

Barking Dog Complaints Procedures

Residents who have a concern about neighbors' dogs that bark excessively have several options to address this matter. It is important to positively know the address where the offending dogs reside. Guessing, estimations and "next door" will not suffice should you need to contact the proper authorities about this matter.

First, consideration should be given to making personal contact with your neighbor and express, in polite fashion, that you are being disturbed by the barking of their pets. Not everyone is comfortable with making contact and some have resorted to an anonymous letter. While not a recommendation, if you do choose to send a letter, anonymous or not, please keep it simple but provide specific dates and times, be polite and as friendly as possible. Thank them in advance for their cooperation and please do not make any threats or derogatory remarks.

If making contact with your neighbor is not something you are comfortable doing then the official procedure for making a complaint with the City of Fort Worth is as follows:

1. Make sure you have the correct address of the offending dogs and any description or indication of their breed.
2. Call the City of Fort Worth Animal Control Office at 817-392-PAWS (7297).
 - a. They will send out some information to the owner of the offending dogs.
 - b. They may send you a log to complete should further action be required.
 - c. The log needs to be accurate and complete as it will be notarized and could be used in a court proceeding.
 - d. You may have to go to court if the dog's owner wishes to contest any citation issued. You would be then required to testify and others will know your identity.
 - e. It is possible any contact with Animal Control or the Police Department may be public record if a request is made and your information may be released as required by law.
3. Call the Fort Worth Police Department at 817-335-4222. This is especially true during evening and nighttime hours as well as weekends and holidays.
 - a. Make sure the barking is taking place when you call. Officers can address it while it is happening, not something that has happened in the past.
 - b. You may be required to speak with the officer to have an officer sent out. You may be identified to your neighbor if a citation is issued.
 - c. Again you need to have an address of the barking dogs to get the best response from the responding officer(s).
4. Contact your Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) and request their assistance if this is an ongoing occurrence. The NPO should then try to meet with you and your neighbor to work out a solution. If you are not aware of who your NPO is, contact the Fort Worth Police Department at 817-335-4222 and provide them your address. They should be able to provide contact information for you.

Residents of PID 6 can also contact Retired Lieutenant J.D. Grady at PID6Patrol@aol.com for advice relating to this matter.