

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

About barking dogs.

Usually dogs get extremely worked up - chase, bark and also show aggressiveness when visitors ring the doorbell, people stand outside the boundary and call, when dogs and other animals walk by the house or the boundary fence or at the daily visiting postman, paperboy or chemist delivering.

Some kennel, house, yard or chained dogs might react the same. It will be the same for keeping any other animal like cats or birds – chickens, and racing pigeons also have also a noisy lifestyle – keeping crows or other bird like parrots or having an Avery of bird – all these can cause your neighbors to complain.

Then of course the motorbike or home mechanic or workshop DIY home builder etc.

Dog owner know that barking for any dog is as characteristically as wagging a tail or burying a bone.

It would be inane and inhumane to try to stop your dog from barking altogether, after all, some barking is extremely useful.

Some dogs are much more efficient than the doorbell and much more convincing than a burglar alarm.

The goal then is to teach your dog normally to be calm and quiet but to sound the alarm (bark) when intruders enter your property or tell you that something unusual is happening outside your fence – a purpose for having a dog in the first place.

The barking problem may be resolved to your advantage by continuous socializing, training, management and educating the dog – give attention to the bark and talk your mind - calming the dog to indicate your attention to the bark, reprimand if needed or praise and encourage it if that's your goal.

Barking dogs always course problems between neighbors.

Nobody likes a barking dog – that continuous 3 - 2 - 1 ... no purpose bark – it becomes a contention point and a nagging annoyance.

Also to realize then that normal barking is often used as a method of communication between your dog and other dogs, between your dog and you as well as with anything else they may encounter.

A barking dog is one of the most frustrating and annoying sounds, especially if you live in close proximity to your neighbors – at sleeping time, when there are visitors or for no reason during all hours of the night.

Keep in mind, although you may not physically be present when your dog is barking, that does not allow your dog to bark at will.

Barking can become a problem when it's constant and disruptive, there are appropriate and acceptable times for dogs to bark, but incessant barking is not appropriate for any dog.

Do not accept the myth that some dogs will bark regardless what you do.

All dogs are able to be trained to the correct behaviours and all habits are able to be broken.

Responsible dog owners must ensure that their "APBT's" are good citizens, so problem barking should be curbed as early as possible.

Then again barking serves a purpose.

Barking is as characteristically dog as wagging a tail or burying a bone. That's what they do.

It would be inane and inhumane to try to stop your dog from barking altogether: After all, some barking is extremely useful.

My dogs are much more efficient than the doorbell and much more convincing than a burglar alarm – a warning sound when intruders are in my yard or passing my yard.

The goal is to teach dogs normally to be calm and quiet but to sound the alarm when intruders enter your property or stand at the gate.

The barking problem may be resolved to our advantage by management and education: first, immediately reduce the frequency of barking before we all go insane; and second, teach your dog to sound the alarm or to shush on cue.

Appropriate counter measures to curb unwanted barking at early age.

By taking an early measured response you can stop this problem before it gets out of hand.

Finding the root problem, the reason for barking.

But first you have to understand why your dog is barking, so you can find the right solution.

If your dog is barking, you must investigate what sparked the barking - first find the root of the problem.

Dogs bark for a reason, no matter how insignificant this reason may seem.

Reasons why dogs may bark include your dog see something out of the ordinary, frustration, boredom, and fear.

By investigating and addressing the root problem, you are doing much more than instructing your dog not to bark.

Although there are methods that will stop your dog from barking, this will not solve the immediate problem and can only create more problems in its wake.

Boredom barking.

Dogs bark the most right after their owners leave home for the day.

Often, dogs are left alone for long periods of the day while their owners are off at work or owners just ignore the dog and not even visit them.

These hours can stretch by, causing your dog to bark from sheer boredom just like humans complain out of boredom.

If you leave your dog during the day, consider better options than leaving the dog alone and bored.

Typically, individuals add another dog to their family, thinking that the two can keep each other company.

This may work on occasion for some breeds, but generally you just have double the problem on your hand and the truth is most APBT are not pack animals and will fight.

Consider hiring a dog sitter / kennel manager or someone to be at home at all times or to visit your dog regularly – at least 4 times in the first half of the day and the same for the second half – then some talk and a scratch attention and a water top up.

Rotating your dog from one safe area to another or changing the fix area kennel or chain run or even taking the dog in question to a dog day care shelter might keep your dog happy, healthy, and entertained during the day while you are away.

