

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**



# **How to prevent Noise Nuisance**

## Animals

**Environmental Protection**



## Introduction

Noise from animals can affect people's enjoyment of their homes and become a nuisance. This leaflet contains practical advice about how to reduce nuisances and prevent them.

When a nuisance has an unreasonable effect on people living nearby, action can be taken under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Under this legislation, the Council has a duty to investigate all complaints about nuisances and if we feel that the nuisance constitutes a Statutory Nuisance we will take action.

To be classed as a Statutory Nuisance in terms of the law, it must be clear that the nuisance has a significant impact upon people nearby. When assessing if an alleged nuisance is a Statutory Nuisance we consider a variety of factors including:

- The time(s) at which it happens;
- How often it happens;
- How long it lasts;
- The volume or intensity of the alleged nuisance;
- The location and characteristics of the area where the alleged nuisance takes place.

The matter may also be investigated under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The behaviour needs to meet three tests before the Council can take further action:

- The behaviour affects the Quality of Life of those in the local area;
- The behaviour is continuous or persistent;
- The behaviour is unreasonable.

Each case is assessed individually and the particular circumstances relating to it are considered.

If you are approached by neighbours complaining about the noise, please listen to their concerns and take time to view the problem if relevant. Take all reasonable action to minimise the noise and tell them what you will do to resolve the situation and when you will do it.

If a complaint has been made about you to the Council, where possible we work to resolve nuisance activity informally by discussion and negotiation. However, if the Council is satisfied that a Statutory Nuisance exists or the matter is unreasonable, a Notice can be served on the person(s) responsible. Failure to comply with the notice can result in court action. If convicted, the person responsible for the nuisance can face a fine.

For more information please contact the Environmental Protection Team on: 01225 477551, or email [Environmental\\_Protection@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Environmental_Protection@bathnes.gov.uk) or visit the website [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)

## **How to avoid causing a noise nuisance**

### **Dog Barking**

The important thing to consider with dog barking is that you may not be aware just how much your dog barks if you are out at work all day or out for the evening.

If the noise your dog is making is upsetting your neighbours, and they have told you this, one step you could take is to talk things over with them. Stay calm, and try to see it from their point of view; perhaps they're working shifts, or have got a baby or small children. Bear in mind that they might be worried about the dog's welfare.



You could ask your neighbours to tell you exactly when your dog is barking, and for how long. If you are out a lot, ask them to note down the times when the barking happens. Consider using a video camera to find out what your dog is doing when you are not there, or try a 'set-up' - pretend you're going out for the day, and then wait outside the door to see what your dog does.

Once you understand when and why your dog is barking, you can see how you can help it to bark less.

- Try introducing some interesting activities into their routine, which should stop barking due to boredom;
- Brush up on their obedience training;
- Don't shout at them to stop barking as they may think that you are excited too, making them bark louder;
- Find out what is making them bark and then, if you can, prevent them from seeing, hearing or smelling it. S/he may be barking out of frustration because s/he can't get to something that s/he finds exciting i.e. a cat in the garden, children playing on the street or another dog barking next door. Where possible, don't let them out alone, keep them company;
- If you're going out, close the curtains and put the radio or television quietly on to keep the dog company;
- Don't leave your dog alone for long periods in the garden or house, if this is where s/he does most of their barking;
- Make sure your dog has plenty to eat throughout the day;
- Take them out more often during the day for walks
- Try to keep your dog calm. If it barks when excited, don't play with it at anti-social times like late at night;
- Your dog may be barking to get your attention, make sure that you give them lots of 'free' attention every day;
- If the barking only occurs at night when s/he is shut away to sleep alone, consider letting them sleep in sight and sound of the family;
- If your dog barks at the same time each day, like when the family are leaving for work or school, try to keep it busy i.e. with an activity or treat;
- Don't leave your dog outside if it is barking to be let in;

- Make sure your dog gets some exercise before you go out - a tired dog barks less;
- If your dog is barking and you're in a flat, a terraced or a semi-detached house, try to keep it away from any walls you share with your neighbours;
- Get a relative or friend to look after your dog when you go out, or take it with you;
- Be consistent. Give praise or a treat to your dog whenever it is quiet when it would normally have barked. When it barks, tell it firmly to be quiet;
- If your dog likes hiding, make it a den. If it's frightened of other people or animals, shut doors or curtains;
- Keep your neighbours informed about what you are doing to stop or reduce the barking.

## Cockerels

Noise from the crowing of cockerels, due to the early time of day they start crowing, can be particularly annoying to those living nearby, on a daily basis.



The following measures can be taken to reduce the nuisance of cockerel(s) crowing:

- If you are not going to breed from your birds, you do not need to keep a cockerel(s).
- During the breeding season the number of cockerel(s) can get out of hand. Be realistic and only keep the cockerel(s) you require as replacement stock.
- Think carefully about the positioning of the poultry houses. Do not place them near to neighbours if at all possible.
- Provide the birds with a house where the light entering it has been eliminated as far as possible. Always remember that the birds will require ventilation in their housing.
- Lock your birds up at night and let them out after 8.00am in the morning, if possible, to reduce the risk of noise from cockerels(s) crowing early in the morning.
- In an event of a complaint being made by your neighbour or council, try to co-operate by showing him/her what measures you are taking to reduce the noise from the cockerel(s)

# Bath & North East Somerset Council Offices

## Opening Hours

### Bath

Lewis House  
Manvers Street  
Bath  
BA1 1JG

### One Stop Shop Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;  
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

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### Keynsham Civic Centre

Market Walk,  
Keynsham.  
BS31 1FS

### One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;  
Tuesday 8.30am to 6pm;  
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm;  
Saturday 9am to 4.30pm

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### Midsomer Norton

The Hollies,  
Midsomer Norton  
BA3 2DP

### One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;  
Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm;  
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

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