



# YOLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**ADMINISTRATION**  
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## NOISE COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

### **I. First Written Complaint Received:**

- a. A courtesy notice is mailed to the address provided on Complaint Form, regarding the excess barking.
- b. Dog owner has 14 days to attempt to resolve the noise issue.
- c. If the noise has not improved, a second complaint may be filed after 14 days of the initial complaint.

❖ If dog is not current on county licensing requirements, owner has 10 days to license dog and ensure current rabies vaccination status.

### **II. Second Written Complaint Received:**

- a. Dog owner is mailed a second courtesy notice regarding the excess barking at address.
- b. An A.S.O. (Animal Services Officer) is assigned to contact dog owner, whom must cooperate with ASO to resolve issue.
- c. If the noise has not improved after 14 days of second courtesy notice, additional complaints may be filed; as well as, may be subject to additional fines and citations for noise violations.

❖ If dog is still not current on county licensing requirements at time of second notice, owner may be subject to additional fines and citations.

### **III. Third Written Complaint Received:**

- a. Dog owner is mailed a third courtesy notice regarding the excess barking at address.
- b. An A.S.O. is assigned to contact dog owner, whom may be subject to fines and citations for noise violations.

❖ If dog is still not current on county licensing requirements at time of third notice, owner may be subject to a second sequence of additional fines and citations.

If a noise complaint is received for the same address after 6 months from the previous complaint filed, the process will redevelop.

At any time during the noise complaint investigation process, dog owners are welcome and encouraged to respond in writing to the Yolo County Sheriff's Office ~ Animal Services Section; if a complaint is believed to be received in error, the noise is related to extenuating circumstances and/or you need assistance in resolving the complaint.

*“Honored to Serve”*

***Noise Ordinances.***

**Yolo County Code Section, Article 4, Section 6-1.403**

No owner shall permit his animal, except a domestic cat, habitually to make noise or act in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance.

*(ss 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)*

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**California State Penal Code Section 370, Public Nuisance defined**

Anything which is injurious to health, or is indecent, or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by an entire community or neighborhood, or by any considerable number of persons, or unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin, or any public park, square, street, or highway, is a public nuisance.

*(Enacted 1872. Amended by Code Am. 1873-74, c. 614, p. 431, ss30.)*

***Rabies Vaccinations.***

**Yolo County Code, Sec. 6-1.415**

No owner shall have a dog within the unincorporated area of Yolo County unless such dog has been vaccinated against rabies pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

**California Health & Safety Code, 121690 (b)**

Every dog owner, after his or her dog attains the age of four months, shall, at intervals of time not more than often than once a year, as may be prescribed by the department, procure its vaccination by a licensed veterinarian with a canine anti-rabies vaccine approved by, and in a manner prescribed by, the department.

Additional Animal Complaint forms can be found on the Department's website at

[www.yolocountysheriff.com](http://www.yolocountysheriff.com) tab to "Forms & Fees".

Completed forms can be submitted to the address listed above, faxed to (530) 668-5288 or emailed to [animalcomplaint@yolocounty.org](mailto:animalcomplaint@yolocounty.org).

Yolo County Sheriff's Office  
Animal Services Section  
140-C Tony Diaz Drive  
Woodland CA 95776  
(530) 668-5237

**Sec. 6-1.305. Chief of the Animal Control Division.**

“Chief of the Animal Control Division” shall mean the person designated by the Sheriff as the Chief of the Animal Control Division for the County and his or her duly authorized deputies. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974, as amended by § 4, Ord. 1061, eff. November 26, 1987)

**Sec. 6-1.306. Dog.**

“Dog” shall mean any domesticated animal of the canine family, excluding domesticated coyotes, foxes, dingoes, wolves, or other wild species of the same, as well as all hybrids thereof, which are defined separately in this Title as “wolf hybrids.” (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974, as amended by § 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007)

**Sec. 6-1.307. Health Officer.**

“Health Officer” shall mean the Health Officer of the County and any Health Department employee or other person duly authorized by the Health Officer to act on his behalf. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.308. Kennel.**

