



Vernon Animal Control

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WHAT IS CONNECTICUT'S LAW ON BARKING DOGS?

Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 22-363.states:

Nuisance. 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** THE TOWN OF VERNON'S POLICY

Often times, many pet owners are unaware that their dog(s) are causing an inconvenience to others. Once aware, they may voluntarily correct the problem. We ask that neighbors considering arriving at an amicable conclusion prior to Animal Control's involvement.

STEP 1

If a neighborly attempt to address the problem fails, our 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 allow 48 hours for the dog owner to receive the information and correct the problem before we proceed to the next step.

If we are not contacted after we issue a courtesy verbal warning, we will assume the problem has been solved and will take no further action.

STEP 2

If the barking problem is not corrected after 48 hours, you may file a formal complaint, at which time our Animal Control Officer will issue a written warning to the dog owner.

If we are not contacted after we issue the written warning, we will assume the problem has been solved, and will take no further action.

STEP 3

If the barking problem is not corrected after the written warning has been issued, the Animal Control Officer will request a **Bark Log** be initiated. The log should reflect substantial continuous barking and be kept for 7-10 days within a 30 day period.

A completed 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 Animal Control, 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 then 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 barking continues, the reporting party will need to provide additional evidence of continuing nuisance barking violations. With sufficient evidence of a **new** violation, our 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.

**For further information, please contact
Vernon Animal Control at 860-870-3558**