

## **NUISANCE COMPLAINTS**

The City of Keokuk Animal Control receives an average of 150 animal nuisance complaints a month.

### **NUISANCE ORDINANCES:**

#### **Noisy, annoying dogs or cats.**

(a) It is unlawful for the owner of a dog or cat to permit or allow the dog or cat to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to a person, or persons, by frequent and habitual howling, whining, yelping, barking or yowling and mewing.

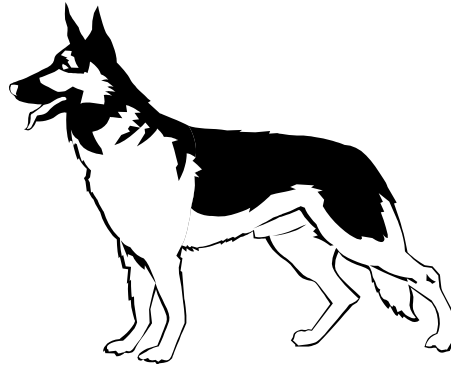
#### **Owner or person in charge of animals to keep place in a sanitary condition.**

It is unlawful for the owner or person in charge of any dog, cat, horse or other animal to permit excrement or droppings from any of the animals to collect on the premises of the owner or person in charge causing odor or unsanitary conditions. Failure to keep the premises in a clean and sanitary condition is a nuisance and may be abated.

Any person who walks an animal on private or public grounds shall be responsible for the immediate and proper disposal of the solid waste excreted by that animal, except when the animal is on the owner's or keeper's property.

## **HEALTH HAZARD**

Excessive noise, or loudness, not only disturbs the peace, but also creates a health hazard. An average size dog barks at "120 db and 500 Hz." Damage to the human ear can occur at 85 db. Therefore, a continually barking dog can cause stress and loss of sleep.



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(319) 526-5421**

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(319) 524-2741**

# **BARK! BARK! BARK!**



# **IS YOUR DOG A GOOD PET OR A NUISANCE?**

Determine for yourself whether your dog is a good companion, a good watch dog, or a neighborhood nuisance, by answering the following:

Does your dog bark excessively ...

- When he is left alone and lonesome?
- When another dog barks?
- When the kids next door come out to play?
- When he's outside and wants to get in the house?
- When the neighbors leave or return home?
- At garbage collectors, passing cars?

If your answer is "yes" to any one of these, your dog could be a neighborhood noise nuisance.

Dogs bark for many reasons: when other dogs bark; when they are generally excited or frustrated; or when a stranger intrudes on their territory.

Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as well as to those who have to live with a noisy dog.

One of the most common public complaints is about neighbors' barking dogs. The Keokuk Animal Control Officer would like to share some helpful tips.

## WATER TRAINING METHOD

The water training method works for almost all dogs.

- Be consistent and persistent.
- Be ready for an immediate response. Have ready a plant mister filled with water.
- Say "QUIET DOG" (or whatever its name is) and give one or two squirts of water at the dog while it is barking. He will stop at once.
- If the dog moves away, repeat saying "Quiet" as you go to him and give one more squirt of water at him. Repeat each time he barks needlessly.
- Remember to reassure the dog that you are still friends by petting him later when he's quiet.
- Usually a day or two of training is enough if you are consistent. (5 to 10 water treatments)
- With this conditioning procedure your dog will soon learn to expect a squirt of water when you shout "quiet". Once he has made the association, you won't need to squirt him again—only rarely, should he forget.

Good Dog



## TIPS FOR DOG OWNERS

The first step in stopping nuisance barking is having a proper dog containment area. If chained you must ensure that your dog cannot become tangled. Proper food, water, shelter, and shade from the sun must be provided. The dog's area must be clean, free of mud, debris, and fecal matter. All of these are required by City Code.

- Always find out WHY your dog barks.
- Do not turn a garden hose on a dog or throw rocks or other objects at him.
- Spanking/hitting is an ineffective substitute for the water treatment and rarely solves any problems.
- Remember, dogs are companion animals and should be kept in the house during the normal night hours whenever possible.

### REWARDS

Correcting unnecessary barking is more convenient during the day, but getting up a few times at night will prove worthwhile. After that, you and your neighbors will know when your dog barks, there's a real reason. If your neighbors are home and you're not, they will check to see if the police should be notified.

The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as enjoying a peaceful and quiet night, and allowing your neighbors to enjoy one too, is well worth the effort.