Less noise, more calm.

Barking is how dogs talk, so a bit of noise is normal. The trick is working out why they're barking, then showing them what to do instead.



1 Find the why

Puppies bark when they're excited, bored, worried, after attention or have spotted something. The fix depends on the reason, so watch what happens just before.

2 Don't bark back

Shouting can sound like you're joining in. Stay calm and quiet, and reward the moment they stop.

3 Mealtime manners

Only put the bowl down when they're calm. If they bark, pause and wait, ask for a sit, then serve. Quiet soon means dinner arrives faster.

4 Attention barking

If they bark at you for attention, turn away until they're quiet, then give them a fuss. Barking that never works soon fades.

5 Meeting other dogs

If they go wild at other dogs, give more space and reward them for looking at you when a dog's in sight. Move a little closer as they stay calm.

6 Busy brains bark less

Sniffy walks, puzzle feeders and play with puppy-safe toys tire puppies out more than you'd think. A tired puppy is usually a quieter one.

7 Trains, buses and busy places

Start with short trips at quiet times, bring a favourite toy and reward calm moments. Build up as they get more confident.

8 Older dogs at home

Give everyone their own space, keep play short and calmly step in if your puppy gets too full-on. Reward them for settling near the others.

Ask for help early

If barking comes with growling, lunging or real fear, or it's not getting better, speak to your vet first, then a qualified behaviourist. The sooner, the easier.

This guide is general advice for new puppy owners. Every puppy is different, so if you're ever worried, your vet is the best person to ask.