

scene in the report. The officer will attempt to make contact with the complaint address and provide the persons information in the report. Ensure you have the case number before the officer leaves. To follow up on your case or get a copy, contact the Wichita Police Records Department at 455 N. Main or by calling 268-4186.

When calling 911, dispatchers prioritize all calls based on their severity. The higher priority calls, such as major crimes in progress and active physical disturbances, take precedence. Also, you may experience a longer wait time depending on the day of the week and time of day. Please be patient, an officer will make contact with you.

STEP 2: SIGN COMPLAINT WITH ANIMAL SERVICES

Please allow three to five days for the report to be entered into the computer system prior to this next step.

It is advised to obtain a copy of the police report by contacting the Police Record's Bureau at 268-4186.

Contact Animal Services at 3303 N. Hillside to sign an affidavit and swear to the facts of your report. Animal Services will provide you with a court date and location for your Environmental Court hearing. Please keep in mind that this date may change based on when the complaint is served to the defendant. It is strongly recommended that you confirm your court date with Animal Services to ensure the defendant has been served and that the court date is correct by calling 268-8378 Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 6:30pm.

During your meeting with Animal Services you may provide any witnesses to be subpoenaed to the hearing on your behalf. Witnesses can be a valuable asset to your case when all the judge has to go on is a 1 vs. 1 argument. It is possible that the barking dog is a neighborhood problem. Communicate with your neighbors, they may be able to support your claim.

Consider keeping a log of dates and times of incidents. A log has been provided in this packet on page #4. Video or audio recorded evidence may also support your complaint in court as well.

If you fail to attend court your complaint is dismissed and you may be charged with contempt of court.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

These types of complaints are very disruptive and aggravating to the neighborhoods they affect. Before the situation becomes a police matter, have you considered talking to the neighbor about the complaint? If your area has a neighborhood association or home owners association, maybe it can help resolve the issue as a mediator. If you decide to contact your neighbor, it is recommended that you talk calmly and civilly to prevent a disturbance, making the situation much worse.

METHODS & PRODUCTS

Court is not always the first step or the only way to address the problem of an excessively barking dog. If you feel that the situation could be better handled by talking with the owner about the issue, consider providing the

following alternatives and information.

It is perfectly normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time; however, continual barking for long periods of time is a sign that the dog has a problem that needs to be addressed. The first step the owner should do is to determine when and for how long the dog barks, and what is causing him to bark. If the owner works during the hours of the complaint, maybe he/she could use a recorder to see and or hear what the complaint is about.

The dog may be barking because he/she's bored and lonely. Social Isolation, being frustration, and seeking attention can cause many types of behavior problems. Is he/she left alone for long periods of time without opportunities for interaction? Is his/her environment relatively barren, with-out playmates or toys? Here are some recommendations for the owner:

- Daily walks with your dog
- Play fetch
- Teach new commands or tricks and practice them every day
- Take an obedience class with your dog
- Provide interesting toys to keep your dog busy when you're not home
- Keep your dog inside when you're unable to supervise him
- If you work very long hours, consider doggie day care or have a friend walk or play with him

If the dog is exhibiting territorial or protective behavior, the owner can employ training that will still get the job done without being excessive. Here are some recommendations for the owner:

- Teach the dog a "quiet" command. When he begins to bark at a passer-by, allow two or three barks, then say "quiet" and interrupt his barking by shaking a can filled with pennies or squirting water at his mouth with a spray bottle or squirt gun. This will cause him to stop barking momentarily. While he's quiet, say "good quiet" and pop a tasty treat into his mouth. Remember, the loud noise or squirt isn't meant to punish him; rather it is to startle him into being quiet so he/she can quickly be rewarded.
- Desensitize the dog to the stimulus that triggers the barking. Teach him that the people he views as intruders are actually friends and that good things happen to him when these people are around. Ask someone to walk by your yard, starting far enough away so that your dog is not barking, then reward him for quiet behavior as he obeys a "sit" or "down" command.

There are a variety of products on the market to prevent dogs from barking excessively. Try visiting a pet store or searching the internet for all available options. Here are a few to help you get started:

- Shock Collar
- Anti-Bark Muzzle
- Ultra Sonic Sound Emitting Device

PHONE NUMBERS

Here are some phone numbers to assist you:

PATROL NORTH ♦ 350-3400 PATROL EAST ♦ 350-3420 PATROL SOUTH ♦ 350-3440
PATROL WEST ♦ 350-3460 ANIMAL CONTROL ♦ 268-8378 RECORDS DEPARTMENT ♦ 268-4186

