

CITY OF CALISTOGA

NAPA VALLEY, CA



POLICE DEPARTMENT
1235 Washington Street
Calistoga, California 94515
(707) 942-2810

Date _____

Dear Dog Owner,

Re: Barking Dog Complaint

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that your dog is causing a nuisance by barking/howling at certain times.

We are unsure if you are aware of this problem. Therefore, we would like to assist you initially in seeking information on ways to deal with this matter.

We would appreciate that you take action as soon as possible to ease the situation.

We have given you this option rather than the City making a formal complaint to the District Attorney's Office.

Enclosed is a copy of Calistoga Municipal Codes, Section 6.04.185, Prohibited Conduct and Section 8.20.101, Persistent Noise – Declared Nuisance – Abatement.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please contact me at 942-2810 if I can be of further assistance.

Name of Police Officer and ID#

Enclosures: CMC 6.04.185 & 8.20.020, Helpful Hints, Barking dog diary

Fecha _____

Estimado dueño de perro:

Re: La queja del Perro que ladra Desgraciadamente, ha venido a nuestra atención que su perro causa un fastidio ladrando/rigiendo en ciertos tiempos.

No estamos seguros si usted está enterado de este problema. Por lo tanto, nosotros querríamos ayudarle para buscar información en maneras de tratar con este asunto.

Apreciamos que usted toma medidas tan pronto posible para aliviar la situación. Nosotros le hemos dado esta opción antes de que la Ciudad de Calistoga aga una queja formal a la oficina del Fiscal del distrito.

Incluido esta una copia de Códigos Municipales de Calistoga , la Sección 6.04.185, Conducto y Sección Prohibidos 8.20.101, el Ruido Persistente - Fastidio Declarado- la Disminución.

Gracias para su cooperación en esta manera.

Por faor contácteme al 942-2810 para mas asistencia.

Incluido: CMC 6.04.185 & 8.20.020, La información en por qué perros ladran e inclinan para controlar ladrar, Diario de perro que ladran..

E. Whenever any animal is bitten by an animal having, or suspected of having, rabies, the owner or person having custody or possession of the animal so bitten shall immediately notify the County Health Officer or the Animal Control Officer and shall restrain or confine such animal. The County Health Officer or the Animal Control Officer is authorized to quarantine any animal so bitten, or suspected of having been so bitten, for such period of time as is necessary to determine whether or not the animal has rabies.

F. Whenever any animal is quarantined, it is unlawful for the owner, or any other person, to violate the quarantine by removing the animal from the premises, allowing it to run at large, destroying it without authorization, concealing it from the County Health Officer or the Animal Control Officer, or disobeying any other quarantine restriction that may have been imposed by the County Health Officer or the Animal Control Officer. (Ord. 380 § 2, 1982).

6.04.170 Removal of dead or live animals.

The owner of any animal may request the Animal Control Officer to pick up and dispose of such animal or the body thereof, and the fee for such service shall be as set forth in the Napa County Code. (Ord. 380 § 2, 1982).

6.04.180 Ranch dogs.

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this chapter, the owner or the person actually in control of the operation of any ranch, not less than 40 acres in area, who uses a dog or dogs for the purpose of assisting in the control or herding of livestock shall not be required to keep a license tag attached to the dog or dogs while upon the premises of the ranch. (Ord. 380 § 2, 1982).

6.04.185 Prohibited conduct.

A. No owner or possessor of any animal shall cause or permit it to do any of the following:

1. To trespass upon any private property without the consent of the owner thereof, and to knowingly permit the animal to remain upon the property or to habitually continue to trespass thereon.

2. To suffer or permit such animal to habitually bark or meow or act in such a manner as to continuously disturb the peace of any citizen or to be a public nuisance.

3. To be without proper and adequate food, water, shelter, care, and attention as described in Section 597(f) of the Penal Code.

B. No person shall leave a dog or other animal in any unattended motor vehicle without adequate ventilation, sanitary conditions, or in such a manner as to subject the animal to extreme temperatures which may adversely affect the animal's health or safety.

1. Any animal control officer or law enforcement officer who witnesses a violation of this section shall have the right to impound the animal if, in the officer's opinion, the animal's health or safety is or will be thereby endangered. (Ord. 511 § 1, 1995).