“Kennel” shall mean any enclosure, premises, building, structure, lot or area, except where reasonably necessary to support an agricultural use (i.e., to contain herding dogs), where five (5) or more dogs or other small domestic animals, as defined in Title 8, which are not sick or injured and are ten (10) weeks in age or older are boarded for compensation, cared for, trained for compensation, kept for sale, or bred for sale, or ten (10) or more dogs or other small domestic animals that are ten (10) weeks of age or older which are kept and maintained as pets, “rescue” animals, or for any other non-commercial purpose. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974, as amended by § 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007)

**Sec. 6-1.309. Owner.**

“Owner” shall mean a person who possesses, has title to, or an interest in, harbors, or has control, custody, or possession of an animal, and the verb forms of “to own” shall include all these shades of meaning. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.310. Person.**

“Person” shall mean any person, firm, company, corporation, partnership, or association. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.311. Vaccination.**

“Vaccination” shall mean the inoculation of a dog with canine anti-rabies vaccine approved by and in the manner prescribed by the Department of Public Health of the State. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.312. Veterinarian.**

“Veterinarian” shall mean a person licensed by the State to practice veterinary medicine. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.313. Vicious animal.**

“Vicious animal” shall mean any dog or other animal, except a dog assisting a peace officer in law enforcement duties, which has attacked any person or other animal, without provocation by such person or other animal, at a place other than on private property where the attacking animal is maintained by its owner. (§ 1, Ord. 950, eff. June 2, 1983, as amended by § 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007)

**Sec. 6-1.314. Wolf Hybrid.**

“Wolf hybrid” shall mean a mammal that, based on substantial evidence, is determined to be the offspring of any species of wild canid or wild canid hybrid and a domestic dog or a wild canid hybrid, or any mammal that is represented by its owner to be a wolf hybrid. “Wolf hybrid” includes hybrids of wolves, coyotes, dingoes, foxes, or any other kind of wild canid. Substantial evidence used to identify wolf hybrids may include the opinion of an expert in wolf hybrid identification. (§ 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007)

**Article 4. Prohibitions**

**Sec. 6-1.401. Animals running at large.**

The territory to which the provisions of this chapter shall apply is hereby fixed as the limits within which animals shall not run at large, and no owner shall permit his animal, wild or domestic, except a domestic cat, to run at large within the territory to which the provisions of this chapter apply. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

**Sec. 6-1.401.1. Dogs on leashes.**

No owner shall permit his dog to be in any area, other than on private property where the dog is maintained by or on behalf of its owner, unless the dog is restrained by a leash not exceeding eight (8') feet in length; provided, however, this section shall not apply if the dog is (1) assisting a peace officer in law enforcement duties, (2) under the control of a person engaged in hunting pursuant to a license issued under Sections 3031 et seq. Of the Fish and Game Code of the State, (3) enrolled and actually participating in a dog training or obedience class, exhibition, or competition conducted by an organization with the permission of the owner or operator of the grounds or facility, or (4) actively herding on an agriculturally zoned parcel. (§ 1, Ord. 949, eff. May 26, 1983, as amended by § 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007)

**Sec. 6-1.401.2. Animals running at large: Fees.**

Whenever the Chief of the Animal Control Division or authorized personnel thereof take up, assume control over, herd, or otherwise respond to a situation involving any animal which is at large, and which is not impounded pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of this chapter, the owner or other person responsible for the care or restraint of such animal shall pay, and be charged and liable for a fee not to exceed the actual costs incurred by the County in taking up, assuming control over, herding, or otherwise responding to the at large animal. (§ 4, Ord. 1013, eff. August 15, 1985)

### **Sec. 6-1.401.3 Wolf Hybrids.**

(a) After November 1, 2007, no person shall possess, purchase, acquire, or breed a wolf hybrid, except for:

(1) Wolf hybrids possessed in the County prior to November 1, 2007; or

(2) Any wolf hybrid born to a wild canid or wolf hybrid that was both pregnant with such hybrid and possessed in the county prior to that date.

