

March 2, 2012 / PetSafe Guest

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## 10 Translated Barks: Know what your dog is saying



396

By Natalie Lester, PetSafe Brand Marketing Specialist



Dogs have many different kinds of barks. Read on to discover what they all mean.

One of the main differences between a dog and a stuffed animal is your dog's ability to communicate with you. Just as we can form sentences and change the pitch of our voice to mean different things, so can a dog change her bark depending on what she is trying to tell you. K9 Magazine recently described the Top 10 Barks and what they mean. I edited the list to make for easy reading, but if you're really curious you can read the magazine's whole post [here](#).

- 1. Continuous rapid barking at a mid-range pitch:** "Call the pack! There is a potential problem! Someone is coming into our territory!"
- 2. Barking in rapid strings with a few pauses at a mid-range pitch:** "I suspect that there may be a problem or an intruder near our territory. I think that the leader of the pack should look into it."
- 3. Prolonged or incessant barking, with moderate to long intervals between each utterance:** "Is there anybody there? I'm lonely and need companionship."
- 4. One or two sharp short barks at a mid-range pitch:** "Hello there!"
- 5. Single sharp short bark at a lower mid-range pitch:** "Stop that!"
- 6. Single sharp short bark at a higher mid-range:** "What's this?" or "Huh?" This is a startled or surprised sound. If it is repeated two or three times its meaning changes to "Come look at this!" alerting the pack to a novel event.
- 7. Single yelp or very short high-pitched bark:** "Ouch!" This is in response to a sudden, unexpected pain.
- 8. Series of yelps:** "I'm hurting!" "I'm really scared" This is in response to severe fear and pain.
- 9. Stutter-bark at a mid-range pitch:** If a dog's bark were spelled "ruff," the stutter-bark would be spelled "ar-ruff." It means "Let's play!" and is used to initiate playing behavior.
- 10. Rising bark - almost a yelp, though not quite that high:** Used during a rough-and-tough tumble play time, it means "This is fun!"

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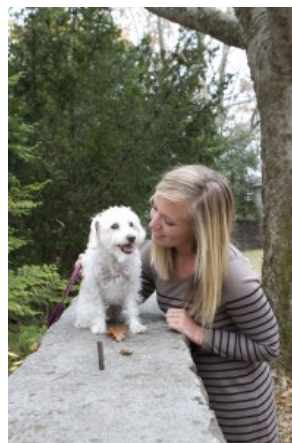
Even dogs can “talk” too much. There are several options for helping control her chatter. Exercise and lots of playtime will wear her out and she will talk less as a result. If she continues to talk to you in the wee hours of the night or morning, [bark control collars](#) are another great way to deter barking. By monitoring your dog’s bark, these collars automatically let her know when she needs to be quiet. Offered in [spray](#), [static](#), [ultrasonic](#) and [vibration](#) correction it’s possible to train your dog not to bark, no matter how stubborn she is!

Understanding your dog’s bark and working together to communicate can remove the strain excessive barking may have put on your relationship.

### What bark do you hear from your dog most often?

#### ABOUT NATALIE

As the PetSafe Brand Marketing Specialist, Natalie manages The Paw Print blog and generates other brand related content including public relations and promotions. Before PetSafe, Natalie worked in the local media covering politics, education, and religion. She is a substitute pet owner to a German short-haired pointer named Bedford in Abingdon, VA, Frenchy the schnoodle in Lenoir City, TN, and all the office dogs at PetSafe’s headquarters in Knoxville. As a pet lover, she is currently searching for the perfect puppy to join her home.



Frenchy loves to play so Natalie often hears the ar-ruff (bark #9) from her. What is the most common bark you hear from your pet?

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## 67 Responses to 10 Translated Barks: Know what your dog is saying

1.  *Melissa Weber* says:  
[March 2, 2012 at 8:37 pm](#)


I think my dog does the Hello bark the most 😊

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 5, 2012 at 11:28 am](#)

Melissa, that’s so great your pet is so great at greeting everyone. Thanks for reading.

