

## **Barking Dog Complaints**

In order to assist residents and dog owners in resolving the problem of barking dogs, an explanation of the process and procedures is offered by West Valley City Animal Services:

**Step 1:** When Animal Services receives a complaint of a barking dog, an Animal Services staff member will log the complaint. A search for previous complaints and dog licenses will also be performed. If this is the first complaint and there are no dog licenses in record, a "Courtesy Notice" will be mailed to the dog owner making them aware that a complaint has been received. An application for a dog license along with information on how to control the barking will be included. The owner will have a deadline of 14 days to comply with licensing (23-3-101), providing a rabies vaccination for the dog(s) (23-4-102) and nuisance ordinance (23-5-101f). The complainant will be advised to start a "barking log" that covers a 7 to 10 day period. A blank "Barking Dog Log" form can be mailed or picked up from the shelter if requested.

**Step 2:** If another complaint on the same barking dog is received, Animal Services will ask for a "barking dog log" to be turned in. Another case number will be assigned and a citation will be mailed or served by an Officer to the dog owner/resident. Complainant will be advised to keep another "barking dog log". Or statements addressing the barking problem from two or more complainants from separate households would also be sufficient. The complainant will be advised to continue the "barking dog log".

**Step 3:** After the first citation has been issued and the barking continues, complainant will be asked to provide another "barking dog log" or statements from two or more separate neighbors. A second level citation will be issued at that time. Complainant will be advised to continue "barking dog log".

**Step 4:** After the second level citation has been issued and the barking continues, the "barking dog log" or statements will need to be turned in to Animal Services and a third level citation will be issued. A request will be made to the city attorney's for a revocation hearing to be set. All parties related to the case may be subpoenaed to court to testify.

Each Animal Ordinance violation may be assessed a \$25.00 fine for the first violation and will double in amount for each subsequent violation within a 12 month period. Three violations of the Animal Control Ordinance in 12 month period may result in your right to possess a dog and/or any other animal.

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