



Leaflet 16

“ABOISTOP”

Anti-barking Training Collar Dog Barking Can Be a Nuisance

Owning a dog can be a very enjoyable experience. However, it can also be an annoying disturbance for many people, if the dog barks constantly or at in appropriate times responsible dog owner will take steps to prevent this becoming an on-going problem, and one of the options that South Northamptonshire Council provides is to loan or sell an anti-barking training collar to dog owners.

Why dogs bark

Dogs have evolved to live in social groups, using complex visual and vocal communication. To communicate dogs use grunting, whining, yelping, screaming, howling, growling and barking. The emotional state of the dog is determined by listening to the tone and combinations of these sounds.

The likelihood of a dog being vocal in any given situation is determined by:

- The species' inborn tendencies
- Breed disposition
- What the dog learns throughout its life

There are many reasons for nuisance noise, examples of which include:

- Territorial
- Attention seeking
- Frustration
- Fear or separation anxiety.

Anti-barking training collar

There are a number of collars on the market, using different techniques. For many years the Council has deployed the "Aboistop".

The "Aboistop" anti-barking training collar works using the effect of surprise, also known as 'disruptive stimulus'. As soon as the dog barks, the collar releases a spray which simultaneously stimulates several of the dog's senses: his hearing (pffft!), his sight (the cloud of spray), his touch (a cold sensation), and sometimes his smell (if you are using a perfumed spray e.g. citronella). This stimulus is very surprising to the dog, and causes him to cease his undesirable behaviour on the spot.

When your dog wears the collar, he will remain quiet and attentive, ready to concentrate on normal activities.

Using the collar

Your dog must associate the spray with his barking, so the collar must always be positioned correctly, and be in good working order. Ensure that you remove his normal collar and chain before using this device. It may take a few days for your dog to quieten down and get used to the device, so it may need regular checking (make sure the reservoir never runs dry). For this reason, and for great results, it is a good idea to be with your dog during the first few tests, when your dog begins to bark, the collar will be triggered, taking him by surprise and interrupting his behaviour. As soon as he is quiet, you can pursue another activity, and reward him for his good behaviour. Your dog will soon learn that there are other ways to let off steam, other than barking!

It is not necessary to leave the collar on the dog all of the time. He only needs to wear it when you don't want him to bark. If your dog continues to bark, talk to your vet, as this may be a result of a more serious behavioural problem. In that case, an anti-barking collar should not be used. Your vet will also be able to give you advice about these products and services, as well as knowing what is best for your dog.

Hiring or purchasing a collar from South Northamptonshire Council

If you are having trouble with your dog, and wish to hire or purchase an anti-barking dog collar from South Northamptonshire Council, the prices are as follows:

To hire - £15 deposit plus £7.00 per week

To purchase -

- Collar: Aboistop Original £65.00
- Collar New Generation £70.00
- Citronella refills £10.00
- Batteries Original £4.50
- Batteries New Generation £6.00

This service is available to anyone who wishes to control their dog's anti-social barking, and comes at a lower cost than most other private stockists.

*For further information or to
comment on this leaflet please contact the
Animal Welfare Officer
Tel 01327 322277*

South Northamptonshire Council
Springfields, Towcester
Northamptonshire NN12 6AE
Fax 01327 359946

E-mail: environmental.protection@southnorthants.gov.uk
or visit SNC's website at

www.southnorthants.gov.uk

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