

What if my neighbor's dog is barking excessively?

- If you would like to make a complaint concerning excessive barking in your neighborhood, you should call the Portsmouth Animal Control Officer during regular business hours.
- Your complaint can be anonymous however you will be asked some identifying information about yourself, and you will be asked to describe the nature of the ongoing problem, including the address of the barking dog.
- After you describe your complaint, the Animal Control Officer will contact the owner of the dog and you will be asked to keep a journal of the dog's barking for a period of one (1) week. This record will then be turned over to the Animal Control Officer as evidence.
- If this journal shows violation(s) of the City Ordinance, a summons will be issued to the dog's owner and a court appearance will be made. As the complainant you may be subpoenaed to appear as a witness in court.



PORTSMOUTH ANIMAL CONTROL

*Patricia Tate
Animal Control Officer
603-610-7441*

ANIMAL CONTROL

Barking Dogs

Patricia Tate
Animal Control Officer
(603) 610-7441
Portsmouth Police Department



The City of Portsmouth NH defines excessive barking to be a nuisance, and a dog which barks excessively is termed a public nuisance animal

What does the City Ordinance say about nuisance animals?

Sec. 6.702 – Nuisance Animals

No owner, keeper or other person having control shall permit an animal to be a nuisance animal. For the purposes of this section, nuisance animal means any animal or animals which:

- Molests or harasses passersby, domestic animals or passing vehicles in the public way;
- Attacks or threatens persons or other domestic animals;
- Punctures the skin of any person or domestic animal;
- Damages property other than that of the owner;
- Defecates off the premises of the animal's owner, and the owner or other individual in control of the animal fails to remove such deposit immediately;

- Bark, whines, howls or cries in a continuous fashion for more than thirty (30) minutes.

What are the penalties?

Sec. 6.710 – Penalties

An offense of any provision of this chapter by any person shall be deemed a violation and shall be punishable by the following penalties:

- *First Offense.* A first offense of any provision of this chapter in any twelve-month period shall be punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00)
- *Second Offense.* A second offense of any provision of this chapter in any twelve-month period shall be punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00)
- *Third and subsequent offenses.* A third or subsequent offense of any provision of this chapter in any twelve-month period shall be punishable by a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
- *Repeated Nuisance Animals.* In the event that an animal is found to be a nuisance three (3) or more times in a twelve-month period, the Animal Control Officer or a City resident may make a written complaint to the Chair of the Animal Control Committee. The Animal Control Committee shall hear all

complaints in a public hearing and may then issue such orders as are necessary to protect the public and/or the animal.

I've been told that my dog barks too much, what help is available?

If your dog is barking excessively, a number of things can be done to help solve the problem.

Anti-bark collars, which utilize either static (electrical) correction or a citronella spray, are commercially available at many area stores and through various catalogs.

The Portsmouth Police Department has a program that allows you to borrow a PetSafe anti-bark collar for up to two weeks to use as a training aid. This collar utilizes static correction to curb barking behavior. If you are interested in borrowing one of these collars, you should contact Portsmouth Animal Control at 603-610-7441.

Training can often solve a dog's behavioral problems. You may find local trainers by visiting the website of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers at www.apdt.com. Some local trainers who have offered to assist Portsmouth dog owners with in-home training and consultation are:

Animal Manners Inc	431-4738
Anitech Dog Training	898-1168
Better Behavior Dog Training	743-3172