

Barking Dog Problems

LEHI CITY BARKING DOG ORDINANCE:

6.04.060: NUISANCE ANIMALS:

- A. Any animal which does any of the following shall be deemed a nuisance animal:
5. Barks, whines, or howls or makes other disturbing noises in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.

Why Dogs Bark:

- **Boredom.** Some dogs have pent-up energy and bark simply because they are bored. This dog needs regular aerobic exercise and plenty of toys.
- **Loneliness.** Dogs are social animals and require daily attention. By barking, this dog is requesting attention and when you scold him you give him what he needs. In this way, scolding encourages barking. Instead, give this dog positive attention by making him or her part of the family inside the house.
- **Restrictions on Freedom.** A dog on a chain or in a small area will relieve his tension by barking.
- **Protective Tendencies.** This is natural, desirable barking. However, a dog should be trained to alert owners of an intruder and then stop barking.
- **Food, Water or Shelter.** Some dogs bark when they are hungry, thirsty, or want to get out of the elements. Making sure they always have access to food, water and shelter can help reduce the tendency to bark.

Solutions:

- Bring the dog inside the house, a garage, or other safe enclosure.
- Make sure the dog's needs for food, water, warmth, exercise, and attention are met. A barking dog is usually asking for something.
- Alleviate the underlying cause!
- Bark collars can help, but they only help treat the symptoms, not the problem, and other symptoms like aggression and destructive behavior will emerge.

- Enroll in obedience classes. Teach the dog “Speak” and “Quiet” then teach your neighbors to use “Quiet.”

Do’s and Don’ts?

- Do find out why your dog barks, and address this underlying problem.
- Do correct bad behavior immediately and consistently.
- Do be patient. Breaking the barking habit takes time.
- Do praise your dog for being quiet and obeying your commands.
- Do realize there is no “quick fix.”
- Do get help from a trainer if possible.
- *Don’t hit or throw things at your dog.*
- *Don’t ignore the barking, your neighbors won’t.*

Contact Lehi Police Department if you have any questions, need help, or if you have a complaint regarding a barking dog, call (801) 768-7110