



BARKING QUESTIONNAIRE

Complete this questionnaire with the owner to help determine the reasons and situations which cause the dog to bark. This should be done after performing a clinical examination and ancillary tests on the patient.

To help interpret the dog's body language you might also like to refer to the **Body language of fear in dogs** poster by Dr Sophia Lin.

Owner's name:

Pet's name:

Age:

Sex:

Breed:

Has a complaint been lodged with the council about barking? Yes No

Has a neighbour complained about barking? Yes No



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When does the barking or howling occur?		
When the owner is present		Owner reinforcement / Distress / Anxiety / Cognitive dysfunction
When the owner is absent		Separation anxiety / Other people reinforcement / Cognitive dysfunction
When unfamiliar people are present		Distress / Fear / Territorial / Poor socialisation / Defensive / Cognitive dysfunction
When people pass by		Play / Play solicitation / Fear / Territorial / Excited / Predatory
When it hears other animals barking		Social solicitation / Fear / Territorial / Excited
When it hears or sees cats		Territorial / Fear / Play / Predatory
When it hears or sees wildlife such as possums		Territorial / Fear / Play / Predatory
When it hears sirens passing		Social solicitation
Where does the barking or howling occur?		
When the dog is within its own yard		Boredom / Social solicitation / Anxiety / Territorial / Cognitive dysfunction
When the dog is outside the yard		Anxiety / Territorial / Fear
When people approach the car		Anxiety / Fear / Territorial
When people approach the dog's territory		Anxiety / Fear
When outside alone at night		Anxiety / Fear / Social solicitation / Cognitive dysfunction
Who or what is the target for the barking or howling?		
Owner		Owner reinforcement
Unfamiliar people		Fear / Anxiety / Territorial / Predatory
Other dogs		Fear / Anxiety / Territorial
Other animals or noises		Fear / Anxiety / Territorial / Predatory
What event starts the barking or howling?		
Owner leaves the dog alone		Separation anxiety / Boredom / Other people / Reinforcement
People approach the dog's territory		Fear / Anxiety / Territorial / Play
Sirens passing		Social solicitation
Does the dog bark or howl in other circumstances? If yes, in what other situations does the barking occur?		
What does the bark sound like?		
Short lived and stops when the stimulus is removed		Alarm / Fear
Rises to a peak then decreases and starts again		Variation of stimulus / Assessing value of barking / Obsessive compulsive disorder
High pitched and sounds excited		Play / Excitement
Low pitched and sounds threatening		Defensive / Territorial / Practised
The bark is in episodes with rests and breaks in between		Investigatory / Assessing value of barking / Cognitive dysfunction
Is the bark continual?		Continual stimulation / Boredom / Obsessive compulsive disorder / Cognitive dysfunction
What is the dog doing before it starts barking?		
Lying around normally, sleeping or playing		Alarm / Territorial / Defensive
Pacing around or destroying things or toileting		Distress / Boredom / Play
Directing its attention at a target		Territorial / Fear / Defensive / Predatory
Showing signs of distress or anxiety		Anxiety / Fear
What is the dog's posture at the time of the barking episode?		
Signs of emotional arousal or anxiety		Anxiety / Fear
Threatening accompanied with lunging or growling		Anxiety / Fear / Defensive / Territorial
Does the owner think the barking is done for a reason?		
Repel a stranger either person, dog or other animal		
To alert its group		
To seek assistance from others		
To seek attention		
To reunite with its group or owner		
Has the owner attempted to stop the barking? If yes, how?		

Punishment has NO role in stopping problem barking and is more likely to cause the situation to deteriorate.