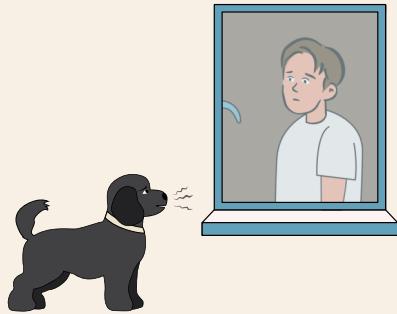
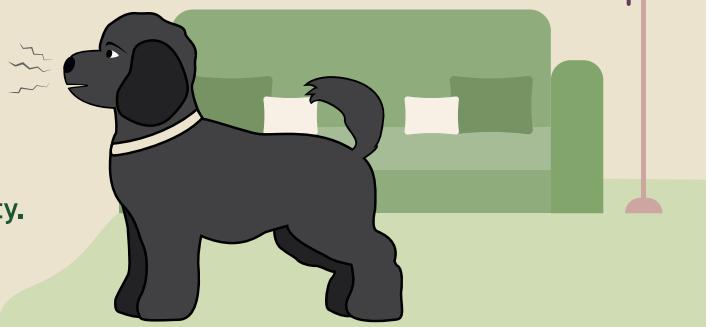


Managing Excessive Pet Dog Barking

Dogs bark to communicate. However, excessive barking creates nuisance, stress and anxiety within the community. It is important to understand the cause of excessive barking so it can be resolved appropriately.



FEAR / REACTIVITY TO STRANGERS AND NOISE

Dogs that are fearful of strangers or reactive to noise may bark excessively at people walking past their home and this behaviour often gets reinforced over time.

To manage it:

1. Bring the dog to a room further away from the trigger and engage the dog in a more desirable activity such as eating a chew or playing with a toy.
2. Use visual barriers (e.g. close doors, screens, frosted windows).
3. Mask external noise (e.g. close windows and doors, play TV/Radio at a low volume or white noise music)
4. Consult an AVS-Accredited Certified Dog Trainer (ACDT) to address the dog's underlying emotions towards strangers and noise.



ATTENTION-SEEKING

Dogs may bark to get attention from their owners. This could occur even if the owners respond by saying 'No' or 'Stop,' which may unintentionally reinforce the barking behaviour.

To manage it:

1. Reward your dog when it is quiet, with treats or your attention.
2. Ensure your dog's behavioural needs are met by providing adequate enrichment and mental stimulation.



SEPARATION ANXIETY

Dogs may become anxious when left alone and may bark, pace, cause destruction or eliminate in inappropriate places. Separation anxiety is a serious condition that compromises the dog's welfare and affects surrounding neighbours.

To manage it:

1. Seek professional help from vets and ACDT trainers to manage separation anxiety appropriately.

Reach out to certified professionals under the AVS-Accredited Certified Dog Trainer (ACDT) Scheme to manage any of the above issues.

To feedback, please contact us at www.avs.gov.sg/feedback