Barking for strange noises.

Dogs usually bark when they are afraid of something or at a strange sound or noises.

Come to understand the reason for barking and even the tone of the bark.

Aplastic bag that got caught in a tree – a rattle on the roof – an owl or a shadow – a dog barking in a distance.

By spending time understanding why your dog barks you can then take the appropriate action to correct the behavior.

Look at various factors – such as the time of day, where your dog is when it occurs, and what it barks at.

Correcting fear barking.

Generally, if your dog is barking out of fear (not knowing) you'll have a good idea what the cause are – sirens, motor bike, road machines, noise funny dressed people with hats or overalls.

Investigate always and if found inappropriate talk to the dog with no uncertain terms then touch the dog to enforce calmness and calling the away.

Reducing the frequency of barks.

Teach 'Bark" and "Shush" on Cue.

It is easier to teach your dog to shush (quite) when the dog is calm and focused.

Therefore, teaching your dog to 'Bark' on cue is the first step in "Shush" training, thus enabling you to teach "Shush" at your convenience, and not at inconvenient times when the dog decides to bark.

Moreover, teaching "Shush" is now much easier because your dog is not barking uncontrollably – barking should then be your idea.

Station an accomplice outside the front door.

Get your dog's attention and make the dog aware of the surrounding then coach the dog with the instruction to 'Bark' (with a cue – zzzssa), which is the cue for your assistant to ring the bell or make a noise – then enforce the bark instruction– this usually follows quit naturally.

Praise your dog profusely when he barks (prompted by the doorbell or noise); maybe even bark along with your dog.

After a few good woofs, say "Shush" – calm the dog and then waggle a tasty food treat in front of his nose – shifting focus and continue with "shush".

Your dog will stop barking as soon as he sniffs the treat because it is impossible to sniff and bark simultaneously.

Praise your dog as he sniffs quietly, and then offer the treat.

Repeat this routine a dozen or so times and your dog will learn to anticipate the doorbell ringing whenever you ask him to react.

Eventually your dog will bark after your request but before the doorbell rings, meaning that your dog has learned to bark on command.

Similarly, your dog will learn to anticipate the likelihood of treats following your "Shush" request.

You have then taught your dog to both bark and shush on cue.

Over repeated "bark - word" and "Shush" trails, progressively increase the length of required shush-time before offering a food reward – at first just try two seconds, then three, then five, eight, twelve, twenty, and so on.

By alternating instructions to bark and shush, the dog is praised and rewarding for barking on request and shushing on request.

Remember, always speak softly when instructing your dog to shush, and reinforce your dog's silence with whisper-praise.

The more softly you speak, the more your dog will be inclined to pay attention and listen (and therefore, not bark).

Teach your dog when to bark.

Set up a friend to walk by the house in a normal appropriate way a number of times – then approaching the gate and ring the bell.

This with you and the dog watching and very aware of the passerby – control calmness smooth talking no barking.

It will take all of your attention to keep your dog shushed.

But persevere: it will be easier when the same person walks by the second time, and again easier on the third pass by.

Eventually your dog will habituate and will no longer alert to the same person's presence in the street – accepting no danger or nothing to get excited for.

Profusely praise your dog and offer treats for silent vigilance. In time repeat reinforcement for quiet vigilance several times on subsequent passes by, this will teach your dog not to overly react to passersby.

When a visitor stop by the front gate or entrance to your yard, eagerly and urgently say "speak - speak - speak" then praise your dog when he barks (this will teach your dog it is expected to sound the alarm you have visitors at the gate).

Instruct the dog to sit and shush at your command or to be taken away to a dedicated area first for you to allow entrance.

If your dog exuberantly barks and bounces at this point, simply urge and wait until the dog is calm and sits and shushes and then praise and offer a treat.

With my APBT dog on duty I first put the dog behind my trellis lounge – a dedicated place for the dog (this become a habit and the dog will easily then comply) while visitors are welcomed and the visitor are seated in my house.

Then the dog will accept their presence as part of my authority (pack leader) and will have no problem when released to come and greet the visitors – this you evaluate because you know your dog and if the temperament of the dog.

Have the visitor leave and come back a number of times.

Eventually, your dog will understand they need to sound the alarm depending on your allowing visitors to enter and will subside and greet visitors when entering in silence.

This procedure becomes easier with each new visitor.

