

Owner Responsibility

Edgewater Municipal Code Chapter 7 Article 6 Sec. 7-6-340

It is unlawful for any animal owner or any person in charge of any animal to permit the animal to disturb the peace and quiet of any person or neighborhood by barking, fighting, howling, yelping, crying or emitting any other similar sound.

Violations could result in a warning, citation, or possible court appearance.

Talking it Over

If the noise your dog is making is upsetting your neighbors, the first step is to talk things over with them. It is important to correct the problem so that legal action is not taken. Stay calm, and try to see it from their point of view: perhaps they're working shifts, or have a baby or small children. Bear in mind that they might be worried about whether the dog is OK and remember, you might not know how serious the problem is if your dog is barking more when you're not at home.

Understanding the Problem

Ask your neighbors to tell you exactly when your dog is barking, and for how long. If you're out a lot, ask them to note down the times when the barking happens. If you're in, make a note yourself. Think about using a web cam or video camera to find out what your dog is doing when you're not there, or try a 'set-up' - pretend you're going out for the day, then wait outside the door to see what your dog does. If it starts barking and howling, go back in and tell it firmly to be quiet, training your furry friend is a great step to help problem barking.

Contact Information

Edgewater Code Enforcement

1800 Harlan Street
Edgewater, Co. 80214
www.EdgewaterCO.com/Code

Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Thu.

Phone: 303-591-8940

Local Assistance

Edgewater Police Department
303-235-0500

Foothills Animal Shelter
303-278-7575

Jefferson County Animal Control & Shelter
303-288-3294

Conflict Resolution & Mediation Services

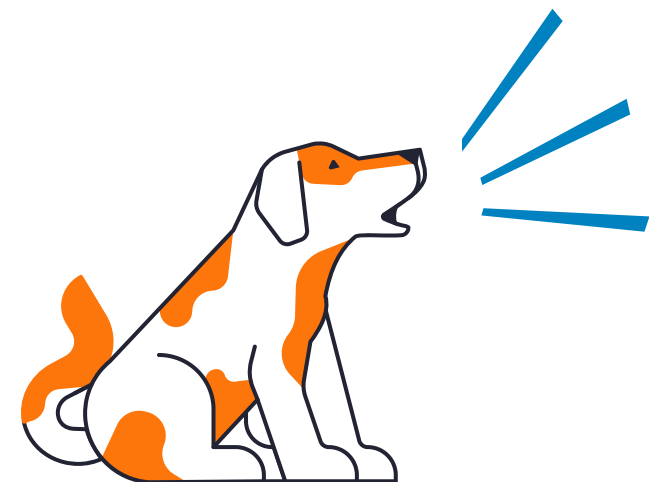
through Jefferson County

Oval Options
720-220-8683 or
www.OvalOptions.com

Jeffco Office of Dispute Resolutions
720-625-5940



PROBLEM BARKING?



Edgewater Code Enforcement
www.EdgewaterCO.com/Code

Why Dogs Bark

Loneliness

Many dogs bark because they are lonely and want company. By barking, the dog often gets your attention, and whether you punish him or not, he has attained his goal. Therefore, he may continue to bark just so he can see you. This is a bad situation for you and the dog.

Restrictions on Freedom

A dog who is chained continuously may become aggressive. He will soon bark at the slightest sound or movement, such as leaves, moving cars, or the wind.

Protecting their Territory

This is very natural for any type of dog, but consistent and habitual barking is a sign of an unruly dog. It is important to teach your dog to bark enough to alert you, and then respond to you and sit quietly. This way the dog feels he is protecting his property while the owner is still in control of his behavior.

Boredom

Some dogs will bark just because they are bored. To occupy your pet while you are away, supply him with chew toys, beef bones, a ball or a stuffed toy.

When your dog starts to bark, it is your responsibility to find out what is causing the disturbance and resolve the problem. The dog should not be allowed to bark at any activity unless it takes place on the dog owner's property. The best thing you can do is to work on training. Spend time with your dog and include him in your daily activities. You are his only source for exercise and love.

Solutions

Some General Rules

Be consistent.

- **Reward your dog** every time he is quiet when it would normally have barked.
- When it barks, **tell it firmly to be quiet**. You also need to remember that your dog is part of the family.
- **Find out what** your dog is barking at, and if possible, remove it.
- If he only barks **when you leave**, bring it inside, like in a laundry room or garage. Leave some toys or chews, and put the radio on quietly. Be certain to provide old blankets, rugs, or carpet for your pet to lay on. A cold and hard cement floor is far from comfortable. No matter where you decide to keep your pet, be certain clean water and shelter are available at all times. Many dogs will bark and whine if they are thirsty or cold.
- If your dog is barking **to get attention, try this**: Look at your dog, then look away to show you're not going to respond. Don't give it any attention while it's barking. Try deliberately ignoring it for 20-30 minutes two or three times a day, and get everyone in the house to do the same. Doing this for 15 minutes before you go out can help stop your dog barking when you leave.

Let your neighbors know what steps you are taking to reduce barking.

Other Options & Ideas

- **Training & obedience classes** are a great way to learn more on how to help your dog.
- If you are too busy to spend time with your dog every day, you may want to look into **doggie daycare or dog walkers** in your area. A tired dog is a good dog.
- **Anti-bark collars** and other electronic or sonic devices are available through local pet stores and pet product distributors. Be sure to consult with your vet before using this method.
- **Talk with your veterinarian** or animal behaviorist regarding what method may be the most appropriate for your pet.



Books

- *How to be Your Dog's Best Friend*, by Monks of New Skete
- *The Power of Positive Dog Training*, by Pat Miller
- *Cesar's Rules*, by Cesar Millan
- *The Puppy Primer*, by Patricia McConnell

Online Resources

- HumaneSociety.org - Search "Barking"
- Pets.WebMD.com - Under "Healthy Dogs" - Behavior & Training tab
- YouTube.com - Search "Barking Dog Training"
- DDFL.org (Dumb Friends League) Search "The Barking Dog"