



GROWLING AT YOUR NEIGHBOURS OVER PET-RELATED

While pets are the heart of many homes, they are unfortunately also often at the heart of neighbourhood disputes, complaints and conflict for many Canberran residents. Whether you're a pet owner or you're living beside someone who owns an animal who you believe to be a neighbourhood nuisance, it's never worth starting a 'war next-door'.

FOR NEIGHBOURS

While you may recognise your next-door-neighbour's pet/s as a key point of frustration for you at home, it's important to ensure you take pre-emptive steps to work towards mitigating the issue and engage in healthy dialogue with your neighbours. Before taking any action that may significantly impact them, such as involving authorities.

Here are some suggestions for preventing and managing neighbourhood disputes:

- Get to know your neighbours.
- Consult with your neighbour before you take any action that may impact them.
- When people feel heard and understood it is easier to work through a problem.
- Don't assume the other person knows there is a problem – often they don't.
- Make an attempt to talk or write to your neighbour, before involving authorities and other agencies.
- Work on what you can change, not what you can't.

If you need assistance in doing this, contact Conflict Resolution Service for impartial, specialist assistance, in the prevention and management of your dispute. Or visit crs.org.au for more information.



FOR PET OWNERS

As a pet owner, if your animal is being destructive to property or loud it's likely that they are lonely, bored or even anxious and simply looking for something 'exciting' to do to fill their day while you're away. Normal healthy animals (in particular, dogs that are able to have a morning walk), will sleep for a good part of the day... It's important to ensure they have a place to comfortably rest with plenty of fresh water available at all times. While you may believe this is a given, what many owners don't realise is that you need to leave them with plenty of entertainment as well or 'enrichment' activities.

By following our enrichment tips (overleaf), you will be able to ensure both your neighbourhood relationships and pet are kept equally happy and healthy.

ENRICHMENT TIPS



Toys are a great go-to to keep your pet amused but remember, just like kids – they can get bored of the same old thing. Make sure you rotate the toys by gathering them up every day or two, washing them, discarding broken ones and then putting new toys out the next day.



Food puzzles are a great form of entertainment, especially if your pet is food-driven. These can be purchased, or even made at home – a plastic bottle with punch holes will do! (Be wary if you have more than one pet, if some are possessive around food).



Any long-last chew like a good quality chew-toy or meaty bone from the butcher, will likely keep your pet entertained for hours. In the warmer months you can also make a 'pupsicle' ice block with water in an ice cream container and add a chicken wing, kibble or anything else your pet may enjoy.



Leaving a radio on can provide some comforting background noise.

For more enrichment tips, visit
www.rspca-act.org.au

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