6.04.190 Violation - Penalty.

Any person interfering or opposing any City official performing any duty imposed upon him or her by this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

installments as collections are made. The Council shall have the right to reject any and all bids and also to accept a bid other than the lowest bid if the Council determines that, because of experience, financial responsibility, or other cause determined by Council to be sufficient, the acceptance of such lower bid is for the best interest of the City.

2. All contracts awarded on this basis may contain such terms and conditions as the Council may determine at the time of calling for bids to be necessary and proper. By its resolution calling for bids, the Council shall prescribe the terms and conditions to be included in the contract awarded and a record of such terms and conditions to be included shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk for examination by prospective bidders. The call for bids issued by the Clerk shall refer to the record on file with the Clerk for a statement of the exact terms and conditions upon which the contract will be made.

C. All contracts shall be executed on behalf of the City by the Mayor and the City Clerk. Any contract issued under subsection (B) of this section shall contain such provisions as the Council may at the time of calling for bids determine to be necessary or proper.

D. No contract entered into under this section shall bar the Council from amending this chapter from time to time in any way considered by the Council to be desirable or proper, including changes in the garbage and rubbish rates prescribed in CMC 8.16.050; provided, however, that in the event that any amendment substantially affects the operations of the contractor, the contractor may provide that the contractor shall have the option to terminate the contract upon notice to be provided in said contract. (Ord. 397 §§ 2, 3, 1984; prior code § 9.2-14).

Chapter 8.20

NUISANCES

Sections:

- 8.20.010 Persistent noise – Declared nuisance – Abatement.
- 8.20.020 General noise regulations.
- 8.20.025 Construction activity – Noise – Prohibited hours.
- 8.20.030 Businesses offensive to senses prohibited.
- 8.20.040 Offensive premises prohibited.
- 8.20.050 Filth or rubbish on premises or in waterways prohibited.

8.20.010 Persistent noise – Declared nuisance – Abatement.

A. The persistent maintenance and emission of any noise or sound produced by human, animal, electrical, radio or mechanical means between the hours of 10:00 p.m., and 7:00 a.m., next ensuing, which by reason of its raucous or nerve-racking nature, disturbs the peace, quiet or comfort, or is injurious to the health of any person, constitutes a public nuisance.

B. Whenever the existence of any such nuisance comes to the attention of the Chief of Police, it shall be the Chief's duty to notify in writing the occupant of the premises upon which said nuisance exists, specifying the measures necessary to abate such nuisance, and unless the same is abated within 48 hours thereafter the occupants so notified shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter and the Chief of Police shall summarily abate such nuisance.

8.20.020 General noise regulations.

A. It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use or operate or cause to be used or operated any mechanical device, machine, apparatus or instrument for intensification or amplification of the human voice or any sound or noise, in any public or private place in such a manner that the peace and good order of the neighborhood is disturbed, or that persons owning, using or occupying the property in the neighborhood are disturbed or annoyed, unless the amplification or intensification has been previously approved through an established permit process.

B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, and in addition thereto, it is unlawful for any person willfully to make or continue, or cause to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs the peace and quiet of

Constant Barking can be Avoided

Here are some helpful tips

Barking comes naturally to dogs, but the constant barking or whining of a dog can be disturbing or annoying for the neighbors. Often the problem occurs when the dog's owner is out of the house and so the owner doesn't know until someone complains.

In law, a barking dog can be a noise nuisance. The owner can be taken to court if he/she does nothing to stop the nuisance. This leaflet suggests some simple things you, as a dog owner can try.

Why dogs bark

Dogs are not by nature solitary animals. They need the security of a family group. Pet dogs regard their owners as a substitute family and can soon become distressed when left alone.

There are many reasons why your dog may bark:

- loneliness
- boredom or frustration
- attention seeking
- defending his territory
- medical problems

The importance of training

Training is important so that your dog does not bark at just anything that moves. A well-trained dog should be able to tell between people allowed into the house and people who are intruders. Good training combined with affection and companionship should mean that your dog will not develop bad habits. Start young and start as you mean to go on.

Some simple things to try

Some dogs just don't want you to go out. Get your dog used to the idea that you are away for different periods of time at different times of the day. That way he might not be so concerned each time you leave. In addition, do not make a fuss of your dog when you leave him.

