

**RANGER SERVICES**

**DO YOU HAVE A DOG NOISE OR BEHAVIOUR PROBLEM?**

**WHAT CAN THE SHIRE DO TO HELP YOU?**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

You may be able to approach the dog’s owner directly and explain the problem to them.

**WHAT CAN THE COUNCIL DO TO HELP YOU?**

Sometimes all that is required is for a Ranger from the Shire to explain to the dog owner about the problem. In other instances the dog owner does not believe there is a problem. As such we need some information from you.

Convincing a dog owner to change their pet’s habits is not easy, and the more information we have the easier it is to help you.

**KEEPING A RECORD – DOCUMENTING TIMES/ DATES/ BEHAVIOUR/ EFFECTS**

We have enclosed a spreadsheet for your completion.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Once the spreadsheet is completed you need to complete the form 7 (complaint form) and forward both to the Shire of Northam.

A letter will be sent to the dog owner/s with a follow up visit by a Ranger explaining the nuisance and when they occur. Your details will remain strictly confidential. Rangers will advise the owner/s of options to change their pet’s nuisance behaviour.

**IF THE DOG OWNER CO-OPERATES**

If the dog owner/s co-operates you should notice a difference. Some treatment strategies will unfortunately result in a temporary increase in barking while the dog adjusts.

**WHAT IF THE DOG OWNER DOES NOT CO-OPERATE**

The Western Australian Dog Act 1976 allows Local Authority to take action against a dog owner if it is nuisance dog.

**Nuisance dogs**

The Dog Act 1976 as amended deems a dog a nuisance if the dog —

(a) makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any place; or

(b) is shown to be allowed to behave consistently in a manner contrary to the general interest of the community; or

(c) makes a noise, by barking or otherwise, that exceeds —

(i) a prescribed noise level measured by a prescribed method over a prescribed period of time; or

(ii) a prescribed number of times of occurrence during or over a prescribed period of time.

A person may lodge a complaint in a prescribed form (Form 7 as attached) with an authorised person, alleging that a dog is a nuisance,

If an authorised person is satisfied that a dog is a nuisance as alleged in a complaint, the authorised person may issue an order to a person liable for the control of the dog requiring that person to prevent the behaviour that is alleged to constitute the nuisance by a time specified in the order.

An order has effect for 6 months after the day on which it is issued.

A person to whom an order is issued must comply with the order during the period in which it has effect.

Upon receipt of the completed documents, the Shire will consider whether or not to take legal action.

Legal action is not automatic and depends on assessment of each case.

**SHOULD COURT ACTION BE NECESSARY, THEN WE WILL REQUIRE YOU TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS. IF YOU OR ANY OF THE COMPLAINANTS DO NOT WISH TO DO THIS THE SHIRE CANNOT PRECEDE WITH A PROSECUTION.**

It may take some time to obtain a hearing date at the Magistrates Court, during this period you may wish to keep an up to date record of noise, behaviour and effect on you