



YAP YAP YAP YAP YAP

BY Sue Myles
Companion Dogs

OUTSIDE BARKING

Yard Barking at Nighttime

1. Have dog sleep inside the house. Use crate, exercise pen or tie by leash and collar to leg of bed. Dog should sleep in owner's bedroom, not den or laundry room.
2. Confine dog in garage. Clear all "edibles" from floor and shelves; remember how tall your dog is standing on hind legs! Confine in crate, exercise pen or trolley.
3. Confine dog in run at side of house. This will curtail barking, but is not as effective as #1 or #2 above.
4. Going outside and physically punishing dog is NOT effective. Dog will learn to bark until you come out and then run away, defend himself and bite. He will also learn to bark until you come out and play.
5. Yelling at dog encourages more barking. Dog barks, owner yells, dog barks, owner yells. It's a great game, but does not get the barking problem solved.

Yard Barking during Daytime

1. Note where dog is barking. Cut off dog's view with hedge, plywood, decorative paneling. Dogs will usually "stake out" an area of fence where they can see out and respond to visual stimuli. If the dog has a clear view of a stimulating environment, the problem is not with the dog.
2. Use a trolley to keep dog in a section of yard. This will keep dog away from exciting visual situations.
3. Keep dog from getting near fence. The closer dog is to fence and exciting stimuli, the more dog will bark. Use a "hot wire," natural border, or planter with tall fence or "Invisible Fencing."

INSIDE BARKING

Owner Absent

1. Put dog in room where dog is blocked from seeing out or rushing to area where barking is occurring.
2. Put dog in exercise pen to aid the above. DO NOT keep dog in crate or exercise pen as a long-term solution if dog is confined all day.
3. If dog sits on couch and looks out window, shut drapes and move couch away from window.

Owner Present

1. If dog barks for attention, owner **MUST** ignore dog, no matter how long it takes for dog to stop barking.
2. Doorbell: NEVER answer the door with dog at the door barking. This only rewards dog for barking and being out of control. When doorbell rings, call dog to you **WHEN YOU ARE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE**. (If your dog does not come at this time, please enroll in a Basic Companionship class NOW!) Food reward dog when he comes to you, and have dog **WALK** with you to the door. If barking occurs as you are walking to the door, correct with verbal "ah ah" or quick squirt of water. (Always use a small squeeze bottle with pull up top, like liquid dishwashing bottle. Never use a squirt gun or plant sprayer.)
3. Phone Ringing: Walk, do not run to the phone. (Attempt to) control teenagers in this regard. Arrange with a neighbor to call and let phone ring for 15 minutes at a time. Do not walk to phone, pick up phone or even **LOOK** at phone during these training sessions. After one week, pick up phone and "fake" conversations. Ignore dog during these conversations. (Yes, I know that you really do have to answer phone during this time period.) Also, change ringers on phone and change the location of phone.

Time of Day

1. Dogs will often bark at a particular time of day: Kids coming home from school, trash trucks coming by, neighbor's dog being walked, mail getting delivered. Keep dog away from area at these times; or, have neighbor or dog walker move dog during these times.

Startling Sounds

Air horn, "screamer," pie pan beaten with wooden spoon: Do **NOT** yell at dog when you are making corrections. Calmly say "quiet" just **ONCE**, then use the startling sound. This will work only in a small yard or in the house.

Dazer: Uses ultrasonic frequency above human hearing. Will work **ONLY** on highly responsive or slightly skittish dogs.

Rattle Can: Aluminum can with pennies in it. Number of pennies depends upon dog's sound sensitivity. Use good judgment! Make quite a few that are heavy enough to throw near, but not at, dog. Calmly say "quiet" once, and then, if dog barks, toss **SILENTLY**. The next bark out of dog's mouth earns a rattle can toss **WITHOUT** another word from you.

Bean Bag: Use inside the house, particularly tossing against a nearby wall to startle dog. Can also be useful for timid dogs that are experimenting with their voice.