

Barking

Barking is always annoying and can be caused by many things. This exercise is designed to *redirect the dog's attention* away from the distraction causing the barking and to place the focus on you.

Have your dog's collar and leash on in the house when you know there might be things that normally cause him to bark. As soon as he starts to bark, step on the leash and place the handle in your hand. Briskly walk him in a direction away from the distraction to a point where he is giving you focus and has lost interest in whatever was causing him to bark. Now, have him sit for you. As soon as he does, praise him with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY".

Drop the leash and calmly walk back to whatever you were doing before this exercise.

It may also be possible to stop your dog's barking with a simple correction. When your dog starts to bark, calmly stand up, face him, make your correction sound and use the squirt bottle or shake bottle to gain his focus. Praise him with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY" when he is calm and has stopped barking. This method often works but is not as universally successful as the redirection method.