[Reply](#)

2.  *Brenda Abrams* says:  
[March 2, 2012 at 8:45 pm](#)

3. Prolonged or incessant barking, with moderate to long intervals between each utterance: “Is there anybody there? I’m lonely and need companionship.”

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 5, 2012 at 11:30 am](#)

Brenda, Prolonged barking can really be a problem between pets and their

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owners. I'm sure you spend lots of time with your dog every day, but make sure she is getting a lot of exercise too. That can really help! Have you ever thought of using a bark control collar? Thanks for reading.

[Reply](#)

3.  *Margaret* says:

[March 3, 2012 at 12:31 pm](#)

SQUIRREL! Let's look into it!

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 5, 2012 at 11:29 am](#)

Margaret, Dogs sure love squirrels - that's for sure! They are so cute playing outside and chasing them around. We're sure your dog is just as adorable. Thanks for reading!


[Reply](#)

4.  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 5, 2012 at 11:50 am](#)

Hey ladies, it was tough but we decided to award the bark control collar to Brenda. We hope you'll continue reading and check back often for more contests. Thanks!

[Reply](#)

5.  *Nancy Klassen* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 11:11 am](#)

Hi Natalie,

The very vocal female of my pair of Giant Schnauzers, trills, when we approach the turnoff within Stanley Park for their extended weekly runs. Clearly, she anticipates the bliss of her favorite activity. Her Johnny-Come-Lately companion tries to emulate her every trick including the trilling but obviously lacks the "pipes."

Cheers!

nance

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 4:11 pm](#)

Nancy, Yes. Girls sure like to talk, especially when they are excited. 😊  
Remember, it is a good outlet for energy and dogs need to bark sometimes. But, incessant barking can really be a problem. Have you noticed her vocals as an ongoing problem? If so, you may want to consider one of our bark control products.


[Reply](#)

6.  *Krista* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 11:50 am](#)

One of our dogs does the prolonged or incessant barking with intervals. We are RIGHT THERE so he is not lonely. He sometimes does this for no reason OR, mostly when our African Grey makes the noise of brakes on a bus. He will NOT stop.....

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 4:09 pm](#)

Krista, We understand all dogs bark for different reasons. These are just the most

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common understandings. Have you tried any bark control products? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

7.  *Krista* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 11:53 am](#)

One of our dogs does the prolonged incessant barking with perfect spacing. Sometimes he does it for no known reason and others because of the ONE noise our African Grey makes. He will NOT STOP.


[Reply](#)

8.  *Midge Cureton* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 12:55 pm](#)

definitely are guarding our or their territory. use number 1 and 2 a lot.

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 4:13 pm](#)

Midge, it's good your dogs know their home and want to protect you. Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

9.  *Beverley Deresinski* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 2:29 pm](#)

My dog watches tv and in the beginning, he just barked at shows with animals in them but now he barks so much that it is difficult to watch tv. I have a bark collar for him and he barks right through it. HELP

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 4:15 pm](#)

Beverley, what collar do you have? We understand how frustrating incessant barking can be. Email me at [social@petsafe.net](mailto:social@petsafe.net) and we can have one of our Bark Control Specialists help you! Thanks for reading!


[Reply](#)

10.  *Barbara* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 2:56 pm](#)

Our 10 month old boxer female is the talker. If her mom has one of her bones she barks and looks at me. At least they don't fight.

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 4:16 pm](#)

Barbara, puppies do like to test the ropes and get their message across. Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

11.  *Jacque LaFreniere* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 2:57 pm](#)

I have 4 Siberian Huskies. They don't bark but rather howl. They yap or bark when

playing. It's the 2 a.m. group "songs" that are a problem. One starts and gets the other 3 + 2 beagles going. They sing the "song" and all end on the same note. Strange huh? I would love to stop the ring leader before the group gets started.

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 23, 2012 at 4:17 pm](#)

Jacque, that is unusual! You should record them, we would love to hear! 😊  
Huskies are beautiful dogs. We're sure you are tired of it. Have you tried any Bark Control products? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

12.  *Jennifer* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 5:27 pm](#)

You forgot two: The "airbark": mouthing a bark while looking right at you, but no real sound. It generally means: "I want..." or "Pay attention to me!" and the low growl while looking right at you, which generally means impatience or a reminder that dinnertime is getting close.

