

# Living Next to a Barking Dog

## Information For Those That Live Next to a Barking Dog

If there is a problem with barking dogs, it is helpful to talk to or leave a note for the animal owner. Although this may be difficult to do at first, communicating with the animal owner is usually the most effective way to resolve the problem.

### Talking With Your Neighbor

Try to talk to your neighbor when you are not frustrated about the barking. Take time to calm down before approaching him/her. He/she may not know that the dog is barking and causing an issue. Most dogs bark when the owner is away.

When you approach your neighbor, be calm and plan to discuss the barking in a friendly manner.

Inform him/her of the time of day or night that the dog is barking. Be specific with your information to assist the owner in determining why the dog is barking. Ask the neighbor whether you can contact him/her, day or night, when the barking is a problem.

### Leaving a Note For Your Neighbor

Explain what the dog does when the family is away from the residence. Be specific. Choose words that are not offensive or intimidating to the dog owner.

If you feel safe doing so; leave them your name, telephone number, or address so they can respond to your letter. An anonymous letter does not help the neighbor determine why the dog may be barking. It is helpful if the owner has someone to talk with to determine when and why the dog might be barking.

# **Pet Owners With a Barking Dog**

## **Barking Dog Nuisances**

A barking dog can present a major problem within urban areas such as Alpine. While some people are very tolerant of a dog barking, other residents are sensitive to the disturbance. Remember that your neighbors may work various shifts and be sleeping during the day or your neighbors may work from home.

While it is normal and reasonable for dogs to bark, continual barking for long periods of time is a sign that your dog has a problem that requires your attention.

Also, it is a violation of the City of Alpine Section 10-42 (1) Animal Control Ordinance to allow your pets to create noise that interferes with the public peace and comfort. Failure to abate a noise violation may result in citations being issued. Part of Section 10-42 (1) of the Animal Control Ordinance is listed below:

### **Section 10-42 (1): Public Nuisances Designated**

The keeping of any animal, which causes frequent or long continued noise which disturbs the comfort and repose of any person of ordinary sensibilities in vicinity.

### **Suggestions for Curbing Barking Dogs**

- Discuss the problem with your neighbors. Make it clear that you are aware of the problem and taking steps to address it. Speaking with your neighbors may assist in determining why your dog is barking excessively.
- Determine why your dog is barking. There are many reasons for a dog to bark. Loneliness, frustration, territoriality and separation anxiety are just a few. Trying to determine and eliminate the root cause of the barking is the only way to resolve the issue permanently. Sometimes, a trip to the veterinarian or a certified animal behaviorist may be required.
- Spend time with your dog. Socialization and training may reduce your dog's need for attention when you are away. Also, this will keep your dog from seeing everything outside your backyard as a threat to be dealt with.
- Walk your dog. Some breeds are very energetic and become bored quickly if not given enough exercise or a "job" to do.
- Keep various toys in the backyard and change them frequently to keep your dog interested.
- Keep your dog inside the house while you are away.

# Filing Charges

## Learn the Process to File a Barking Dog Criminal Charge

- **Step 1:** Speak with your neighbor. Attempt to resolve the issue before involving Animal Control or the Police.
- **Step 2:** Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., call Animal Control with the physical address of the barking dog. The Animal Control Officer will visit the residence and either speak with the owner of the dog or leave a note to contact them immediately.
- **Step 3:** If after 7 days from the initial complaint the noise has not stopped, call Animal Control and an officer will be dispatched to begin an investigation. If the Animal Control Officer is not able to verify the complaint, no citations will be issued.
- **Step 4:** For any further noise violations, the complainant must complete and submit to Animal Control the [Barking Dog Incident Report](#) and [Log](#). Keep copies of the documents. The specific details of the violation must be documented by the complainant. Evidence such as video or audio tapes may also be submitted. Additional witnesses to the violation must complete their own separate forms.
- **Step 5:** The evidence submitted by the complainant will be reviewed by the Animal Control and Prosecutor's Office. If there is sufficient evidence for probable cause, citations may be issued to the dog's owner.
- **Step 6:** The complainant will be notified of the trial location and time. The complainant must be present in court to testify to the validity of the evidence submitted or the case will be dismissed.