

## Casual factors for excessive barking in Central Brisbane dogs

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### Abstract

Excessive barking constitutes 15% of all reported behavioural problems in dogs. However, no studies have previously been performed specifically examining the factors that may lead to the onset or exacerbation of this behaviour. Surveys were conducted with the aim of identifying the risk factors affecting excessive barking. Questions encompassed three areas: factors relating to the dog, to the environment, and to the owner. Factors influencing excessive barking are identified. It is hoped that this research will aid treatment of dogs showing this behavioural problem, improve advice that AMOs can give to prevent or treat barking problems, and allow owners to make an informed selection when choosing a canine companion.

### Nicola Cross

Nicki's PhD focused on stress physiology and the use of non-invasive techniques to assess cortisol levels in captive primates. She has also investigated refinement techniques in laboratory primates and the assessment of cage size in old world macaques and welfare indicators in marmosets. Other current research interests include investigating the optimal lighting conditions for loading undomesticated horses onto transportation trailers and factors affecting excessive barking in dogs.