(b) Any wolf hybrid falling within either of the above exceptions shall be spayed or neutered, and shall at all times be vaccinated against rabies. Notwithstanding such vaccination, however, any wolf hybrid that bites or scratches a human being or other animal must be quarantined as required by the current California Rabies Compendium. Wolf hybrids may not be bred. The owner of a wolf hybrid may be required, upon reasonable request by the Chief of Animal Services, to provide satisfactory evidence that the hybrid falls within either of the above exceptions.

(c) Except as otherwise set forth in this section, any wolf hybrid falling within either of the exceptions set forth in subsection (a), above, shall be subject to all of the same requirements of the Yolo County Code that apply to dogs.

(d) Any wolf hybrid that is determined to be possessed illegally may, in addition to other penalties provided in this Title, be seized and disposed of as determined to be appropriate by the Chief of Animal Services. The Chief of Animal Services may, in his or her sole discretion, provide the person in possession of such wolf hybrid not more than 30 days to transfer such animal out the county prior to seizure.

Any person determined to have violated the provisions of this Code with respect to wolf hybrids may file an appeal regarding the identification of the animal. Such appeal must be initiated within fifteen (15) days of the determination that the animal is possessed illegally, and shall be commenced by filing an application for an appeal with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors shall hear the appeal in accordance with the provisions of Title 1 of this Code. If the appeal is filed with regard to an animal that is in the custody of Animal Services, the animal shall be maintained at the cost of the Owner until there is a final decision on the appeal. (§ 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007).

### **Sec. 6-1.402. Trespassing.**

No owner shall permit his animal, except a domestic cat, to trespass on any property, public or private, without the consent of the owner of the property. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

### **Sec. 6-1.403. Noise.**

No owner shall permit his animal, except a domestic cat, habitually to make a loud noise or act in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

### **Sec. 6-1.404. Female dogs in heat.**

No owner of any unspayed female dog shall permit such dog to stray or run at large in the territory to which this chapter applies while such female dog is in the copulating season. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

### **Sec. 6-1.405. Proper care.**

No owner or person in charge of an animal shall permit such animal to go without proper food, water, care, shelter, or attention. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

### **Sec. 6-1.406. Unlicensed dogs.**

No owner shall have a dog required to be licensed within the territory to which this chapter applies unless such dog has been licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

### **Sec. 6-1.407. Tags and collars.**

No owner shall fail, neglect, or refuse to attach, by means of a collar, harness, or other device, any tag issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to the licensed dog, or pot-bellied pig; nor shall any owner fail, neglect, or refuse to keep such tag attached to such dog or pot-bellied-pig at all times while the license is in force. In addition, pot-bellied pigs must be micro-chipped and chip numbers recorded with Yolo County Animal Services. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974 and amended by § 2, Ord. 1365, eff. December 6, 2007).

### **Sec. 6-1.408. Replacement of tags.**

No owner shall fail to apply for a new license within ten (10) days after the date of the loss of the license tag. (§ 2, Ord. 703, eff. May 22, 1974)

# DOG BARKING – MANAGEMENT TIPS

## COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

When a complaint about a barking dog is logged with Animal Services, it begins an investigation. The process includes:

- Documenting the complaint
- Ascertaining if the dog is a nuisance
- Approaching the dog owner
- Collecting evidence
- Resolving the problem
- Possible court action
- Treatment of barking

The type of action taken by Animal Services will often depend on the attitude of the dog owner, the nature and urgency of the problem. The role of Animal Services is to impartially investigate the allegation and in doing so, offer a few simple suggestions to the dog owner. If these fail to rectify the problem then professional assistance should be sought. If the problem continues, Animal Services may take court action.

If there are early signs of barking in younger dogs, training and management techniques can be used to prevent the problem from becoming worse.

## TYPES OF BARKS

Dogs have a number of different types of barks, which are often used for different purposes. Some may need to be encouraged and others ignored.

## CAUSES OF BARKING

Excessive barking is only the symptom of an underlying problem. To solve the problem, find the cause and treat the problem or remove the dog from the situation. Possible causes include:

- Breeding
- Inappropriate confinement
- External distractions
- Isolation
- Anxiety
- Excitement
- Discomfort
- Dog learning to bark

### **Breeding**

Excessive barking is more common in some breeds than others. However, although there is a genetic predisposition towards barking, it is often an acquired behavior that can occur in any breed or sex of dog. Owners need to carefully select a dog suitable for their lifestyle and home environment.

