

Owner Responsibility

Jefferson County's Animal Control and Licensing regulation prohibits a dog from disturbing the peace of any person by loud, habitual and persistent barking, howling, yelping or whining, whether the dog is on or off the dog owner's premises. Violation of this provision could result in a penalty assessment ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 and/or a court appearance.

If you have received a complaint about your dog barking, it is important to correct the problem so that your neighbors do not take legal action, or take their frustration out on your dog.



Animal Control

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 160

Golden, CO 80401

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 303.271.5070

Emergency: Dial 911

www.jeffcosheriff.com

Local Animal Control Offices

Adams County Animal Control & Shelter

303-288-3294

Arvada Animal Control

720-898-6850

Arapahoe County Animal Control

720-874-6750

Aurora Animal Control & Shelter

303-361-0890

Broomfield Animal Control

303-466-2331

Commerce City Animal Control

303-288-1535

Denver Animal Control & Shelter

303-698-0076

Edgewater Animal Control

303-235-0500

Golden Animal Control

303-384-8045

Lakewood Animal Control

303-987-7173

Northglenn Animal Control

303-450-8886

Thornton Animal Control

303-288-1535

Wheat Ridge Animal Control

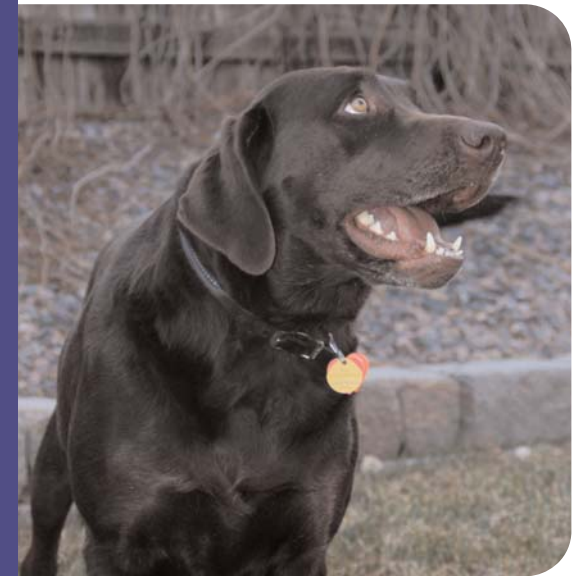
303-237-2220

Westminster Animal Control

303-430-2400 x. 2862

A N I M A L C O N T R O L

Problem Barking



Causes and solutions for pet owners



Why Dogs Bark

Loneliness

Many dogs bark because they are lonely and want company. By barking, the dog often gets your attention, and whether you punish him or not, he has attained his goal. Therefore, he may continue to bark just so he can see you. This is a bad situation for you and the dog.

Restrictions on Freedom

A dog who is chained continuously in a small area will tend to become aggressive. He will soon bark at the slightest sound or movement, such as leaves, moving cars, or the wind.

Protecting their Territory

This is very natural for any type of dog, but consistent and habitual barking is a sign of an unruly dog. It is important to teach your dog to bark enough to alert you, and then respond to you and sit quietly. This way the dog feels he is protecting his property while the owner is still in control of his behavior.

Boredom

Some dogs will bark just because they are bored. To occupy your pet while you are away, supply him with chew toys, beef bones, a ball or a stuffed toy.

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Solutions to the Problem

Following are some suggestions that may help you solve a barking dog problem. These suggestions may not work on hyperactive or vocal dogs. You may need to seek professional training for your pet. There are numerous local obedience classes from which you can choose.

Bring your dog in the house when you leave. Many dogs will bark continually once you are gone. If you do not want your dog to have the run of the house, you may wish to contain the dog in a certain area, such as a basement or laundry room.

Put your dog in the garage. Many people choose to do this if they have a large dog. Be certain to provide old blankets, rugs, or carpet for your pet to lay on. A cold and hard cement floor is far from comfortable.

No matter where you decide to keep your pet, be certain clean water and shelter are available at all times. Many dogs will bark and whine if they are thirsty or cold.

When your dog starts to bark, it is your responsibility to find out what is causing the disturbance and resolve the problem. The dog should not be allowed to bark at any activity unless it takes place on the dog owner's property. Do not ignore the barking no matter what time it may be.

Remember, the best thing you can do to correct the problem is to work on training. Spend time with your dog and include him in your daily activities. You are his only source for exercise and love.

Mechanical and Surgical Options

Anti-bark collars, either electronic or sonic, are available through local pet stores and pet product distributors. Veterinarians can "debark" a dog surgically by cutting the vocal cords. Talk with your veterinarian about what method may be the most appropriate for your pet. Both methods are more effective when accompanied by consistent training.

If you are too busy to spend time with your dog every day, then you are probably too busy to own a dog. Please evaluate your situation and do what is best for your dog.



Books on Obedience

No Bad Dogs, by Barbara Woodhouse

Good Dog/Bad Dog, by Siegel & Margolis

Dog Problems, by Carol Benjamin

Dog Training Made Easy, by Michael Tucker