

# PUPPY LOVE SHELTIES

P.O. BOX 233

29 PALMS, CA 92277

760-362-4022

[puppyloveshelties@yahoo.com](mailto:puppyloveshelties@yahoo.com)



## Fox Point Farm Toy Shelties

Wanted to share a technique to help stop unnecessary barking. Herding dogs tend to bark, it's something they needed as herders to move the herd/flock and to communicate with their person.

Sometimes this communication becomes a bit much and we would like to find a cue to stop their barking when we ask.

Our dog trainer told me years ago to fill an aluminum can part way with pennies, and after we had asked the dogs to stop barking, shake the can to create a loud, obnoxious sound. The sound would interrupt their train of thought, and cause them to stop, at least for a moment. If they start again, ask them to stop, and if they don't, shake the can again. Repeat as needed until dog is quiet.

I didn't think this was going to work, but yelling at them to be quiet certainly didn't improve things either, so we tried it. To my amazement it did work.

I did think a bunch of empty cans sitting around was unsightly, and then tended to get picked up and thrown away, so I needed to find another solution.

We had seen for years how the sound of a whip cracking (not hitting, just snapping to make a sound) could stop the most determined foxhound from chasing a deer. So I thought maybe we could try that, and it worked perfectly, as long as I didn't hit myself with the whip. After a few too many bruises on myself, I realized that wasn't the ideal solution, so I kept searching.

Then I found these clapper things at Oriental Trading and tried them, success! They are plastic hand shapes made out of plastic that you shake and they make a loud clapping sound. It's a perfect distraction for the dogs. They are also very inexpensive, so I could leave one by every door, gate, anywhere the dogs might get triggered to bark.

The coolest part of this is, as long as you ask them to stop barking first, then pick up the noise maker and make the noise, the dogs start to learn that if they get quiet, you don't make the noise. Our more determined dogs will just need to see the clappers, I just hold them up, and they settle right down.

So instead of going crazy yelling, or even spanking, neither of which ever seem to work, just find something that makes an irritating noise, and your dogs will want to stop barking.

I don't mind some barking, I like to know when someone pulls up, but when I say thank you for letting me know, I want them to get peaceful again. This has worked for us.

# PUPPY LOVE SHELTIES

P.O. BOX 233  
29 PALMS, CA 92277  
760-362-4022

[puppyloveshelties@yahoo.com](mailto:puppyloveshelties@yahoo.com)



These are the clappers from Oriental Trading mentioned on the previous page. You can find them at [orientaltrading.com](http://orientaltrading.com).

<-

Below is another method for trying to get your Sheltie to bark less!

**Capturing a silent dog to teach the "Quiet" command**

© www.dog-training-excellence.com

1. When your dog is barking, wait...WAIT...wait until he quiets down on his own, even if only for 1-2 seconds.
2. As soon as he is quiet, say: "Quiet" --> "Good Boy!" --> Give him a treat. You are rewarding a silent dog, this will encourage him to be quiet more often.
3. Repeat several times a day for a few days.
4. TEST TIME! When your puppy is barking, say "Quiet" and wait for up to 10 seconds. If he stops, praise and reward. If he didn't, practice more and then try this step again.
5. Raise your criteria for a food reward: **ONLY** give him a food treat if your pooch stops barking **WITHIN** 8 seconds of your command. When he succeeds, ask for 6 seconds, then 4, and so on.
6. Raise your criteria again: **ONLY** give a food treat after he is quiet **FOR** 5 seconds, when he succeeds move up to 10 seconds, and so on until your pooch remains quiet for a long time.

Keep using verbal praise every time but food treat only randomly.