

SoCal Dog Training Tips & Tricks



FREE SOLUTIONS:

This article reflects years of research from thousands of books, internet articles, and training sessions. Although these practices can help you with your dog issues, they do not all reflect the training practices of SoCal Dog Training's proprietary methods. Please visit our training philosophy page to discover our method of training.

PERSONALIZED TRAINING:

With so many training programs out there, it can become more and more difficult to get a solution that is tailored for your situation. We offer personalized training for whatever situation you might be facing with your puppy. The tips and tricks provided in the article are for general use, if you are looking for more specific help, please contact us today!



We frequently get specific questions from owners on behavioral issues that they are dealing with. Below is one of the most frequently asked questions we receive.

Help with a Barking Dog

Question:

Help my dog is disturbing the peace. As soon as I open the back door, my dog runs outside and starts to bark until we bring him back in. One of my neighbors called the police once on me already. But what can I do, my dog does have to go outside once in awhile.

Answer

Barking is just symptoms of a deep-rooted problem. You can always put a bark collar on a lonely, bored dog that is locked up in a kennel behind the garage. The dog may now be quiet, however; the dog will still be lonely and bored.

No matter what the symptoms are, your dog is barking just for three major reasons:

1. Alarm barking: low pitched.
 - a. This means that he thinks he is the alpha dog and you have a leadership issue.
2. Separation anxiety, high pitch.
 - a. This means your dog is very frustrated, please contact us to help correct this behavior.
3. Your dog is bored and has nothing to do or he just likes to bark.

Dogs do not need to bark to communicate, relieve frustration, or to be happy. Barking dogs are actually expressing the exact opposite emotion. To understand you need to look at why dogs bark. If you have ever walked through a typical neighborhood that has fences as you walk past a house with multiples dogs, the dogs suddenly start fighting. Why? Because only the top dog in a pack does the barking or the protecting. So the top dog might consider you to be a threat to their territory, but the dog barking next to them is a threat to their social position. This is far more important than you and so they put the other dog in its place than they worry about you and the territory. This is why if a dog knows and understands that you are top dog, they will gladly give you the job of barking at intruders.

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The goal is to help the dog not feel like it is there business to bark at everything. Through implementing our special techniques, the dog can become calm and relaxed. They will no longer darting nervously around at who they should bark at or worry about and are no longer frustrated.

Some breeds are genetically more prone to bark. Shelties are one breed that tends to be notorious barkers. Beagles and many of your hounds were bred to bark, this allowed a hunter to follow the dog to the game. Terriers tend to be a little territorial and bark to tell everyone, that wherever they are, they own it. Silence can be achieved with these breeds it will just take a little more work.

Often time's owners express the desire to have their dogs bark. It makes them feel more secure they want their dogs to protect the house. The problem arises when they can't get the dog to be quiet or the dog starts to carry this protectiveness one step further. Yes, someday this dog might bite. You can't have your cake and eat it too. In the long run when your dog is finally fully mature and you become lax some the dog might start barking when someone is at the door. That fine, since now you can say, "Thank You for telling me someone is at the door, now be quite". The dog will be quite as it is your position to bark or protect.

If you work on making your dog be quiet while it is a puppy than keeping it quite as an adult is a piece of cake. Sometimes your quite puppy as they get older might suddenly start barking. As your puppy gets more mature they will test your authority. If you let the dog bark than you flunked the test. If you don't give the puppy proper structure and guidance the dog will take it upon themselves to be the leader and start their new job, barking.

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So how do we get them to stop? For puppies, first of all, never let your puppy out of the kennel when they whine and bark. This is the start of them barking. When a puppy just starts barking often times just saying "Aaaghjt" and clapping your hands will work. Once again, we need to find what behavioral interruptible approach will work based on your dog's temperament. If your dog hates water, try using a squirt bottle, if they love water than this won't work. Another approach is to spray bitter apple in the dogs' mouth the second they bark. Unfortunately, you have to be right next to the dog, not very practical. You might try using noise devices as your second option. A thrown shaking can along with "Aaaght" works if your dog is bothered by this. You can try some of the ultrasonic products on the market. These work well with a lot of dogs. If you have a bulletproof type of dog than you might need to invest in a citronella collar. You can also teach the dog to bark on command and then never give the command. We would only recommend a bark collar if an owner has seriously tried and diligently worked with keeping our system, and it is either use a bark collar or the dog will be given away or put to sleep. However; so far none of our clients have ever had to use a bark collar.