

Barking Dogs – Woof, **Woof**, **Woof**, **WOOF**

Vallejo has an ordinance which prohibits owners from allowing their dogs to bark habitually or act in a manner as to disturb continuously the peace of any citizen or otherwise be a public nuisance. The actual ordinance, [7.36.020 Animals disturbing the peace](#), can be found on the City of Vallejo web site.

The ordinance is enforced by the Benicia-Vallejo Humane Society. To make a complaint, you need to call the dispatcher at (707) 645-7906 between 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday. You will need to provide your name and address, the address of the barking dog and a description of the dog. You don't need to know the breed, but you should know the size and color of the dog.

The dispatcher will record the alleged violation and mail you a log to complete for a 14 day period. The log requires that you record for each violation, the date, start and stop time and the street address of the dog. At the same time, the dispatcher will mail the violation address a letter explaining that a complaint has been made and providing a list of things they can do to control the barking. Animal Control does not provide the name of the person to make the complaint. Many times, just sending the letter is enough to get the owner to take corrective action.

When the log is completed, the person filing the complaint signs the log and up to four witnesses (spouses, over age 18 children, and neighbors) may also sign the log. Upon receipt of the log, if the Animal Control Officer determines that the dog is barking excessively, the next step will be taken....and eventually the owner could end up in court where fines could be assessed.

For a dog's barking to be considered disturbing the peace, it needs to happen on a somewhat regular basis. For instance, if the dog barks for five minutes in the morning when the owners leave for work, this wouldn't be considered disturbing the peace. But if the dog also barks when the mailman comes, and/or the United Parcel Service driver arrives, and/or golfers are driving by on the golf course and/or the coyotes bark at time, and/or people are walking on the sidewalk or street, the Animal Control Officer may consider this a violation of the ordinance.