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 26, 2012 at 9:43 am](#)

Jennifer, great additions! We love the airbark! 😊 Thanks for reading.

[Reply](#)

13.  *cherie* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 5:32 pm](#)


My Yorkie starts barking and won't stop when we get into the car. Whenever he wants to play is palying, he gets into a barking jag. He does the same when he wants my husband and I to go to bed. I think it's called the "Spoiled beyond belief" bark...and it's ok. I know he's happy and I wouldn't trade him for the world.

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 26, 2012 at 9:44 am](#)

Cherie, that's adorable! I love that he knows when it's bed time! 😊 All our pets are spoiled, aren't they? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

14.  *Dana Roessner* says:

[March 23, 2012 at 5:45 pm](#)

My dog does the Prolonged or incessant barking, with moderate to long intervals between each utterance, but she won't come near me and backs off when I try to pet her

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:  
[March 26, 2012 at 9:45 am](#)

Dana, oh no! We know barking can be trying on a relationship. Have you considered any of our bark control products? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

15.  *Lucy* says:

[March 24, 2012 at 1:50 am](#)

My guy is a demand barker. Prolonged, incessant barking that has said "Play with me, pay attention to me, me, me, me" since he was six weeks old (he's now 3 yrs). He understands "No bark" but was driving me nuts in the car, until I got the citronella anti-bark collar. Bingo. No more barking. At this point, all I need to do is hold the device up and tell him not to bark and he stops. He'll still use his "gotta pee" bark and "Oh, goodie, we're almost there" bark, but that annoying, non-stop barking is no longer a problem. I didn't have much success with the ultrasonic devices, but every pet responds differently to various stimuli.

[Reply](#)

16.  *Annette Rizzolo* says:

[March 25, 2012 at 5:12 am](#)

I have 2 Pekingese males...1 is 7.5 yrs, the other is 2 yrs. The older rarely barks at all, the younger is #1 & #2 Barking...incessantly! Help! He goes into the backyard and echoes his rapid loud lengthy barking and gets the whole neighborhood involved! If I yell out the door "HUSH" he stops for a moment and starts kicking rocks with his hind legs like a bull!!! He's obviously quite frustrated at this point while I'm watching him. I go in and he starts incessantly barking again! EEKS!!! Is he broken? :~) Never had this problem with my first Peke. I got them both as young pups. They are also very jealous of each other and both are trying to be the Alpha. I know I'm supposed to be the alpha but I'm a wimp and they know it! They are quite spoiled too.

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 26, 2012 at 9:51 am](#)

Annette, dogs do love to bark and it's good for them to expend their energy. Incessant barking, however, can strain your relationship with your dog - and your neighbors. Have you considered any of our bark control products? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

17.  *Debbie Graff* says:

[March 25, 2012 at 2:19 pm](#)

I have 6 dogs, a Doberman, a pitbull mix, a boxer mix, a min pin, a shitsui, and a long hair chihuahua. The min pin barks at everything, especially at mealtime. He will not stop until he gets his food. All of the others join in and it's so noisy I can't hear myself think. They also bark whenever they hear anyone near the house. It never stops. I don't know how to control all of them. Help

[Reply](#)

- o  *Natalie Lester* says:

[March 26, 2012 at 9:42 am](#)

Debbie, thanks for reading! It sounds like you have a very full home for animals of all sizes! We can imagine it would get a little noisy. Have you considered or used any of our bark control products?

[Reply](#)

18.  *jonathan compton* says:

[March 31, 2012 at 6:47 pm](#)

My Setter will sit by the door when she knows I'm leaving w/o her. She knows when she is going too.

She lifts her head and has this constant high pitched bark, that I can't get her to stop HELP, neighbors find it less than amusing.

thanks,

Jonathan


[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:

[April 2, 2012 at 10:08 am](#)

Jonathan, Your girl just wants to go with you everywhere – don't you wish that was possible? 😊 Have you considered using any of our bark control products while you are away? Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

19.  *Marcia Hills* says:

[April 4, 2012 at 3:09 pm](#)

I have an English Springer Spaniel. The only bark we can't seem to control now is the one when someone knocks or rings the doorbell. He goes crazy thinking that whoever it is is here to see him. He then wants all their attention. How can we get him to stay on his bed while we let the guests in and stay there while we visit?

