

- When left alone in a house, help the loneliness by leaving a radio on.
- To help either an indoor or outdoor dog with boredom, be sure to have some toys available for amusement.
- Don't make a big thing out of leaving or returning home; an overly excited dog is more likely to bark and yelp.
- You may consider taking the animal to an obedience training school if the dog is too much for an inexperienced trainer.
- Your dog will soon learn that his silence pleases you.

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## The Responsibility is yours!

As a dog owner, you know the companionship, loyalty, love, and fun that your dog adds to your life, but you also must realize your responsibility towards your neighbors. Dog owners are sometimes insensitive to the barking of their own dog. Put yourself in your neighbors' place to see how your dog's habits affect them. Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as well as to those who have who have to live with a noisy dog. The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as enjoying a peaceful and quiet neighborhood, is well worth the effort.

**City of Plano  
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Animal Services Division  
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*Thanks to the Cities of Oakridge, Tennessee and Albuquerque, New Mexico*

# Noisy Animals are Nobody's

## “Best Friend”



**City of Plano  
Animal Services Division**

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## What is a noisy animal?

Section 4-24(d) City of Plano Animal Services Ordinance, **Public Nuisances:** It shall be unlawful and constitute a public nuisance to keep any animal which, by causing frequent or long continued barking, howling, crowing, meowing or other noise, shall disturb any person of ordinary sensibilities residing in the vicinity of the premise where the animal is kept, housed or harbored.

Any person in violation of this section may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and incur penalties.

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## What is good about a barking dog?

- Alerts owners of potential problems.
- Warns owners of a stranger's presence.
- Alerts neighbors of intruders when you're not at home.
- Indicates an animal in distress.

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## What is bad about a barking dog?

- One dog barking usually starts another dog barking.
- Excessive barking is extremely annoying.
- Excessive noise disturbs those who are ill, shut-in, etc.
- Noisy animals can create neighborhood arguments, resentment, etc.
- Witnesses can file a complaint for this code violation.
- Usually indicates a highly nervous or bored animal.
- Excessive barking can be harmful to dogs.
- Unless stopped, barking may develop into a type of hysteria

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## Do you own a Watchdog or a nuisance?

Determine for yourself whether your dog is a good companion and watchdog or a neighborhood noise nuisance by asking yourself these questions.

Does your dog bark excessively:

- When someone rings your doorbell?
- When garbage collectors, mail carriers, paper carriers, etc., come to or go by your house.
- When children are playing outside?
- When another animal comes into view?
- When another dog barks?
- When hearing a siren?
- When wanting to get into the house?
- When you leave or return home?
- When left alone and lonely?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, your dog could be a neighborhood nuisance. This disturbance of the peace is one of the quickest and most common ways to become a bad neighbor. Persistent barkers are more likely to be ignored if there is a real emergency, since they seem to bark all the time.



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## What can you do about your barking dog?

- Determine what causes the dog to bark.
- Dogs are less inclined to bark if a barrier blocks their view.
- Be alert to stop the barking as soon as it starts.
- Train your dog to respond to a command to be quiet.
- Reward your dog whenever it barks for a watchdog reason.
- Don't leave an animal unattended for long periods of time.
- Train your dog to stay quietly within its quarters when you are away.

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## What can you do about a neighbor's barking dog?

- First, try to contact the owner and work out a solution.
- If this does not work, you have the right to file a formal complaint with the City Animal Services Center, charging a violation of Section 4-24(d) of the City Ordinance. The address of the barking dog is required. Animal Services will send a letter to the owner of the barking dog, notifying them of the complaint (the identity of the complainant is confidential). If a second complaint is received (10 days or more after the letter) an Animal Services Officer will be sent out to talk to the animal's owner. If the letter and visit from an officer do not satisfy the problem, the complainant must file a complaint with the municipal court so that a citation may be issued. Animal Services Officers may not issue citations for barking dogs. It will be necessary for you, the complainant, to appear in court if a citation is issued.

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## Breaking a bad habit

- The best cure for the barking habit is prevention early in a dog's life.
- If a dog already has a barking habit, then you must make efforts to correct the situation.
- Whatever training method you choose, be **consistent** and **persistent** with the animal.