



BURLINGTON ANIMAL CONTROL  
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### CONNECTICUT'S LAW ON BARKING DOGS

Connecticut General Statute Sec. 22-363: Sec. 22-363. Nuisance. No person shall own or harbor a dog or dogs which is or are a nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance, or, by such barking or other disturbance, is or are a source of annoyance to any sick person residing in the immediate vicinity. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction for the first offense and a class D misdemeanor for each subsequent offense and the court or judge may make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog or dogs as may be deemed necessary.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU WISH TO REPORT A BARKING DOG TOWN OF BURLINGTON'S POLICY

Pet owners may be unaware that their dog(s) are causing an inconvenience to neighbors. Once made aware, they may voluntarily fix the problem. The Town of Burlington asks that neighbors made a reasonable attempt to arrive at an amicable conclusion prior to involving Animal Control.

**STEP 1:** If a neighborly attempt to address the problem fails, our Animal Control Officer will issue a verbal warning to the dog owner. Suggestions may also be made by the ACO on how to modify the dog(s) behavior. **48 hours will be allowed for the dog owner correct the problem before proceeding to Step 2.**

**STEP 2:** If the nuisance barking is not corrected after 48 hours, you may file an additional complaint. Once the complaint is received by our ACO, a written warning will be issued to the dog owner. If our ACO is not contacted after the written warning is issued, we will assume the nuisance barking has stopped, and we will take no further action.

**STEP 3:** If the nuisance barking is not corrected after the written warning has been issued, the ACO will request a Bark Log be initiated. The log should reflect substantial and continuous barking. The log must cover a 7-10 day period of time. Once completed, a copy of the Bark Log must be provided to the Animal Control Officer by delivering directly to the First Selectman's Office at Burlington Town Hall. After the Bark Log is received by our ACO, a final written warning will be given to the dog owner.

**STEP 4:** If the nuisance barking continues after the second written warning, the Animal Control Officer will then issue a citation (\$75.00) to the dog owner.

The dog owner may choose to pay the infraction or contest it in a court of law, at which time the reporting party will need to appear in court with the Bark Log.

**STEP 5:**

If the nuisance barking continues, the reporting party will need to provide additional evidence of continuing nuisance barking violations, or another Bark Log covering a 7-10 day period. **With sufficient evidence of a new violation**, our Animal Control Officer will issue a misdemeanor summons.

Please be advised that after a misdemeanor summons is issued, the Courts will decide the amount of any fines as well as any progressive consequences to remedy the nuisance barking.