

Dog Bark Types Chart

Barking is communication, and the fix depends on the reason. **Work out which bark you’re hearing, then change what sets it off or what it earns.** Log a week first.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG’S NAME

MAIN BARK TYPE

START DATE

WHICH BARK IS IT? WHAT HELPS

BARK	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	WHAT HELPS
Territorial / alarm	At people, dogs or noises at the window, door or fence	Block the view; allow a few barks, then teach “Quiet” and a go-to spot
Attention / demand	At you, for food, play or the door	Don’t reward it; wait for quiet; teach a sit or a bell to ask instead
Greeting	Happy barks at arrivals, loose body, wagging	Keep greetings low-key; ask for a sit-stay; hand over a toy to hold
Boredom / frustration	Long bouts when under-stimulated or blocked from something	Exercise before you leave; practise wait, sit or stay before getting access
Joining in	Barking along when other dogs bark	Bring your dog inside, mask the noise with music, distract
Fear	Crouched body, hackles raised; fearful or defensive	Never punish it; add distance; work on the cause with a professional
Separation-related	Only when left alone, with pacing, damage or accidents	Vet check first, then a certified behaviorist or veterinary behaviorist
Compulsive	Repetitive, like a broken record, often with pacing	More exercise and a certified behaviorist

Pitch is a clue: higher barks tend to be welcoming, deeper ones an alert.

DO / DON’T

- ☐ Don’t ask “Who’s there?” in an excited voice
- ☐ Reward quiet the moment it happens
- ☐ Vet first if barking is new: pain or illness can cause it
- ☐ Don’t yell or punish, least of all fear or anxiety barking
- ☐ No anti-bark collar as a first step, and never tie a muzzle shut
- ☐ Senior dog barking at night? Ask about cognitive dysfunction

BARK LOG

DATE / TIME	WHAT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE	BARK TYPE	HOW LONG	WHAT YOU DID