

Barking dogs - dealing from an enforcement perspective

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ABSTRACT

The old method of enforcement of barking dog complaints, which was labour intensive and often produced little result beyond a frustrated complainant and a hostile dog owner, is briefly outlined. The new method, which guarantees resolution of the complaint within 28 days, is described in detail. Features discussed include: the issuing of packs (which include a 14 day barking log and suggestions for reducing barking) to both the dog owner and the complainant following the first complaint; the use of a formula to assess the level of the alleged problem; the actions taken by council after assessment of the problem; and circumstances under which the problem will be revisited.

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Steve Harbottle has worked in local government for 16 years. Prior to this he worked for the Police Department. In 1976 Steve was winner of the Animal Management Officer of the Year award. At the present time he is a senior inspector in a team of six.