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:

[April 4, 2012 at 3:49 pm](#)

Marcia, I love Springer Spaniels! I have a Boykin Spaniel myself, and she is a sweetheart. Have you considered using a [remote trainer](#) to teach her to go to her bed and stay? They can really give you a great communication system with your pet, and enhance your relationship. Thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

20. Pingback: [Your Questions About Train Dog Not To Bark At Door | Train My Dogs Myself](#)

21. Pingback: [Your Questions About Train Dog Not To Bark | Train My Dogs Myself](#)

22. Pingback: [How to beat your pet's winter boredom | PetSafe Blog](#)

23.  *Brindha* says:

[April 9, 2013 at 2:29 pm](#)

I have had my dog – a 5 yo lhasa apso male, adopted from a shelter, for a month now and today while we were playing, he gave me 2 loud barks, for the first time- i couldnt tell what the barks were, as they were new :)...

[Reply](#)

24.  *Max* says:

[May 11, 2013 at 7:22 pm](#)

Does the bark collar still work if she is swimming in the lake?

[Reply](#)

-  *Natalie Lester* says:

[May 30, 2013 at 9:38 am](#)

A few of our Bark Control collars are not waterproof, so depending on the model the collar may not need to be submerged. Please email the model number on the collar to [CCC3@petsafe.net](mailto:CCC3@petsafe.net) and we will be happy to provide further information.

[Reply](#)

25.  *Diane* says:

[May 15, 2013 at 8:48 pm](#)

My Pom is such a sweet loving little guy, but his separation anxiety - OMG. Absolute chaos and sounds like I am killing him!! For the last week we have been using a bark control collar. The difference is already night and day. It took a lot of soul searching to take this step, but he is calmer, and doesn't try to bite me on my way out the door any more! I hate when it goes off, but I and my neighbors love the calmness. I don't have to re-home him thanks to the collar.

[Reply](#)

26.  *Meghan* says:

[June 10, 2013 at 2:12 pm](#)

My dog does the prolonged incessant barking. . .which I call the Chinese water torture bark. She does it all day, every day, and sometimes even does it through the night. My husband and I give her tons of attention, and we have another dog she plays with, so I don't understand how she can be lonely. She barks as often as a slow drip from a leaky faucet.

[Reply](#)

27.  *John Cooper* says:

[July 30, 2013 at 7:24 pm](#)

hello Natalie, I have a female bichpoo and shes adorable i just have one problem is that every time she see a stranger and at night she starts barking . can u help me please? Thanks a lot, and i love your replies to the people here 😊

[Reply](#)

28.  *Logan* says:

[August 11, 2013 at 1:04 am](#)

Tonight my female lab has barked a little bit. She's almost twelve and doesn't bark hardly ever (I walk her everyday). It sound like, "woof... woof". She'll pause in between a few barks and then completely stop for a while. It isn't urgent sounding, nor is it territorial (whih she will do sometimes unless I tell her to stop, which is normal). So idk... I was hoping you knew what her bark my be for. Is she in pain? Does she need our help? She does stay outside so.. yeah. I 'm hoping you have an answer!

[Reply](#)

29.  *Mypuppyiscute* says:

[August 14, 2013 at 12:31 am](#)

Your the best

[Reply](#)

30.  *Meg* says:

[August 19, 2013 at 1:12 pm](#)

My six year old pug-boston terrier mix barks loudly during play with his bottom up and his tail wagging. My boyfriend just adopted a five year old boxer who doesn't bark very often at all. She acts as if she wants to play with my dog but as soon as he starts barking, her face changes and she goes to attack him. She grabs him by the neck with her mouth if she gets him, but we usually grab them both and pull them apart. What can I do to get my dog to play without barking, and to let the boxer know that this is not a threatening bark if he does do it?

