# How to complete a barking dog diary

Your accuracy in recording nuisance barking is extremely important as it forms part of the evidence that may be presented in court. If you are cross-examined, it needs to be a clear record of what occurred on any particular day.

Please complete a detailed diary over a minimum of 7 days. (Please be aware subsequent diaries will be required throughout the investigation process.)

1. Avoid recording large blocks stating ‘barking all day’ or 7am to 7pm, as this will affect the credibility of the diary and will not be considered detailed enough to act upon.
2. All entries should reflect the actual times the barking started and stopped.
3. During spates of intermittent barking over long periods, ensure you record this in blocks of no longer than 15 minutes to provide a more accurate picture of the nuisance.
4. On days when no nuisance level barking has occurred, please note this next to the date.

**Intermittent barking:** non-continuous barking, starts and stops  
**Continuous barking**: non-stop barking without a break

## Example diary entries

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day & date of Barking** | **Time barking started** | **Time barking stopped** | **Type of barking**  (e.g. howling, yelping) | **Reason for barking** (e.g. post, worker) | **Impact** | **Location where noise is heard from** |
| Tuesday  20/05/18 | 6:30am | 6:41am | Continuous  whimpering | Nobody in street | Woke me up | Bedroom |
| Tuesday  20/05/18 | 3:10pm | 3:16pm | Intermittent | Postworker | Unable to relax and watch TV | Lounge room |
| Tuesday  20/05/18 | 3:36pm | 3:39pm | Intermittent | Workers next door | Trying to entertain friend | Lounge room |
| Tuesday  20/05/18 | 4:02pm | 4:12pm | Continuous  loud bark | Cat on property | Unable to relax,  effecting health | Lounge room |
| Tuesday  20/05/18 | 5:18pm | 5:25pm | Intermittent  howling, distressed | No-one at home | Disrupted my study/work | Study |

This may seem excessive, but remember the success of your case will rely on the quality and completeness of your evidence. Also, the more information we are able to provide to the dog owner the more likely they are to be able to establish the causes of the barking and address the issues effectively.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day & date of Barking** | **Time barking started** | **Time barking stopped** | **Type of barking**  (eg howling, yelping) | **Reason for barking**  (e.g. post delivery, worker) | **Impact** | **Location**  Where is the noise heard from? |
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I declare the above recordings as a true record of matters observed by me and I am willing to appear in Court to give evidence as a witness to the truth of this complaint if required to do so by the Council.

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signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_