Try putting your dog on his own in another room - at first for a few minutes, then gradually build up the time you leave your dog alone. Do not return to your dog until he is quiet for a period. When you return, praise him.

Some dogs will bark because they want to join in what's going on outside. If this is the problem, try leaving your dog so that he cannot see outside.

Some dogs will settle only if they can hear a human voice. Leaving a radio on at low volume might help. However, make sure the radio is not too loud. You don't want to have complaints about that!

Try not to leave your dog for long periods. If you have to, see if there is someone who can look in during that time. Maybe that person could take your dog for a walk or let him out into the garden, if you have one.

If you have to leave your dog for long periods:

- feed and exercise him before you go out and leave him some fresh water.
- make sure his bed or basket is comfortable and leave him his favorite toys.
- check that the room is not hot or too cold and that there is adequate ventilation.
- if you are not coming back until after dark, leave a light on.

Some other points

If you do keep your dog outside, think carefully about where you put his kennel and where he can run. Try not to put it near your neighbor's fence or where your dog will be tempted to bark.

The main reason why dogs learn to bark excessively at every person who passes their territory is the simple fact that most of those people go away again. The dog does not realize they didn't want to come in - it thinks it has successfully chased them off.

Don't blame the dog and think that you will solve everything by replacing him with another. It probably will not, unless you change your lifestyle at the same time.

Getting a second dog for company might help. But think about this carefully. Do you have the space and can you afford a second dog? Another dog could result in more not less problems.

But nothing I do works

If your dog is busy chewing, it's very unlikely he will be barking at the same time. Good chew toys such as Kongs, Goodie Ship or similar types stuffed with cheese, biscuits, peanut butter or any meat leftovers. Stuffing sterilized beef bones with meat also works well. Put several special chew toys down just before you leave for the day and pick them up when you return home. Another good item to keep your dog busy is something like the Buster Cube or similar toy that dispenses treats when rolled. You fill it with your dog's daily ration of kibble and he has to work on it to receive his meal. If your dog is left in the yard, you can place the chews in several places around the yard so he will have to "hunt" for them.

You should also go to your vet. Sometimes a dog will bark because he is ill - anxiety is often the cause of barking. You can ask your vet to refer your dog to an animal behaviorist who is an expert and can suggest ways to improve your dog's behavior.

Further information

There are many publications on animal training and behavior. You can check with your local library. Another source of information and referral to dog trainers in your area is The Association of Pet Dog Trainers. APDT can be reached at 1.800.PET.DOGS or www.apdt.com.

And remember

Be a responsible dog owner at all times. Make sure your dog is well cared for and well trained. In particular, train your dog not to foul in public places - if he does, "scoop the poop". And do make sure he has a collar and identification tag - it's the law when he's in public places.

THE MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY
171 BEL MARIN KEYS BLVD.
NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94949
883-4621

Animal Behavior and Training Department

BARK CONTROL

Nothing is as annoying to neighbors (and others) as a barking dog, especially one who barks consistently and persistently.

As the dog's owners, we want our dogs to bark when there is something important to bark about -- not at every little movement in the yard next door....or at a flock of birds high overhead. Dogs do not bark out of spite, or to punish you.

Therein lies the problem. Dogs do bark for a reason, but we often do not recognize it, and thus cannot stop it. In order to control your dog's barking, you must have a good idea of what is causing the problem. There are specific behavior modification techniques for each behavior.

▪ LONELINESS OR ANXIETY The dog begins to bark or howl as soon as you leave the house, and continues off and on, possibly throughout the day or night.

Dogs are social creatures, and need to feel part of a pack to function properly. Dogs left out in the yard alone all day are likely to be lonely, anxious, destructive, and noisy. Bring your dog into the house when you are home, at least for a good portion of the time.

However, he or she should also be put outside from time to time while you are home, so he doesn't feel isolated as soon as he is left out.

If he is very demanding of your attention when he is inside, make a habit of not petting him every time he seeks attention. Instead, ignore him - he will eventually relax. This takes patience. Desensitize him to your absence. Put him outside, leave the house for just a minute or so, then return and go about your business -- all without saying anything to the dog. Do it enough that the dog becomes acclimated to it, then increase the time in increments of ten to fifteen minutes. It is very important that you do not pet or croon to the dog, since that is quite likely to actually increase the anxiety.

