



Tips for

DOG OWNERS in

Flats and Apartments

We all know what joy having a canine companion can bring, no matter where we call home. For those who live in flats and apartments, however, a misbehaved, barking dog can cause ill will. Bark Busters has prepared tips for dog owners who live in apartments, flats and townhouses to help create a peaceful living situation for your neighbours and yourself.

Before moving into your new residence, thoroughly check the flat and complex surroundings for potential dog hazards to ensure your dog's safety.

As soon as you move in, introduce yourself and your dog to your immediate neighbours.

Before getting on an elevator, ask if everyone is comfortable with your dog riding along. If there is already another dog inside, wait for the next one or take the stairs.

Always position yourself between your dog and passersby in hallways and public areas.

Take extra care when walking on staircases, to ensure you or your dog don't trip. Train your dog to walk slowly by your side when on stairs and to wait to let other residents pass.

If the weather is bad, practice obedience with your dog in the building's hallways or foyer (if safe), as well as at home.

Consider taking an obedience class or arranging one-on-one training with your dog—you'll both learn a lot and be better neighbours.

Keep your dog busy when indoors by rotating high-quality, treat-rewarding toys such as the Kong® or Buster® Cube.

Don't let your dog become a nuisance barker. If he barks when you are at home, learn ways to manage his noisy behaviour. If he barks when you are away from the home consult your Bark Busters behaviour therapist to learn how to stop the barking and how to keep the peace.

Consider crate-training your dog. Because dogs are descended from den-dwelling animals, a crate makes a natural shelter—and keeps your dog and your living area safe.

Avoid leaving your dog unattended or locked on an apartment balcony.

Remember that a well-trained and well-behaved, dog is less likely to upset people and other pets in public places and will enjoy a better relationship with everyone he meets. Plus, his good manners will reflect positively on you, his responsible owner.