### **External Distractions**

Once excessive barking starts it is a resistant behavior to eliminate. It is sometimes best to forget about eliminating barking, but deal with it by altering the situation leading to it. For example, too often the dog's kennel or run may need to be changed if it is too close to a neighbor, where children are or other distractions. Any movement or noise along a fence line such as pedestrians, children playing or other animals can cause barking.

### **Confinement/Restraint**

Dogs often bark when caged, placed in a shed or restrained if they are not used to it. This commonly occurs in dogs chained up because of another problem such as attacking people or wandering. To overcome this the dog should be put in the area, where it is to be confined, for varying periods of time while the owner is at home. The owner can then correct the dog if it barks or attempts to get out.

### **Anxiety**

Anxiety-related barking usually starts just after the owner has left home, or before they return. This type of barking can only be stopped by giving the dog the attention it wants, or by making the dog confident and independent so it is able to stay on its own. This can be achieved by changing the type and intensity of the owner's relationship with the dog, and the amount of attention they give when leaving or returning home. Anxiety during an owner's absence from the home can be a cause of constant barking or howling.

### **Discomfort**

Before leaving home, the dog owner must ensure their dog has access to bedding, food, water and familiar toys throughout the day.

### **Visitors/Watchdog**

Many owners praise their dog when it barks at strangers in the belief that this will make the dog a better watchdog. Problems arise when the dog's barking or growling is no longer effective and it bites instead. When this does occur, the dog sometimes does not differentiate between friends and strangers. If the dog barks to alert its owner, this is commendable, but when it keeps barking longer than necessary and cannot be stopped by the owner, he/she has lost control over the dog.

### **Boredom**

Barking can be an outlet for a dog that is bored. These dogs have not lost the ability to relax, but don't do so because their owner has not provided an environment for them to relax in, or a routine to occupy the dog when the owner is home.

### **Isolation**

Dogs are social animals and are not suited to a life on their own for long periods. Taking the dog to a friend, neighbor or getting another dog can overcome this. However, a second dog does not always rectify the problem.

### **Attention Seeking**

Attention-seeking barking can be self-perpetuating. Owners don't want to ignore the barking, yet to pay attention teaches the dog barking can be rewarding. Owners with dogs that bark for attention must ignore the barking, despite its persistency, and praise the dog for being quiet. People must be consistent with their training and teach the dog a new set of rules.

### **Excitability**

Some dogs are more excitable than others and will bark when over stimulated. Rewarding the dog when it is quiet, and minimizing and controlling activities where the dog becomes excited such as during play may reduce barking in this type of dog.

### **Other Behavioral Problems**

Other behavioral problems are often found in dogs that bark excessively. These usually have to be corrected in order to reduce the barking. In addition the dog may not listen to its owner's commands and require training before the treatment needed to correct the barking can be applied.

### **Lack of Control**

Obedience training on its own does not usually stop barking, but it can bring the dog under better control and reinforce the handler's position.

### **Lack of Exercise**

Exercise on its own will not stop a dog from barking, but it may provide an active release for its energy. Exercise should be varied, with 15-20 minutes daily spent walking, training, and playing with the dog.

## **SOME SOLUTIONS**

### **Barking Correction Collar:**

This is a device which can be attached to the dog's collar and emits a noise, shock, or a dose of citronella to the dog when it barks. They are effective in dogs that cannot make the association between the barking and the punishment. However, not all dogs make this association, and the noise or shock itself may stimulate further barking in dogs. Electronic dog training collars are however not generally recommended for correcting excessive barking.

### **De-barking:**

The surgical removal of the vocal cords or larynx is an expensive and often unnecessary operation. It is no substitute for removing the cause of the problem.

### **Muzzling:**

Muzzling does not prevent a dog from barking excessively.



