TIPS FOR DOG OWNERS

* Always find out WHY your dog barks. Unless it has a watchdog reason, then you must correct it at this time.

* Do not turn a garden hose on a dog or throw rocks or tin cans at him.

* Spanking, hitting is an ineffective substitute for water treatment and rarely solves any problems.

* Whenever your dog barks for a trained watchdog reason, praise it or pat it.

* Remember dogs are "pack" animals and they innately do not want to be left alone. They want to be with the "pack" - you and your family are the "pack." Your dog needs your company to feel secure. Isolation is terrible. Dogs are companion animals and should be kept in the house whenever possible.

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QUIET PLEASE
GOOD DOG OR PUBLIC NUISANCE

Determine for yourself whether your dog is a good companion, a
good watchdog, or a neighborhood nuisance, by answering the
following:

Does your dog bark excessively?
* When he is left alone and lonesome?
* When another dog barks?
* When he's outside and wants to get in the house?
* When neighbors leave or return home?
* When you come home?
* At garbage collectors, passing cars?
* When he hears a siren?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these, your dog could be a
neighborhood noise nuisance.

Dogs bark for many reasons: when other dogs bark; when they
are generally excited or frustrated; or when a stranger intrudes
on their territory.

Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as
well as to those who have to live with a noisy dog. A constant
barker is more likely to be ignored if there is an intruder, since
he seems to "cry wolf" all the time.

One of the most common public complaints is about neighbors'
barking dogs. Is your dog an excessive barker and a potential
public nuisance? The National League of Cities, together with
the Humane Society of the United States, would like to pass on
an effective training method to responsible owners.

WATER TRAINING METHOD

The WATER TRAINING METHOD WORKS for almost all dogs.

If possible, consider going to a reputable local obedience training
school. An obedience trained dog will stop barking on command,
and knowing obedience signals will help you control your dog in
other situations and make life happier for all.

Consider the times when your dog's barking is a nuisance. If it's
when he's left alone all day, help his loneliness by leaving the radio
on. If your dog is an outside pet, allowing it more freedom of
movement in a fenced yard or pen may quiet its barking. If
practical, you might consider a companion pet. Be sure you have
plenty of toys available for amusement.

Don't make a big thing out of leaving or returning home.
Over-excited dogs are more likely to bark and yelp.

* The first training rule is to be consistent and persistent.
  You can't expect a dog to learn if barking for the wrong
  reason is corrected one time and not the next.

* Second, be ready for an immediate response. Have
  ready a plastic mister filled with water.

* Say "QUIET DOG" (or whatever its name is) and give
  one or two squirts of water at the dog while it is barking.
  He will stop at once. If you wait until he stops barking
  it may confuse him.

* If the dog moves away, repeat saying "Quiet" as you go to
  him and give one more squirt of water at him. Repeat
each time he barks needlessly.

* Usually a day or two of training is enough if you are
  consistent. (5 to 10 water treatments)

* Remember to reassure the dog that you are still friends
  by petting him later when he's quiet.

* With this conditioning procedure your dog will soon
  learn to expect a squirt of water when you shout "Quiet"
  for once he has made the association, you won't need to
  squirt him again-only rarely, should he forget.

PUBLIC NUISANCE ANIMALS - BARKING

CARROLL COUNTY ORDINANCE #26

Section 5(b) "The owner shall exercise sufficient care and
control of his/her animals to prevent them from becoming a
public nuisance."

Definition of a public nuisance animal as it relates to barking:
Section 5(b):
"Any animal which barks, whines or howls in an
excessive, continuous or untimely fashion is a
public nuisance animal."

In Carroll County if your "Dog" is determined to be a public
nuisance animal you may be required by law to have it
destroyed. PLEASE no one wants to see that happen - be a
good neighbor as well as a good owner - teach your dog to be
quiet. Don't leave your dog outside when you're not home
unless you know barking is not an issue and then be sure your
dog has fresh water in a tip proof container - shade in the
summer months and proper protection from the weather
(heat - cold - rain - wind etc.)

IS YOUR DOG TRAINABLE?

A dog that is chained up or left alone indoors and is allowed to
bark hour after hour may be very difficult to train. Such a dog
may have become too neurotic for an inexperienced trainer. If
this is the case with your dog, consult a qualified dog trainer.

REWARDS

Correcting unnecessary barking is more convenient during the
day, but getting up a few times at night will prove worthwhile.
After that, you and your neighbors will know that when your
dog barks, there's a real reason. If your neighbors are home
and you're not, they will check to see if police should be
notified.

The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as
enjoying a peaceful and quiet night, and allowing your
neighbors to enjoy one too, is well worth the effort.