

Date:     /     /

Dear Neighbour,

**Re: Dog barking**

**This is a courtesy letter to advise you that your dog is barking and having an impact on the surrounding amenity of the area.**

The barking occurs:

- During the early morning
- During the day
- During the night
- When you leave the house and the dog is left alone
- When you let the dog out in the early morning
- When you let the dog out in the late evening
- When someone walks past your property
- When I go out into my garden

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

You may have previously been unaware of this noise, however it affects me because it can be clearly heard in the habitable areas of my house.

I am keen to resolve this in a polite and proactive manner and I am sending you this letter as an alternative to raising a complaint with Council.

I would therefore be grateful if you could try to address the issues raised in this letter.

There are some helpful hints and tips on the reverse side of this notice which may be of some assistance.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Kind regards,

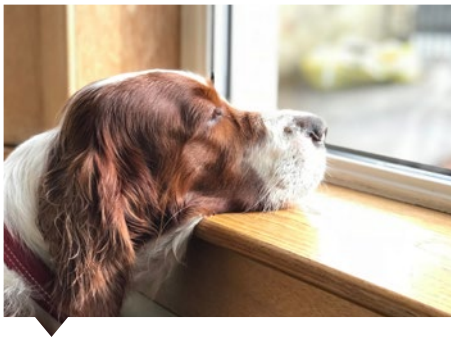
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Sorry, I would prefer to remain anonymous.



# Separation Anxiety

## Many dogs can become anxious when separated from their human family.

Anxiety is characterised by signs of distress that can include toileting in the house, destructiveness, excessive barking, digging or pacing and attempting to escape.

The goal of management and treatment is to teach the dog how to be calm and relaxed when you are absent, and this means making some adjustments to regular routines.

## Hints and tips

### Changes in pet-owner interactions

Help your dog to become more independent and less anxious, by rewarding him/her for being calm and relaxed and ignoring attention-seeking behaviour.

### Changes in leaving and return routines

In an attempt to decrease anxiety levels prior to your departure, try to ignore your dog 15–30 minutes prior to leaving. Upon return, greet your dog softly, calmly and quietly, and attend to him/her only when she is calm and quiet.

### Decreasing anxiety associated with departure

This involves changing how the dog perceives pre-departure cues, such as picking up car keys or packing a bag, and re-teaching the dog that the 'routine' no longer predicts departure.

### Environmental changes

Your dog should be provided with things 'to do'. Exercising your dog's mind and body can greatly enrich their life, decrease anxiety and provide them with plenty of opportunities to engage in normal dog behaviours.

### Exercise

Try to exercise your dog before you have to leave each day. Stonnington has 27 off-leash parks where you can take your dog to run and expend energy. To find the location of your nearest off-leash park or to discover others within the municipality visit [stonnington.vic.gov.au](http://stonnington.vic.gov.au).

For more tips and tricks, visit the City of Stonnington website or for more severe cases of separation anxiety, it is recommended that you discuss your concerns with your vet.

**Community languages** Call the Stonnington Community Link, a multilingual telephone information service.

Mandarin	普通话	9280 0730	Italian	Italiano	9280 0733	Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesia	9280 0737
Cantonese	廣東話	9280 0731	Polish	Polski	9280 0734	Vietnamese	Tiếng Việt	9280 0748
Greek	Ελληνικά	9280 0732	Russia	Русский	9280 0735	All other languages		9280 0736

### Contact

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F 9521 2255

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[STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU](http://STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU)