If need be, counter-condition the dog by giving him a long lasting treat/toy (a Kong stuffed with peanut butter or cream cheese is a good one) for the time you are gone. Give it about 5 minutes before you leave, pick it up upon your return.

Only let the dog have this particular toy when you are gone. Make sure the dog is getting enough exercise. Playing in the yard is probably not good enough, since dogs need outside stimulation. Two substantial walks per day are adequate.

▪ **ALERTING THE PACK** The dog sees your family as her pack. Therefore he will begin barking as soon as something seems moderately alarming. The barking will continue for a while, then stop, then begin again when the dog is aroused by something else.

The dog is trying to tell you that something needs your attention, whether its an intruder or an intrusive blackbird. You need to tell her that you have EVERYTHING under control.

The following technique is worth a try, because it's easy, and it sometimes works.

When your dog barks and you are home, go ahead and investigate the noise; then tell her "quiet". When she complies, praise her - then leave her.

When she alerts again, do the same thing, but say "quiet" more quickly. Again, praise her when she is silent.

When she barks again, just tell her "quiet." Rest assured that if something really important intrudes, nothing will quiet her!

If that technique is unsuccessful, buy some balloons, fill them with water, pretend to leave the house, and sneak up to your roof with the balloons and a good book. When she barks, say "Quiet!" and throw a balloon on or near her. Try not to show yourself to the dog.

Though this seems silly, you are actually making her believe that you are a magician - you can be gone and not gone at the same time. It sometimes takes two or three repetitions to convince the dog...if it doesn't work after three attempts, it won't.

▪ **ATTENTION SEEKING OR DEMANDING** The dog is probably bored, and wants your attention. Experience has shown him that if he barks - he gets your attention, even if it's negative (any attention is better than none at all). So your goal must be twofold: stop the barking without giving the attention.

▪ **AMUSEMENT** The dog is bored, and barking stimulates him.

The behavior modification techniques are similar for both these motivations. Try them in order, until one works.

If he's outside and barks, open the door and without saying anything at all, spray water on him. You may need to set up a hose next to the door, with the water already on. When he stops barking, close the door. Don't look directly at him during this whole procedure.

If he's outside and barks for attention, open the door and take him immediately into a small room (or crate if he tends to be destructive). Leave him there for 15 minutes or so, then let him outside again.

Let him out and praise him when he hasn't barked for a few minutes (don't push this and make him wait for praise until he's been quiet for hours! - he needs to make the association between quiet and approval).

If he's inside and barks for attention, take him by the collar or leash to a small room or crate, and leave him inside for a few minutes. Let him out and praise him after he has STOPPED barking.

In all these cases, you are withholding the reward - your attention - until the appropriate behavior has occurred.

▪ **AGGRESSION** The dog wishes to attack something that either frightens or angers him. The dog will bark as long as the stimulating object is close, in some cases hurling himself against the fence as well.

Remove the dog from the stimulation. If he is outside, bring him in if that's possible. If he's inside, make sure he can't see out a window.

Take him to obedience class or teach him yourself, and then do your obedience practicing around the perimeter of your yard and/or house.

If the aggressive barking continues, please consider consulting an experienced dog trainer or behaviorist.

Trish King  January 1997

Marin Humane Society

To help me solve my barking dog problem, please fill out this form

BARKING DOG DIARY for Neighbors

Name and Address of barking dog owner: _____

	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
Start time of barking							
End time of barking							
Type of Barking							
: Constant							
: Intermittent							
Owner is at home							
Owner is gone							
: As soon as gone							
: Within how many minutes							
Where is dog							
: In house							
: In garage							
: In yard - free							
: In yard - tied							
When barking, does dog							
: Run along fence							
: Sit/stand in one spot							
: Other:							
If more than one dog, which dog barks more							
Dog barks at							
: Mail person							
: Delivery							
: Passerby							
: Another dog							
Cat							
Birds							
Other							
: Nothing you can see							
Why do you think my dog barks:							

Neighbor's Name _____
 Neighbor's Address _____
 Neighbor's Telephone _____