



**City of  
Onkaparinga**



City of **Onkaparinga**

# Dog Barking Standard

---

Chris Button  
Manager Public Health & Safety

Creating  
*our* future



City of **Onkaparinga**

# City of Onkaparinga Dog Barking Standard



A pixelated, grey dog is shown from the side, looking towards the right. It has a dark grey collar with a small tag. The dog is positioned behind the main text.

**Shut that bloody dog up!!**



## City of Onkaparinga Dog Barking Standard

- 200 dog barking complaints per year
- 90% resolved within 14 days

## Recent Improvements

- Reviewed complaint handling
- Bark counting collar





## City of Onkaparinga Dog Barking Standard

- What constitutes barking nuisance?
- Scientific basis
- Stand the test of prosecution
- Provide Guide to AMOs





## Process

1. Measure the acoustics of a dog bark
2. Find a scientific measurement for dog barking nuisance
3. Suitable studies to assist
4. Animal Management Officers apply/interpret
5. Apply to historic records
6. Develop an enforcement procedure
7. Guideline be developed for application of the Standard



## Measurement Sound Power

Small Dog



115 dB(a) Peak

Medium Dog



118.6 dB(a) Peak

Large Dog



116.8 dB(a) Peak



## The Science

- Noise Control Act (Repealed)
- Levels for intermittent noise
- Logarithmic averaging provisions that support current legislation
- Social studies of Rifle Range Nuisance