Your dog soon learns to watch passersby in silence and give voice when they step on your property or at the gate or ringing the bell or wait at the safe dedicated area to be allowed to also enter, but to sit and shush when they are invited indoors.

Correct fear barking.

The best way to correct fear-barking is to gently introduce the thing that causes a fear-barking reaction under controlled circumstances. You first identify the reason for the fear bark – thing, sound or movement.

You may wish to enlist the help of a professional trainer, or care to experiment with the following guidelines.

Place the person or thing that causes a fear reaction on the far side of a kennel yard or field, far enough away that your dog can see it but is not reacting.

As long as your dog is calm, praise him and give him treats.

Slowly move your dog closer to the item, but be prepared to step back should your dog show overreaction or uncontrollable response.

Desensitizing your dog can take time, even weeks.

You need to remain patient and controlled.

If you try to rush the process you may end up making your dog more fearful.

Eventually, your dog will happily be able to be in the same area as the thing it used to bark at without a response.

If the fear-barking is in response to something that rarely occurs, try to distract your dog with a treat and get it to sit – just be with the dog for assurance.

Offer praise – talk to the dog - for the good behavior, but do not try to comfort the dog, as this will merely reinforce the barking.

Socializing from day one in all manners with all noises with things the dog might come in contact with in later life is the foundation of no fear attitude.

Correcting barking out of boredom.

When the majority of barking occurs while you are gone, then your dog is probably barking due to boredom or separation anxiety.

The trick to solving barking for boredom is to ensure that your dog is not bored.

To keep the dog from being bored - sounds easy doesn't it?

Regular daily exercise and frequent daily visits and taking to helps, as does ensuring that your dog has lots to do while you are away or even when you are at home.

Hide treats and toys around the house make sure it has things to chew on, and think about employing a dog walker to take your APBT out for a quick romp in the middle of the day at a safe place or if you have the facilities or space dragging a tire or a run on the mill or a swim in the river.

Dogs do get use to you being away at work or gaining to town.

Frustration barking.

This can and will occur when they cannot reach something or someone.

This is also a key cause for dog barking and usually involves something that is located just out of your dog's reach.

This can include a toy, water dish, food dish, bag of treats, or anything else he wants to get his paws or teeth-on – also the neighbor's dog, cat or passing animals behind the boundary wall or fence.

To determine if frustration is your dog's source of barking, examine his area – investigate the problem and work with given scenarios.

Outside influences causing barking.

If your dog is kept in an outdoor space, it is likely that other animals or humans are bothering your dog.

See if neighboring dogs or people are teasing or enticing your dog into barking- shuffling feet kicking the fence or a tin or a ball – bicycle or wheelbarrow or lawn machine or alarm of vehicle horn.

It is not that uncommon to find that the neighbor's children milk or post-delivery or passing dogs or other animal are teasing your dog over the fence, thus causing the barking.

Some dogs get extremely worked up when visitors ring the doorbell and can never ignore that option to get excited or bark.

Once the stimulus (person at the gate or doorbell stop) or whatever stop or is removed, the frustration barking will stop.

Anger and fear barking.

These are often lumped into the same category, but will often be the cause of barking. Just like frustration, there is usually an exterior stimulus that is causing the dog to bark, so by finding this stimulus, you can stop the barking or control or work with it.

Consider your area to determine if someone or something is causing your dog to bark.

Usually, anger or fear can include other habits in addition to barking, like whining, jumping, or digging.

Dogs bark when they want something that they can't get or see something they not used to.

The best way to stop this type of barking is to get rid of whatever causes the frustration, if you are able to.

It can also help if you enroll your APBT in obedience or socializing classes, as this will help give your dog more control over their impulsive reactions.

Teach your dog basic commands as this will give them a base to build from.

The key to preventing barking.

It is much easier to prevent barking by raising a happy and healthy dog that does not bark regularly, then to try to stop a barking dog.

You can ensure that your dog has no reason to bark excessively by keeping it exercised and exposing it too many different types of stimuli.

Your dog should get attention when it is behaving well rather than when it is barking, as this will only serve to reinforce the behavior.

While occasional barking is your dog way of communicating, excessive barking is distracting and disruptive.

Don't expect an overnight result when you start retraining your dog. Any type of corrective behavioral training takes time, and a whole lot of patience.

If you find that you get frustrated, or are not seeing progress after a few weeks, then it is time to hire a professional.