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Responsible Animal Ownership – Barking Dogs

Barking dogs can cause concern across the community, Council is seeking help from the community to ensure their dogs and animals are being responsibly cared for.

“With a large number of dogs and pets being owned across the Shire, it is important for animal owners to be responsible and ensure their pets are not causing concern for other animals, pet owners and surrounding property owners,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. “Barking is a natural behavior for dogs and a method of communication, but when the barking becomes excessive, it is the responsibility of dog’s owner to ensure this behavior doesn’t become a concerning to others in the community.”

Excessive barking can be caused by a number of reasons including; provocation from people or other dogs (whether intentional or not), not enough exercise, lonely, bored, sick, hungry, thirsty or being kept in a small or confined space. “As a dog owner, please make sure your dog is adequately cared for and you can recognise signs that your dog may be distressed,” said Cr Doolan.

If you are a dog owner, consider reasons your dog may be barking excessively. Here are some simple tips to reduce excessive barking;

- Give your dog regular exercise
- Provide chew toys to keep your dog occupied while you are away
- Stimulate your dog to avoid them barking to attract attention
- Restrict your dog’s view outside your fence
- Make sure your dog as adequate shelter, food and water
- Yelling or shouting at a barking dog will reinforce the behaviour – encourage good quiet behaviour

“If you are concerned by excessive dog noise, the most effective way to manage this is to contact the owner of the dog directly. The owner of the dog may not be aware of the dog excessively barking and causing a problem for neighbours. A successful outcome is more likely to be achieved if a dog owner has the opportunity to rectify the problem before an official complaint with Council is recorded,” said Cr Doolan.

Council asks that you allow sufficient time for the problem to be addressed by the owner and if it still persists you may contact Council to make an official complaint on (02) 6849 2000.

If you are concerned by dog noise and suspect a dog is being mistreated, contact an RSPCA inspector on 1300 278 3589.

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