

Date: _____

Dear Pet Owner,

As your neighbor, we are asking for your cooperation in resolving a matter about animal noise coming from your property. Experience has shown that often times animal owners are unaware of the noises created when they are not home. We realize this may be the case, which is why we are bringing this matter to your attention.

Animal noise nuisance is defined as “Any domesticated animal that howls, yelps, whines, barks or makes other oral noises, in such a manner as to disturb any person or neighborhood to an unreasonable degree.” Violations carry a fine of \$100, and double for each subsequent offense up to \$400 and ordering the animal removed from Clark County. It is our hope that you will take positive steps now to prevent future complaints.

We are enclosing our “Barking” brochure to help guide your positive steps to reduce or eliminate the noise that prompted the complaint. We hope you will take the time to review the information it provides and act upon it. If these suggestions are inadequate, please consult an animal behaviorist or contact your local veterinarian for additional steps you can take.

Tips for dog owners

- Always find out **why** your dog barks. Unless it has a watchdog reason, then you must correct it at that time.
- Do not turn a garden hose on a dog or throw things at him.
- Spanking/hitting is an ineffective substitute for water treatment and rarely solves any problems.
- Whenever your dog barks for a trained watchdog reason, praise it.

Please note that any subsequent complaints to Clark County Animal Protection and Control may result in a Notice of Violation for unreasonable animal noise. Clark County Animal Protection and Control may also investigate to make sure your pets are licensed. Pet license violations carry a fine of \$100, and double for each subsequent offense up to \$400. You can get a license online or see a list of licensing agents at www.clark.wa.gov/pets.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Your Neighbor(s)

Applicable ordinances:

Clark County Ordinance 8.11.060 Nuisances
www.codepublishing.com/WA/ClarkCounty/html/ClarkCounty08/ClarkCounty0811/ClarkCounty0811060.html

Vancouver Municipal Code 8.24.130 Animal Noise Control
vancouver.municipal.codes/VMC/8.24.130