

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Promoting  
Responsible  
Dog  
Ownership



## PROPER PETIQUETTE SAVES NEIGHBOURS A HEADACHE

Training dogs to have good manners not only saves owners a headache, but also ensures positive neighbourly relations. Excessive barking, howling, and fence jumping are not normal behaviour for dogs and must be discouraged for a dog's safety and the sanity of neighbours. **Dogs NSW** believes that sound neighbourly manners are a reflection of a properly trained and happy dog.

"If your dog barks consistently throughout the day or evening, it will cause problems with your neighbours. If people choose to own a dog it is their responsibility to ensure that it behaves itself and doesn't disturb the neighbourhood, or distress itself.", explains veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesperson **Dr Peter Higgins**.

If neighbours are disturbed by your dog's behaviour it can cause arguments and tension. Owners of dogs that jump fences that have not been built high enough and damage the property of neighbours are especially unpopular, and may be liable for considerable sums of money.

"It's best to give your dog lots of space to run around in the garden. It is a balance though, because if fences are short enough to be jumped over it poses a serious health hazard, especially if they manage to get out onto the street and be hit by oncoming traffic.", states **Dr Higgins**.

A dog with well refined neighbourly manners is also a sign of a content and healthy dog. Dogs often bark and howl excessively when they are bored and have little mental stimulation. Stopping this sort of thing from happening can be very easy.

"Dogs need a daily dose of mental activity to keep them happy and to keep their behaviour in check. If dogs are left alone for long periods, then can also become disruptive when given attention, often jumping and barking.", says **Dr Higgins**.

**Dogs NSW** suggests a few simple steps to encourage better behaviour:

- Give dogs at least one hour an exercise every day
- Minimise the amount of time your dog is left alone at home each day
- When left alone, leave them with plenty of toys to keep them entertained
- If you only have one dog, consider getting your dog a companion
- Train and socialise your dog when young to teach good manners from the beginning

"It's your choice to bring a dog into the home, and your neighbours shouldn't suffer the consequences. It is also in the best interests of your four legged friend, so if problems persist, get in touch with your local vet in case it is a sign of something more serious.", advises **Dr Higgins**.

\*\*\* FNDS \*\*\*

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