

What is the Law Related to Animal Noise?

Neighborhood disturbance caused by barking dogs and other animal noise can be a serious problem in San Diego. San Diego Municipal Code Section 59.5.0502C provides that:

- The keeping or maintenance, or the permitting to be kept or maintained upon any premises owned, occupied, or controlled by any person of any animal or animals which by any **frequent or long continued noise**, shall **cause annoyance or discomfort to a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness in the vicinity** is unlawful.
- The noise of any such animal or animals that disturbs **two or more residents residing in separate residences adjacent to any part of the property** on which the subject animal or animals are kept or maintained, **or three or more residents residing in separate residences in close proximity** to the property on which the subject animal or animals are kept or maintained shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

What Can I Do If I Am Being Disturbed?

There are various options available for seeking relief from excessive animal noise. These include:

- 1. Make contact with the animal owner** and describe your perception of the noise, how the noise affects you and discuss possible solutions.
- 2. Contact Safe Streets Now at 619-299-5408.** This organization targets public nuisances through notices to the animal owner. Safe Streets Now helps people pursue the matter through the Small Claims Court, which uses the civil standard of proof (the preponderance of evidence must support the position of the complainant).
- 3. File a complaint with the City of San Diego, Neighborhood Code Compliance Department** by calling **(619) 236-5500**, going to your nearest library or Neighborhood Service Center, pick up and complete the Noise Registration form and mail the form(s) to:
**City of San Diego Neighborhood Code Compliance Department
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101**

Why Do Dogs Bark So Much?

Dogs bark excessively for numerous reasons such as loneliness, frustration, frequent neighborhood activity, hyperactivity, etc. The following suggestions may be helpful in controlling excessive barking:

- Give the dog **attention and exercise** daily.
- If the dog barks because of frequent neighborhood activity, try to remove the dog from that activity. **Consider keeping the dog in the house or garage** whenever possible or keeping a dog in a location **isolated from the source of disturbances**.
- Dogs frequently bark while **left outside alone** on the property. If you must leave the dog unattended, keep the dog inside the garage or house whenever possible.
- **Consult your veterinarian** on the possible causes for the barking. One solution may be to prescribe a **low stress diet**.
- Explore training services listed in the Yellow Pages under **"Dog Training"**.

How Can the City Help?

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department **sends a notice** to the animal owner requesting that the noise be reduced.

If the notice fails, NCCD will take further action when the city receives signed statements from the required number of complainants described on the opposite side of this brochure.

Cases that have the necessary support may be referred to mediation or the City may issue **administrative fines** (\$100, \$250, \$500).

Other enforcement remedies are available for severe cases.

To request an alternative format, call Neighborhood Code Compliance Department at 236-6915.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



Neighborhood Code Compliance Department
1200 Third Avenue, 8th Floor, MS 51N
San Diego, CA 92101-4106
www.sandiego.gov/nccd
www.sandiego.gov/graffiti

In Partnership With Neighborhoods

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

City of San Diego



Animal Noise in the City of San Diego