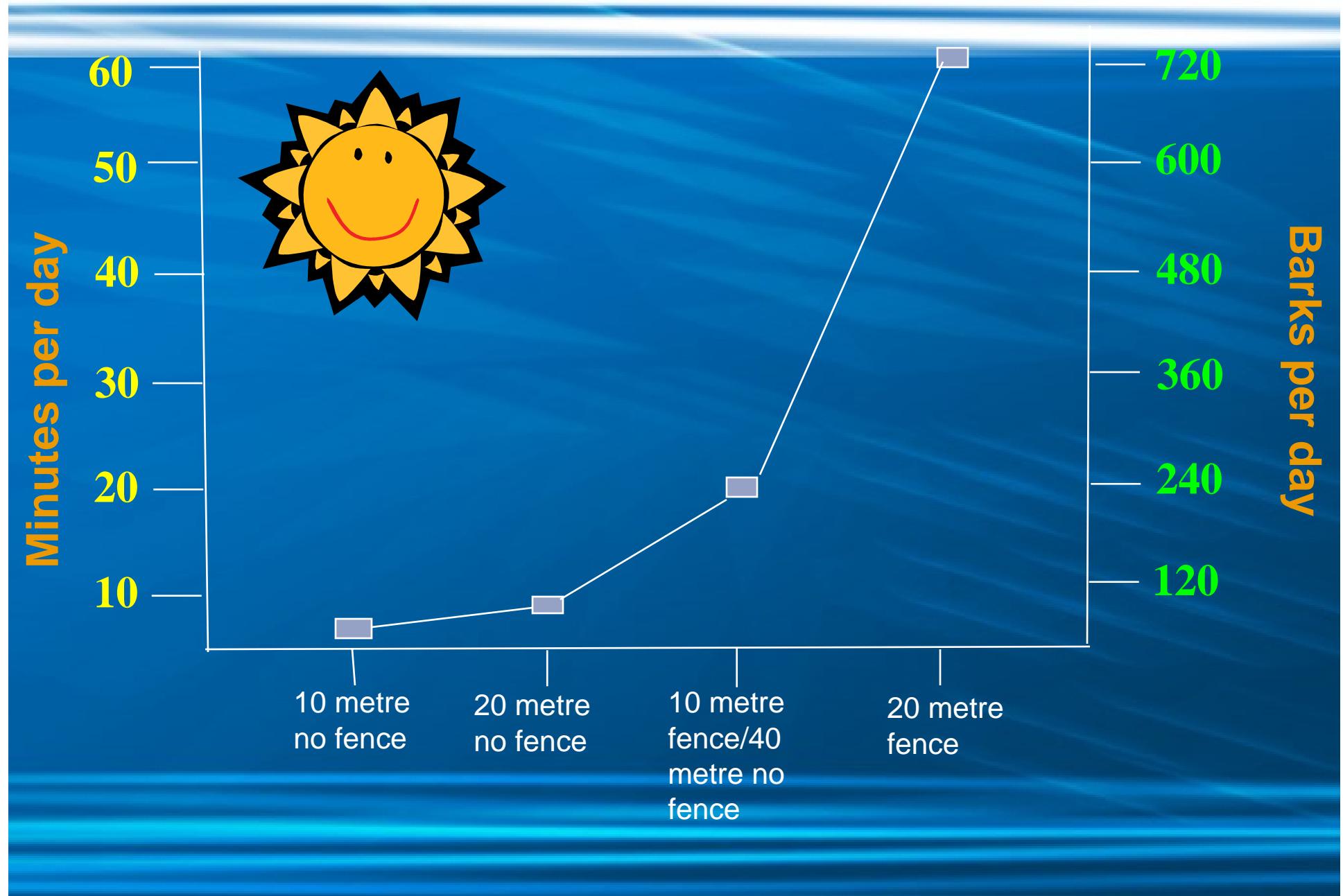
## Factors



- Distance
- Sound barriers  
(fence)
- Time of day

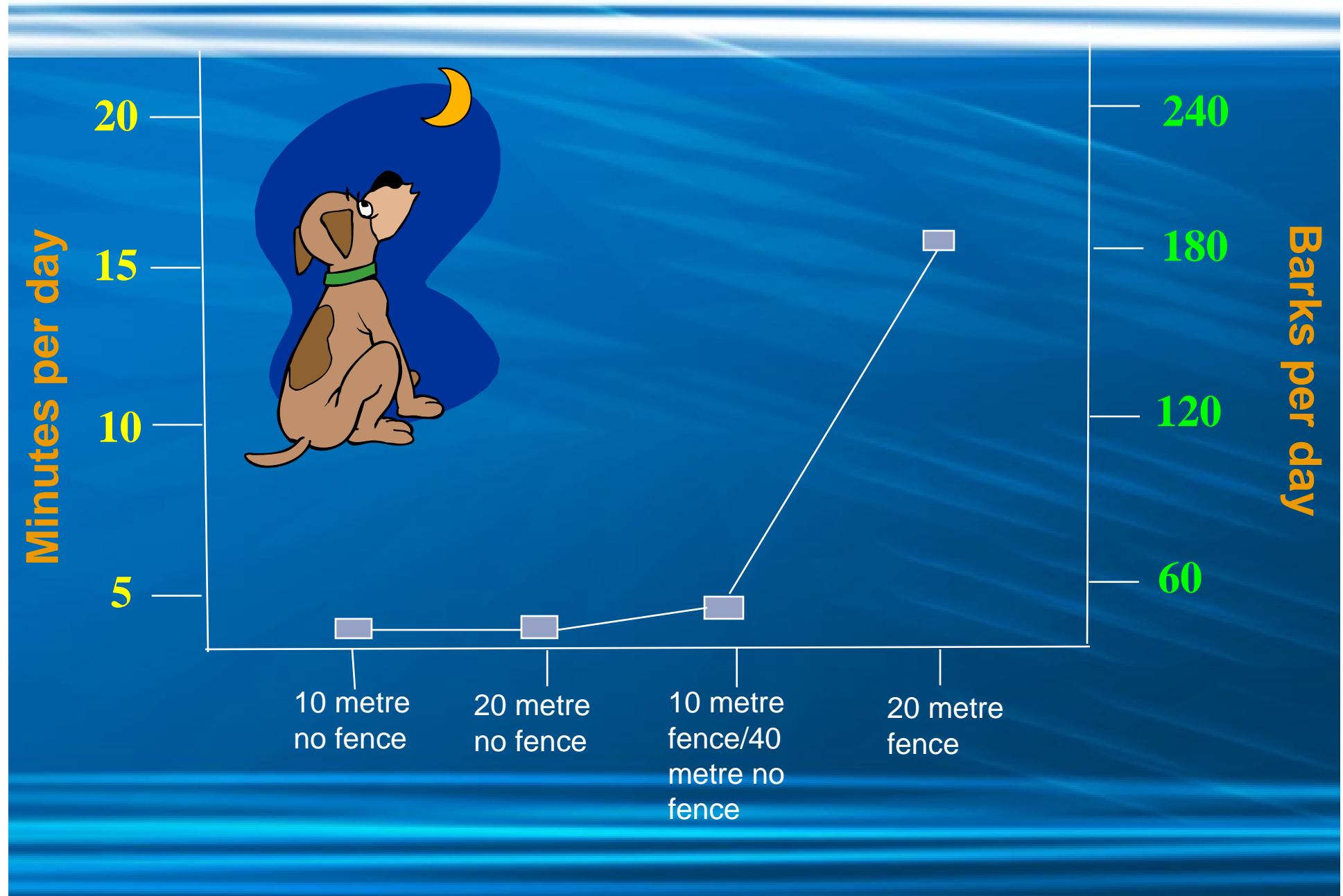


**City of Onkaparinga**





City of **Onkaparinga**





## Outcome

- Daytime standard – 240 barks per day
- Night time standard – 35 barks per night

Guideline – ability to vary dependent upon individual circumstances



# Enforcement Procedure

<b>Level 1</b> - Close to breach or one breach of the Standard during survey period	Advise dog owner that a problem is imminent – suggest remedies
<b>Level 2</b> - One or two breaches during survey period	Advise dog owner of problem. Advise they must take steps. Advise expiation/prosecution order possible for future breach
<b>Level 3</b> - Ongoing breach during survey period	Consider expiation/order/prosecution  Insist immediate remedy  Expiation/prosecute future breaches



## Example 1

	Tretter Street											JAN			
	17-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan				
6-7 am							8								
7-8 am					28	10	10	20	15	10	10				
8-9 am									15	10	10				
9-10 am															14
10-11 am											8				
12-1pm					21										
3-4 pm	8														
4-5 pm				9											
5-6 pm	8	15	11	9							10				
6-7 pm		15	11	28							10	28			
8-9 pm											5				
Total	16	30	22	46	49	10	18	20	30	53	62				



## Example 2

DOG BARKING RECORD		Peter Court											
		3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	1-Mar	3-Mar
12-1am												40	
