

Dog Barking Solutions

First

- Make sure there isn't a reason that your dog is barking
 - Do your normal routine for leaving, drive your car down the street, the walk back to the house, watch and listen for triggers.
 - Is there someone coming onto your property?
 - Is there a wild animal, cat, or other dog that comes onto your property when you're gone? Squirrels and blue jays love to taunt dogs.
 - Are there noises that seem to scare the dog?

Barking for needs

- Make sure your dog is being fed properly and has water continually available.
- Outdoor dogs need shade in the summer and a warm enclosure in the winter.

Dogs want results, good or bad.

- If your dog is unhappy outdoors and barking eventually makes you bring him in, he learns that barking gets results.
- If barking makes you yell at him, well, that's better than nothing. "I'm bored. Maybe I can get them to yell at me again." Although yelling doesn't work, negative reinforcement can still be useful.
 - When home, and you dog barks, take a little Dixie Cup full of water, and throw it at his face. "Quiet" repeated calmly and clearly once or twice in a normal voice will teach your dog to associate the word with water in the face and with not barking.
 - Later, in situations where he would ordinarily bark but stays quiet instead, calmly praise him.

Practice being out of touch.

- Because you aren't petting and stroking and fondling him all the time, your dog should be learning now that it's ok to be "out of touch" for short periods.
 - Dogs left alone during the day are in a terribly unnatural situation, isolated with nothing to do.
 - Instead of barking and tearing up the house, your dog can keep himself busy by earning his food.
- Give your dog something to do while you are gone.
 - Get an adjustable feeding ball, if your dog is overweight, instead of Kongs. They work with dry food; and to get the food, your dog must roll the ball around so food falls out through the holes. When adjusted properly, getting a full meal takes a long time.
 - Get some good chew toys. Nylabones, Bully Sticks, Kongs (filled with peanut butter and treats, then frozen last all day) and boiled beef bones are excellent (you can freeze these too).
 - Buy several Kongs and hide in various places. For this to work well, your dog must be hungry, but they always seem to be for peanut butter.
 - Mix up the toys, don't always use the same ones. This way they won't get bored with the same thing every day.
- Let your dog become distracted with a chew toy, then calmly and quietly leave the room, closing the door behind you.
 - Within a few minutes, preferably before your dog has become distraught about your absence, come back in and resume what you were doing.
 - Move calmly, say nothing.
 - When your dog rushes over to greet you, ignore him completely. Don't say anything. Don't even look at him. Your separation was completely unimportant to you, so it should be completely unimportant to your dog.
- Consider a dog door, and close off the area's you don't want them to go. This gives them a feeling of security, because your sent is all around them.

Before you leave

- You might also try leaving the television on for sounds in the house while you are gone.
- Leave a light on in the house and in the run.

If you can't get him/her to stop barking, try the...



Citronella anti bark collar

The Gentle Spray citronella anti bark collar is the most effective way to stop dog barking and the kindest. Citronella barking collars aren't only a lot nicer than shock collars, they work better. If you want your dog or your neighbor's dog to quickly stop barking, the Gentle Spray citronella anti-bark collar is your best choice.

When your dog barks, the collar sprays a light mist of citronella scent in front of his nose. Dogs don't like this. The hissing noise startles them and dogs seem to dislike the smell. Most dogs figure things out very quickly and stop barking. University studies have shown that citronella barking collars are twice as effective as shock collars.

The collar is not a recommend collar if:

- Your dog barks because he is truly frightened. Dogs with separation anxiety bark and pace and chew up things in your house or yard. They are beside themselves with fear and usually very destructive. Talk to your veterinarian about this. Don't get the collar until you've resolved the anxiety problem.
- Your dog barks because he is blind or old and confused. The collar won't help your poor old dog and might make things worse. Talk to your veterinarian. There is a drug that may help the problem, and you may find that making him less confused solves the barking problem.
- Your dog is uncontrollable and seems out of touch with reality. If your dog just acts really crazy and won't respond to anything you do, the collar may not work. Ask your vet for the name of someone who specializes behavior counseling.

A dog owner said this about the citronella anti bark collar. "I put the collar on one of our three dogs that liked to bark the most. She barked once and the collar let off the spray. She barked a second time and again got the spray. Miracle of all miracles, there was no third bark. I tried the collar on the other two dogs and the same thing happened. Amazingly, it seems that if we have the collar on one of the two dogs that are real barkers, all three are quiet. I don't know if that is because they smell the citronella if she happens to bark (which at this point is rare) or what the reason is, but it has been the best purchase ever."

It can be purchased online, see Google shopping at:

<http://www.google.com/search?q=citronella+bark+collar&tbm=shop&hl=en&aq=f>