

Hesperia Municipal Code

Nuisance Barking: Any animal that habitually barks, crows, whines or makes other loud or unusual noises when the noise interferes with the reasonable enjoyment of a person's property by a person of ordinary sensitivities in residentially zoned property can be given a citation.

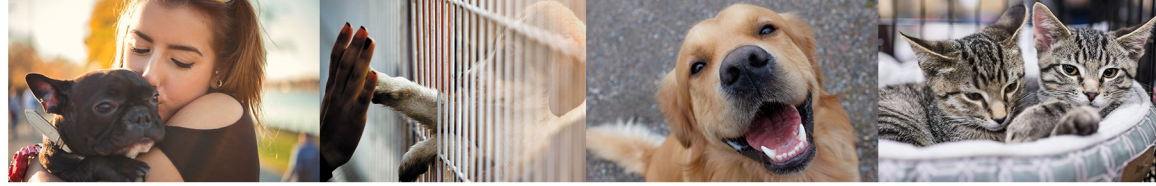
(Section 6.00.040E – Public Nuisances)

Reasons for Nuisance Barking

- ◆ Isolation or Frustration: Some dogs bark because they are left alone for long periods and have no outlets for their energy, such as sufficient exercise, toys and affection.
- ◆ Territorial Behavior: Strangers or other animals entering the dog's property, like a mail carrier, children playing, or neighbors.
- ◆ Fears: Sometimes scared dogs bark because of loud noises like thunderstorms or fireworks.
- ◆ Anxiety: The continuous barking begins after their owner leaves. A recent change of residence or the loss of a family member/pet can trigger this behavior in some dogs.



Be consistent, everyone in your family must apply the training methods each time your dog barks inappropriately. You can't let your dog get away with inappropriate barking sometimes and not others.



Tips to stop nuisance barking

- ◆ Make sure they have plenty of time with you.
- ◆ Provide them with mental stimulation, such as toys, attention and playmates.
- ◆ Increase play, exercise and obedience training on a daily basis.
- ◆ If stray animals are the cause, request a trap from Animal Services.
- ◆ Bring them indoors or take them to a kennel or friend's home if you are going to be away.
- ◆ Ask your veterinarian or trainer for behavior modification training.
- ◆ Barking must be interrupted immediately as it begins, and repeated until the dog does not bark at the stimulus, at which point it can be rewarded.
- ◆ Punishment is generally ineffective in the control and correction of barking problems and can lead to increased anxiety which further aggravates the problem.

Leadership Role

Socializing dogs (especially puppies) to a variety of new people, animals, environments and noises can reduce anxieties.

Owner control, training and leadership are also essential. The dog should learn to spend some of its time playing or relaxing by itself, perhaps in its bed or crate so that it is not distressed when left alone.

Allowing a barking, whining, or howling dog to come indoors, be fed, or praised will encourage this behavior. You must give a command to be quiet and reward the calm behavior.

Increasing play, exercise and obedience training daily will significantly reduce and likely eliminate nuisance barking.



Teaching Your Dog a Cue to Stop Barking

Does your dog bark for attention? Don't give them any, even stern reprimands count as attention. They have no idea what "quiet" means; yelling "quiet!" will only make it worse. They'll think you're joining in the barking game. Reward them with your attention when they are calm and not barking.

Have some high-value treats ready – small and soft so they can be eaten quickly. While the dog is barking, just wait for it to stop. Once they stop, wait a few seconds, praise, and give them a treat. Gradually increase the time they must be quiet before rewarding them. If they start barking, take a few steps backward and make the duration less. Once they seem to understand, add a word – *hush*, *quiet*, or what works for you.

Food, puzzle toys and hollow rubber toys that can be stuffed with treats are great entertainment for dogs. They give your dog something fun to do while you are gone. Keep a couple on hand so you can leave one for them every day. It's okay if they get most of their meals this way. They are working for their food.

Wallie
Shelter Mascot



City of Hesperia Animal Services

11011 Santa Fe Avenue East
Hesperia, CA 92345
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Cityofhesperia.us

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Thursday: 10 - 5
Friday - Saturday: 10 - 4

(Adoption kennels close last 15 minutes of business day)

Online License Services

licensepet.com/wl3/reghespwl



@HesperiaAnimalShelter

NUISANCE BARKING