**Hormone Therapy:**

Hormone therapy may be used short term to allow behavioral work to proceed, or long term when continuous medication is required. Tranquilizers and anti-psychotic agents may be used in conjunction with other methods to modify the dog's behavior. Steroidal hormones such as progestin are not usually effective for a barking problem.

**Time Out:**

The dog may be taken away from its home and boarded with a professional trainer for a few days. Sometimes, if the trainer can correct the dog for barking in the presence of other dogs, this may be transferred to when the dog is in its own environment.

**Spay/Neuter:**

Talk to your veterinarian about spaying or neutering your dog.

# Enrichment for Your Dog

With our busy lifestyles, many dogs can spend hours each day left to their own devices, sometimes leading to problem behaviors. Dogs are social animals, and it is important that when you are home, your dog gets to be indoors and part of the family! But when your pup is alone, here are some suggestions to keep him entertained.

## Toys & More Toys!

There are many great toys on the market, and many you can make for free at home! Your dog will quickly get bored with the same old toy, so put out a few at a time and **ROTATE** them daily.

### Food Dispensing Toys

All dogs have to eat - why not put your dog's meals into toys and make this enjoyable activity last longer? There are a wide variety of commercially available and homemade toys that will make mealtime more fun for your dog.



#### Kongs

Kongs are very durable, hollow rubber dog toys which can be stuffed with food and goodies and left for your dog to work on during the day. As your dog gets better at extracting food from Kongs, you can increase the difficulty - even freezing it full of wet food to make a "Kong-side"! For recipe suggestions, see <http://www.kongcompany.com/recipes/>.



#### Hard plastic food-dispensing toys & games

Buster Cubes and other similar toys can be filled with your dog's kibble. Then your dog has to roll the toy around to get the food out. Some dogs need help learning how to use these toys, so a smear of peanut butter or cheese near the opening will help get them going.

### Homemade Food-Dispensing Toys

#### Recycled plastic bottles

Empty half-gallon or full gallon milk jugs, soda bottles, salad dressing bottles... your recycling bin is full of potential FREE dog toys! Put your dog's kibble in the plastic jug, and let them work at it. Many of the "toys" become more challenging with time, as your dog crunches up the sides of the container. If the bottle opening is too large for the "toy" to be challenging, leave the cap on (as long as it is sturdy and not likely to become a choking hazard), and punch or drill some kibble-sized holes in the sides of the bottle. Be sure to remove any small plastic rings from the containers for your dog's safety.



#### Ice blocks

During the hot central valley summers, frozen treats can be especially nice for dogs kept outdoors. Place some treats or kibble into a plastic container, fill with water and freeze. You could even freeze a knotted rope into it so it could be hung somewhere or maybe bury it – as the ice melts the interest is renewed as treats come to the surface. Try making ice blocks with chicken stock - a cool idea for the hot weather!

## More Fun Activities

### Create an “approved” digging spot

Many dogs love to dig, but few dog owners appreciate the results! If your dog loves digging, provide a designated area where he can dig and reinforce this natural behavior by burying treats, bones, or favorite toys there. Choose an area that is hidden by shrubs if you like so he can dig to his heart’s content while leaving your landscaping intact.

### Wading pool

If your dog loves water, purchase an inexpensive plastic children’s pool, or a sturdier version if you want it to withstand multiple summers of sun exposure. Make sure the lip of the pool isn’t too high for your dog to easily step over. If your dog is unsure about the pool at first, you can drop some toys or treats into the water which will float and encourage him to play. This is another good activity for the hot central valley summers!

### Treasure hunt!

Instead of giving your dog his meal in a bowl, measure out his kibble and toss it all over the grass in the backyard. Dogs are natural scavengers and searching out food like this is a happy occupation. You can also try hiding his stuffed Kongs around the house so when you go off to work he is busy hunting for his food.



### Dog walker

If you are having a hard time giving your dog as much exercise as he needs with your busy schedule, consider paying a dog walker to come by a few times a week. Be sure to thoroughly check references, insurance and get details of how many dogs are walked at once. Ask the walker to vary the route to make for more interesting walks!

Remember, these are all things to help entertain your dog when you can’t be home- but the best enrichment is

**TIME WITH YOU!**



