

How to Report a Barking Dog

Connecticut General Statutes Section 22-363 "**Nuisance**" is defined as follows:

No person shall own or harbor a dog or dogs which is or are a nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance, or, by such barking or other disturbance, is or are a source of annoyance to any sick person residing in the immediate vicinity. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction for the first offense and such person shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both for each subsequent offense and the court or judge may make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog or dogs as may be deemed necessary.

What to do if you wish to report a barking dog:

Before contacting Animal Control, attempt to work it out amicably by making your neighbor aware of the situation - they may voluntarily correct the problem. If not, proceed to the following steps.

STEP 1:

If a neighborly attempt to address the problem fails, the Animal Control Officer will issue a courtesy verbal warning to the dog owner, as well as provide suggestions on how the owner may be able to modify the dog(s) behavior.

Once this courtesy verbal warning has been issued, we will allow 72 hours for the dog owner to receive the information and correct the problem before proceeding to the next step.

If the Animal Control Officer is not contacted after the courtesy verbal warning we will assume the problem has been resolved and will take no further action.

STEP 2:

If the excessive barking is not curbed after 72 hours the reporting party may file a formal complaint, at which time the Animal Control Officer will issue a written warning to the dog owner.

If the Animal Control Officer is not contacted after the written warning we will assume the problem has been resolved and will take no further action.

STEP 3:

If the excessive barking is not corrected after the written warning has been issued, the Animal Control Officer will request a Bark Log be initiated. The Bark Log should reflect substantial continuous barking

and be kept for 7 to 10 days within a 30-day period. A completed Bark Log is required in order to proceed to Step 4.

Once completed, a copy of the Bark Log must be provided to the Animal Control Officer. After submission of this log to the Animal Control Officer, a second written warning will be issued to the dog owner.

STEP 4:

If the nuisance barking continues after the second written warning, the Animal Control Officer will issue a citation (\$75.00) to the dog owner. The dog owner may choose to pay the infraction or contest it in a court of law, at which time the reporting party will need to appear in court with the Bark Log.

STEP 5:

If the nuisance barking continues, the reporting party will need to provide additional evidence of continuing nuisance barking violations. With sufficient evidence of a new violation, the Animal Control Officer will issue a misdemeanor summons.

Please be advised that Courts will decide the amount of any fines and any progressive consequences to remedy the nuisance barking.

As in Step 4, the reporting party will also need to appear in court with the Bark Log.

Note: If at any time an ACO responds to the address of the accused and witnesses the dog barking, at the discretion of the ACO, an infraction can be issued.

TIP for the Reporting Party: It is strongly recommended to have an additional reporting party corroborate your complaint.