1-2 am												25	
5-6 am										20	20		
6-7 am	70	24	35	14	47	20	40	12	20	35	20		
7-8 am													
8-9 pm								80					
9-10 pm													
10-11 pm							55						80
11-12 pm													
Total	70	24	35	14	47	20	95	92	40	55	55	80	



## Example 3

DOG BARKING RECORD		Leawarra Avenue									
		19-Jul	20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul
7-8 am		16	42					8			
8-9 am			212	8					22		16
9-10 am			343	117						12	
10-11 am			33					31		25	
11-12 am			84	5				9			
12-1pm		22		87	92						
1-2 pm		58	12		19			23		12	
2-3 pm			16		12						
3-4 pm						23	19	19		18	
4-5 pm						13				67	
Total		96	742	217	123	36	19	90	22	134	16



## Example 4

	DOG BARKING RECORD							Wildi Court
	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	
6-7 am			11					
7-8 am								7
8-9 am			23					17
9-10 am		133	17		253			
10-11 am		77	76	57	100	12		
11-12 am			18	127	100			
12-1 pm			61		12	8		
1-2 pm	129		14		88			
2-3 pm	110		35					
3-4 pm	10		67		180	100		
4-5 pm			20			17		
5-6 pm	90	250	18					
6-7 pm				68				
Total	339	450	360	252	733	137	24	



## Next Steps

- Confirm the standard with the Acoustic Engineer
- Document the process and guideline
- Review at 3, 6 and 12 months



**City of Onkaparinga**

**For further information and updates contact:**

Chris Button

Manager Public Health & Safety

City of Onkaparinga, PO Box 1, Noarlunga Centre 5168

Telephone: 08 8384 0765

Email: [mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)