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**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
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## Why dogs bark

By Keith Londrie

Picture this, you're walking in the park, minding your own business when suddenly a dog comes up to you and starts barking. You start to panic because there is no reason for this dog to be barking at you.

Why is this dog barking?

Dogs bark because we humans want our dogs to bark. For years our domestication process and selective breeding has allowed our dogs to develop their barking abilities. Wolves don't bark, so through genetic engineering and the selective breeding process, dogs these days have the ability to retain juvenile characteristics. This is through the process known as neoteny.

Humans have chosen to retain the infantile traits of wolves like large heads, flat faces, large eyes and of course the ability to communicate, barking. Barking was further developed in dogs in order to scare intruders or to help the master out (i.e. on farms to assist in gathering the sheep).

Most dogs simply bark to communicate, to get attention, or simply to show their excitement. Training and lifestyle are important factors in teaching the dog how to communicate with its master.

Dogs are extremely social animals. Wolves themselves always travel in packs are usually never alone. Bringing a dog into your family is basically like bringing a wolf into a pack. It becomes a part of the family. Try not to leave it alone otherwise it will feel as if it was abandoned by the pack. Dogs are like having a baby in the house. They need love, attention, and someone to be there to take care of them. Like people they need a companion to blossom. Meeting your dog's emotional need for companionship and play will allow the two of you to form a strong bond together.

Sometimes having a second dog in the house can minimize the barking and minimize the loneliness. Although this may be rewarding at some times, it can also be a pain. Your best bet would be to maximize training of your dog when it decides to bark. Sometimes having two dogs may cause havoc because they may teach each other to bark more. From the example above, dogs who bark at people are trained in a specific way. Everything boils down to how the owner trains their dog. If you reward the dog for barking, then the dog will understand that it's a good thing to bark. If you don't reward the dog for barking, the dog will understand that it's a bad thing to bark. If you are training your dog to become

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a watchdog, sometimes their barking can be very selective and discriminating with certain people. Sometimes they may just bark at anything they see. It is important to train these dogs by developing their intelligence level and how they interpret various events.

Dogs who simply bark because of activity or excitement are relatively hard to eliminate. Most of the time these dogs are unaware of their barking and in turn becomes a process that is hard to eliminate. You must turn to a dog trainer who teaches the dog to debark.

Debarking can be somewhat inhumane because the dog is trained to let out a low, raspy bark which cannot be heard from more than a few feet away. If you consider the process of debarking your dog you must weigh the pros and cons. It can be beneficial in the sense that your dog will no longer be the irritating dog on the block who barks at anything he sees but may be a problem if the dog is in danger.

As an owner you would want to know where the location of your dog was if it was in danger.

Keith Londrie II has written several articles about animals. He has put up an informative web site at

<http://about-animals.info/>

Please feel free to drop by the web site to learn more about animals.

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## **What Is The Best Dog Collar**

**By David Amos**

Dog collars come in a variety of colors, styles and even functions. There's the obedience or choke collar, bark control collars, flea collars, and a whole array of just dog collars. So which to choose?

If barking is an issue perhaps a bark control collar will do the trick. Bark control collars use two types of bark detection, either external sound or vibrations from the dogs throat. Neither type is totally infallible; the vibration type can be set off by motion and the sound type by external sounds other than the dog barking. However both have proved to be effective in helping control your dogs barking humanely. The best collars employ both methods at the same time to reduce the `false' readings and help bring barking under control.

But once your dog has stopped barking what do you need to consider in a dog collar?

One of the essentials of a dog collar is to make sure that it's personalized and has the dogs name and your contact details engraved somewhere on the collar or on a tag. This will make it easy for someone to get in touch with you if your dog gets lost. It can also help keep your dog calm in what can be a

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distressing situation. While your dog may be amongst strangers, they will know his name from his collar and he'll feel less threatened if called by name.

Leather makes an excellent dog collar. It is very strong, hard wearing, weather proof and comfortable for your dog. There are flat collars for dogs with shorter hair, and rounded collars for longer haired dogs. This is to stop breaking the hair around your dog's neck. Try and keep the dog collar as thin as you can while maintaining the strength for your dog's comfort.

Finally pick a dog collar that suits your dog's personality and size. After all it is part of your dog's image!

David Amos is a long time dog owner and dog lover. Further Dog Collar information can be found at

<http://onlinedogcare.com/dogcollarsandtags/>

Other dog articles and resources can be found at

<http://www.onlinedogcare.com>



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