that they bark endlessly. For example, the beagle is a hunting dog and was trained to bark when it spotted the prey. Another example are some toy dogs which were bred to be a warning signals of invasion. Even so, some dogs within these breeds bark more than they should, some more than others.

Did you encourage this behavior in your dog? If you give your dog a reward for barking then they are thinking it's a good thing. Not necessarily a treat, the reward may have been attention. Even if you think it was a scolding you gave her, she saw it as attention. Are you trying to quiet her? Did you bend down and pet her, sooth her or just talk to her? Yes, this is attention. You are actually encouraging this behavior when the dog barks and you react like this.

There are several ways in which you can work with your dog to stop this behavior. One of those ways is to use a bark collar. These collars all work in different ways but they can disperse a citronella scent that the dog doesn't like or they can even provide a small shock when the bad behavior occurs. But, this will not work in all cases and some do not like the idea of 'hurting' the animal even though the dog is not harmed at all. Another solution would be to use a professional trainer or to pick up a few books that are how to's on training your animal and work one on one with the dog to stop the behavior.

When a dog barks, he is protecting you or just warning you. The dog is trained by ancestors to do just that; to warn people. It makes sense then that the dog would be a little upset at there is a man

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approaching the house even though he visits daily with the mail. The dog wants you to know that the man is there and that you should react to the mailman. Those dogs that do bark too much may need some help. You can find a lot of help on training your dog to stop barking in books or with professionals. Use training as well as patience to help your dog learn when its okay and when it is not.

Best Dog Health Information

is a resource which will help you find information, hints and tips to keeping

your dog happy and healthy. <http://www.best-pet-health.info>. This article may be reprinted in full so long as the resource box and live links are included intact.



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