

# BARKING DOG FACT SHEET

**Barking is a common behavior problem with dogs. All dogs bark at times, but a dog that constantly barks at everything is a nuisance.**

## WHY DO DOGS BARK?

A bark is often an expression of fear, insecurity or an animal in distress. Dogs are social animals and they do not like being alone. They often bark when they are bored. A dog may also bark to alert their owners of strangers or some type of unusual situation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stop the barking as soon as it starts. Train your dog through repeated commands to "be quiet". It may be helpful to water train the animal by spraying it with a plant sprayer when he barks inappropriately.
- Determine why your dog barks excessively. Give your dog plenty of attention when you return, not when you leave.
- Provide your dog with plenty of exercise when you return home. It should have access to toys and other favorite objects so the animal can play while unattended.
- Dogs are less inclined to bark if a barrier blocks their view.
- Do not leave your animal unattended for lengthy periods of time. Make sure the animal has food, water and adequate shelter.
- Consider seeking professional help through an obedience training school.
- To help fill the hours that you're not home, provide safe, interesting toys to keep your dog busy, such as a Kong-type toys filled with treats or busy-box toys. Rotating toys will make them seem new and interesting.
- Let your neighbors know that you are actively working on the problem.
- When you have to leave your dog for extended periods of time, take him to a "doggie day care center," hire a pet sitter or dog walker, or have a trusted friend or neighbor walk and play with it.
- If all else fails, bring the dog inside.
- Whatever methods work, your dog will soon learn that his silence pleases you. Your neighbors will also be please that you are fulfilling your responsibility as a pet owner. The security of knowing that your dog barks only when necessary will help everyone enjoy a peaceful, safe and quiet neighborhood.

## CITY ORDINANCE

### SECTION 14-30. EXCESSIVE ANIMAL NOISE

No person shall own or keep any animal which by making excessive noise disturbs a neighbor. The following definitions and conditions shall be especially applicable to enforcement of the prohibition set out in this section:

- 1) The phrase "excessive noise" shall mean and include any noise, produced by an animal which is so loud and continued or untimely as to disturb a neighbor.
- 2) The term "neighbor" shall mean an individual residing in a residence structure which is within 100 yards of the property on which the animal is kept or harbored, and who does in writing state that he will testify under oath to the animal making excessive noise.
- 3) If a general ordinance summons is issued charging violation of this section, a subpoena shall also be issued to the disturbed neighbor to testify in the matter.

**14-1 (1) f.** Barks, whines, howls, meows or creates any other disturbance which is continuous or untimely so as to disturb an individual who is a neighbor and who does in writing state that he will testify if called upon to testify about such matter under oath. For purposes of this subsection, a neighbor is defined as an individual residing in a residential structure which is within 100 yards of the property on which the animal is kept or harbored.

**14-31(c)** It shall be a violation to maintain any animal or fowl within the city as a public nuisance as such is defined by the common law of the state, the statutes of the state or the ordinances of this city.