[Reply](#)

31. Pingback: [INTERPRETING DOGS' BARKING | Bioventures](#)

32.  *Linda* says:





[Reply](#)

38.  Constance says:

[November 20, 2013 at 12:02 am](#)

My mini dachshund is 4 years old! He's quite the barker. We've gotten a complaint from our HOA and I'm unsure what to do. He had all of those barks: the "hi", "come play" "ouch"..... He's very protective when new people come to the door. I'm upping his exercise..... But I'm not sure what else to do! The PetSafe bark collar has cut the barking I'm half but one neighbor still complains. She's crazy!!! BUT..... How can I curb the barking. HELP!!!!

[Reply](#)

39.  6457 says:

[November 24, 2013 at 5:25 pm](#)

why dose my dog bark at other dogs

[Reply](#)

40.  Jane says:

[November 28, 2013 at 9:03 am](#)

Hi there,

my 18month old setter/spaniel cross, usually settles into bed at night but this last week has begun barking after i've gone to bed. We've recently moved house (3months) and our friends live nearby, their dog comes to visit most days and they love eachothers company.

During the day she barks at strangers that go past our gate (it's always locked), that's a deep prolonged bark but at night it's single barks, maybe a minute apart. She does this for about 30mins, then seems to settle.

I am wondering is my dog missing her new friend at night?

thanks,

Jane

[Reply](#)

41.  Evelyn says:

[January 19, 2014 at 10:22 pm](#)

can my smart little sheba inu tell the gender of your dog by the sound of its bark?

[Reply](#)

42.  Shawn says:

[January 20, 2014 at 9:31 pm](#)

Our dog "Chica" (Mexi-Dog Rescue) barks at animals on the TV all the time. She even recognizes the jingles to pet commercials and runs to the TV to wait for the animals to appear. (1. Continuous rapid barking at a mid-range pitch: "Call the pack! There is a potential problem! Someone is coming into our territory!") She is a very reactive dog.

[Reply](#)

43.  Mike says:

[February 16, 2014 at 9:08 am](#)

Our dog (a 4yr old Westie) barks constantly at the TV, attacking it every time he sees other animals on it. Will the stop dog bark collar citronella work??

Thanks

[Reply](#)


-  Sarah Folmar says:

[February 17, 2014 at 11:24 am](#)

Hi Mike,

We have several different bark control options, and each one is going to depend on how your pet best responds to the method used. There are static correction options, ultrasonic and spray. For more information on our bark control options, I have attached the link to our website. <http://store.petsafe.net/training-behavior/bark-control>

[Reply](#)

44.  ConfusedPitOwner says:

[March 26, 2014 at 5:00 pm](#)

I have a gorgeous pitbull x lab boy that never barks, or growls literally barked once or twice since we got him a month and a half ago. Today he just randomly started barking (and it's a deep loud bark four or five times with even spacing). We did have someone pull a prank on us this morning and messed with our door then took off when I opened it. But he hasn't stopped barking since. HELP our neighbor above us has a newborn baby I don't want to upset them!

[Reply](#)

-  Sarah Folmar says:

[March 26, 2014 at 9:20 pm](#)

Hi there. We're sorry to hear about this behavior that recently started, and we do have a variety of bark control options available on petsafe.net.

<http://store.petsafe.net/training-behavior/bark-control>

[Reply](#)

45.  john says:

[April 1, 2014 at 12:54 pm](#)

Does this apply to all normal dogs or as well to deaf ones we have a deaf dog and at night she goes thru most of all the barks just curios is all

[Reply](#)

46.  Brittani says:

[April 22, 2014 at 10:57 am](#)

We have a yellow lab who is almost one. He barks at people all the time. He is never aggressive and his tail wags as he barks at them but I would say it is the first two types of bark. He is the sweetest dog and would never hurt anyone but he scares people. I was just wondering if you had any ideas on how to get him to stop. Thank you so much.

[Reply](#)

-  Sarah Folmar says:

[April 22, 2014 at 12:31 pm](#)

Hi Brittani. We can understand how barking could scare some people, especially from a larger dog. The PetSafe Brand offers a variety of different bark control options, and they are all available [on our website](#). Please let us know if you have any additional questions, and we hope that you are able to find the right solution soon!

[Reply](#)

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