

Dog Barking Journal

Information for Completing a Dog Barking Diary

Completing a dog barking diary

Before any enforcement proceedings can be instituted the Shire of Boddington requires proof that the dog/s is creating a nuisance by barking. The dog/s owner may dispute that their dog/s are barking excessively and without proof to the contrary little action can be taken.

The decision to prosecute lies with the Shire, and is made after the investigating officer has completed a thorough investigation, integral to this is a comprehensively compiled "Dog Barking Diary".

Without a thoroughly completed "Dog Barking Diary" the Shire of Boddington stands little chance of a successful outcome in enforcement proceedings.

The diary needs to be notarised before any enforcement proceedings can be instituted. Extreme care must be observed when compiling the diary as the information provided may be used in evidence.

Date

The date of each barking occurrence needs to be recorded. There may be multiple barking episodes on any particular day however each episode needs to be recorded as an individual entry.

Start and finish times and duration

The time that the dog/s starts and finishes a barking episode needs to be noted. Using the start and finish times the duration of each individual incident can easily be disseminated.

Number of Barks

Please list the number of barks in the duration period

Weather conditions

The dog/s barking may be induced by certain weather conditions such as thunderstorms in the area. This may provide an explanation for the dog/s barking however it wouldn't be sufficient justification in any enforcement proceedings.

Possible reasons for the dog barking

The dog/s barking may be caused by tangible and other environmental distractions. Whilst these may provide an explanation, they generally wouldn't be considered a sufficient reason for the dog/s barking, examples may include;

- people walking past.
- cats, birds, etc in the neighbourhood.
- emergency vehicle sirens in the area.
- postman or rubbish truck being in the area.
- children teasing the dog.

How the alleged nuisance affects you

This particular section is critical to the success of any enforcement proceedings.

The *Dog Act 1976* states that a dog/s shall be taken to be a nuisance if it creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any place.

The diary needs to quantify how the barking is affecting you, examples may include;

- woken up by barking.
- cannot watch/hear the TV/Stereo.
- children cannot sleep.
- cannot concentrate whilst studying.

It is not sufficient to use generalisations or opinions such as "It's annoying".

Other relevant comments

This particular section notates any useful information that may be relevant to enforcement proceedings such as the dog owner being out when the dog is barking.

Where possible the barking dog/s should be visually observed to rule out any mistaken identity