

Veterinary Services

Pet animals often need medical attention and owners often need veterinary advice on the best way to look after them. Although a knowledgeable owner will often be able to provide care for common minor illness, only a vet should diagnose and treat serious injury and disease.

If you are concerned about your pet's health always consult your vet. Veterinary surgeons are often able to provide information on matters of concern to pet owners other than sickness or injury and often give advice on nutrition, training and other matters. The following veterinary services are available in West Lancs.

Barn Lodge Veterinary Centre 01695 572837

Glassbrooks Veterinary Surgery 01772 814498

Hey and Greenwood 01704 821204

Northway Veterinary Centre 01695 422862

Whitegates Veterinary Centre 01695 732938

Kennels and Catteries

Many people need accommodation for their pets whilst on holiday or dealing with other domestic matters. Such accommodation should be chosen to suit the needs of your pet. These businesses are licensed by West Lancashire District Council to provide animal accommodation. Others outside the district can be found in Yellow pages under 'Boarding Kennels'.

General

The following organisations are always looking for good homes for the animals they have. They may also be able to arrange to take your dog or cat in if you are no longer able to keep it. They may also be able to advise you about pet animals other than dogs and cats.

**Cats Protection League 01403 261947
01704 922083
(Cats Only)**

**Freshfields Animal Rescue 0151 931 1604
(All Animals)**

**Leigh Animal Sanctuary 01942 671215
(Dogs and Cats)**

R.S.P.C.A. New Cut Lane, Halsall 01704 567624. (All Animals)

Constant barking can be avoided



Here are Some Helpful Tips

This leaflet was produced by the Environmental Protection Section of West Lancashire District Council

Barking comes naturally to dogs, but the constant barking or whining of a dog can be disturbing or annoying for the neighbours. Often the problem occurs when the dog's owner is out of the house and so the owner doesn't know until the owner complains.

In law, a barking dog can be a noise nuisance. The owner can be taken to court if they do nothing to stop the nuisance. This leaflet suggests some simple things that you, as a dog owner can try

Why Dogs Bark?

Dogs are not by nature solitary animals. They need the security of a family group. Pet dogs regard their owners as substitute family and can soon become distressed when left alone.

There are many reasons why your dog may bark:

- Loneliness
- Boredom or frustration
- Attention seeking
- Defending his territory
- Medical problems

Some other points

If you do keep your dog outside, think carefully about where you put his kennel and where he can run. Try not to put it near your neighbours fence or where your dog will be tempted to bark.

Don't blame the dog and think that you will solve everything by replacing him with another. It will probably not unless you change your lifestyle at the same time.

Getting a second dog for company might help. But think about this carefully. Do you have the space and can you afford a second dog? Another dog could result in more problems not less.

The Importance of Training

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at just anything that moves. A well trained dog should be able to distinguish between people allowed into the house and people who are intruders. Good training combined with affection and companionship should mean that your dog will not develop bad habits. Start young and start as you mean to go on.

If you have to leave your dog for long periods

- Feed and exercise before you go out and leave him some fresh water.
- Make sure his bed or basket is comfortable and leave him his favourite toys.
- Check that the room is not hot or too cold and that there is adequate ventilation.

And if your aren't coming back until after dark, leave the light on.

Training and Behaviour

It is wise to obtain background information about any training courses that you might consider for your pet. Your vet may be able to advise you or you can seek information from either:

The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC) Tel :01386 751751

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers Tel: 01428 707620

British Institute of Pet Dog Trainers Tel: 01663 762772

Locally, dog training is offered by:

John Hardcastle (H & M Training) Tel: 0151 920 7512

Margaret Hernandez Tel: 01695 735044

Val Thompson Tel:01257 462800

Dog Training Associates Tel: 01695 720225 or 01704 568945

West Lancs Canine Centre Tel: 0151 929 2588