

Tips to help quiet your puppy

Most puppies when in a new home will bark for a day or two and then it generally tapers off shortly after that time. To help reduce the amount of barking we have accumulated some helpful ideas that may help.

A safe Place - We suggest having an inside crate for your dog - this is her place, her den and it provides comfort and security when you are at home or gone. Cover the crate with a sheet or blanket to reduce outside stimulus. Leave toys inside the crate and something that you have left your scent on - a blanket or an old T-shirt.

Exercise - Adequate exercise may as it allows the dog to burn off excessive energy. This will cause him to be calmer and quieter when in the house. A relaxed puppy is generally a quiet puppy.

Don't leave me barks - If your puppy barks when you leave the room. Start by leaving your puppy alone for very short periods at first (a minute or less) and then return **before** the puppy starts barking. Gradually and very, very slowly increase the time you're gone. Always return before your puppy starts barking. Eventually your puppy will learn to relax when you're not at home and stop worrying whether you'll return.

- **Don't make a big deal about leaving.** When you are getting ready to leave, gather up your things and leave as if you are coming right back – NO hugs, kisses, or dramatic farewell. Don't say "Goodbye sweetiepie! It will be OK! Mommy will be back soon!" This just gives him a huge alert that you're leaving, possibly forever – an hour can feel like forever to a dog!

Glad to see you barks - Don't make a big deal when you come home. Follow the same low-key no big deal when you return. This is the hardest for humans! Ignore any attention-seeking (jumping, going crazy) and only reward your dog with calm love and affection when they are ALSO calm, at least 5 minutes after you've come home. (You can take them outside immediately if they have to go potty, but do so calmly without fanfare, as you'd do if you'd been home already.)

Teach your dog the "quiet" command

It may sound nonsensical, but the first step of this technique is to teach your dog to bark on command. Give your dog the command to "speak," wait for him to bark two or three times, and then stick a tasty treat in front of his nose. When he stops barking to sniff the treat, praise him and give him the treat. Repeat until he starts barking as soon as you say "speak."

Once your dog can reliably bark on command, teach him the "quiet" command. In a calm environment with no distractions, tell him to "speak." When he starts barking, say "quiet" and stick a treat in front of his nose. Praise him for being quiet and give him the treat.

Example: someone at the door

- When the doorbell rings, your dog alerts you to the presence of an "intruder" by barking wildly.
- Once you've taught your dog the "quiet" command in a calm environment, practice in increasingly distracting situations until your dog can immediately stop barking when asked to, even when that "intruder" arrives at the door.

There are numerous websites and videos that you can view that will give you additional ideas with getting your puppy to stop barking too much.