

Barking Dogs



Barking dogs represent the most common nuisance complaint received at the Peoria County

Animal Protection Services. Continuous barking or howling causes an annoyance to neighbors and can lead to neighbor problems that last for years. In most cases, pet owners and neighbors can work together to arrest or prevent barking.

Residents

You can do something about barking dogs. PCAPS suggests:

- Identify the source of the barking. Try to observe the dog in the act. If you can't see the animal from your home, walk down the street or alley to verify where the sound is coming from.
- Note the dates and times of the barking.
- Let the owners know that the barking causes a disturbance. Pet owners aren't always aware of the problem because they're not home when it occurs or they've become immune to the noise themselves. Have specific times the barking bothers you so they can try to find a solution.
- Call PCAPS and an animal control officer will give the owners a warning and check for current vaccination and registration.
- Remember the dog is not at fault—please don't try to correct the dog yourself.

If You Can't Get a Resolution

If a solution can't be reached, you may sign a complaint at PCAPS. Signing a complaint requires that you appear before the Animal Review Board (see reverse side). To sign a complaint, you must:

- Be able to testify that the barking meets the criteria outlined in this brochure.
- Be able to visually identify the dog involved and supply PCAPS with the address of the owner.
- Supply specific dates and times that the nuisance occurred.
- Present personal identification.

Pet Owners

Outdoor dogs often begin barking to relieve boredom or when they see anything interesting. If your dog is bored, it may bark to get your attention—even if the attention is negative. To avoid barking complaints, PCAPS suggests:

- Keep your pet indoors when you're not at home and at night. Indoor pets seldom cause barking problems.
- If you must house your dog outside, keep him in a fenced yard rather than chained. Dogs that are chained develop bad habits including barking and aggressive behavior.
- Schedule regular activity with your dog such as walks or playing in the yard to relieve boredom.



- Take your dog to obedience class. This provides stimulation and training so your pet is a pleasure to own.
- Consider a privacy fence or visual barrier if your dog is stimulated by passers-by or wildlife.

If a neighbor complains to you about your dog barking, please give some consideration to the issue. Try to determine when the barking occurs and how you might intervene. Often these complaints can be worked out without a court appearance or expensive fine. Working with your neighbor benefits you and your pet and helps foster a good relationship.

If PCAPS receives a complaint about your dog barking, an animal control officer will conduct a courtesy call to alert you to the problem. Further incidents require that the complainant sign a complaint that will order your appearance before the Animal Review Board. (See reverse side.)



Peoria County Animal Protection
Services

2600 NE Perry Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603

309-672-2440
309-686-3705 (fax)

Animal Review Board

The Animal Review Board is a committee of citizens established to hear cases regarding barking dogs. Appointed by Peoria County Board, volunteers hear testimony, issue findings, negotiate agreements, issue orders, and levy fines. Fines vary between \$50 and \$300 (court costs are additional).

You should bring any witnesses or documentation you may have to the hearing. Be prepared to testify to the events on the date and time cited in the complaint.

Criteria

The Animal Review Board established criteria to determine if barking is a nuisance. A dog must bark for more than 30 minutes between 10 PM and 8 AM or 60 minutes between 8 AM and 10 PM to be considered a nuisance. These are guidelines; the Board may elect to hear other cases that don't strictly meet this criteria if deemed reasonable.



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Barking Dogs in Peoria



A Guide for Pet Owners and Residents of the City and County of Peoria

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