

## HINTS TO BREAK THE BARKING HABIT

- 1) **IF YOUR DOG IS STILL A PUPPY:** The time to attack the problem is during puppy hood; the barking habit can be a tough one to break in the adult dog. Let puppy sound a warning signal for a few seconds then reassure the puppy with a few calming words (“it’s alright, Spot.”) Your pet has done the job dogs are supposed to do, and you’ve responded.
- 2) **WHEN YOUR DOG CONTINUES TO BARK:** After sounding an alarm and being calmed down, if your dog continues to bark, speak directly with a commanding “Quiet!” If your dog still doesn’t get the idea, demonstrate by holding your dog’s mouth closed (being careful not to cut off breathing) for a moment. Remember that you are teaching not punishing. Don’t yell or hit your dog. Release your dog when he/she is calm again. Soothe your dog and say “good dog”.
- 3) **IF YOUR DOG BARKS AT ANY LITTLE NOISE:** These dogs need special attention. Setting up a situation that you know will cause barking, can help the problem. For example: the arrival of the mail carrier, cars going by, or presence of another dog. When your dog begins to bark, state firmly, “Quiet!” and be ready to enforce the command with a correction. Until your dog understands the command, smack a rolled newspaper or magazine **ON YOUR HAND**, not on the dog, to reinforce the command.
- 4) **IF YOUR DOG BARKS WHEN NOBODY IS HOME:** Leave a radio playing softly when you go out. Your dog will be in a better spirits and may be fooled into believing you are home. Get your dog used to being in a closed room by trying this when you are home. Tell your dog to be good and close the door. The minute he/she starts to bark or howl, burst into room and scold, “NO! BAD DOG, QUIET! QUIET!” then go away again and wait outside. If your dog starts to bark or cry again, increase the intensity of your command until you have convinced that you are always around the corner.
- 5) **IF YOUR DOG IS TIED UP:** Make sure your pet is as comfortable as possible. Make sure there is shelter, fresh water, and food nearby. Make sure your dog can’t get tangled in any line used for tying up. Make sure there is enough room so there won’t be any stepping in food, water, or feces. Your pets should be given lots of attention when you are at home. Your dog should also get plenty of exercise and be played with **ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE**, for at least an hour a day.

Breaking the barking habit is time consuming and often frustrating, but with patience and understanding, you should be able to complete training in 2 or 3 weeks. Comfort yourself with the knowledge that you are making your dog a better pet and yourself a better neighbor. Thank you for your cooperation.