

Barking Dogs and Appropriate Response

Good citizens of the City of Bangor continue to be bothered by neighbors who allow their dogs to bark incessantly. Persons are allowed to have three dogs. Should a dog have puppies, a person is allowed to keep the puppies for three months after birthing. This is the only time they may have more than 3 dogs. Under two city ordinances, dogs that are allowed to bark and thereby disturb or annoy another person or by said barking cause discomfort to another person are in violation of city ordinances. This is a civil infraction.

Citizens are encouraged to call the police when they have a barking dog complaint. They are encouraged to call each time they have a complaint regardless of whether it is every hour on the hour or every day of the week.

The Officer who takes the call or the complaint should attempt to hear the dog barking personally if not immediately then at some available point during their shift. If that isn't possible or if that doesn't result in the hearing of the dog barking, the Officer should ask the complaining party if they are willing to sign a complaint. If the offended party is not willing to sign a complaint and the officer does not hear the dog barking personally, nothing can be done. The complainant should be reminded to call the next time the offense occurs.

In all cases where the Officer hears the offending dog barking or the complainant is willing to sign a complaint, the owner of the offending dog shall be written a ticket for the appropriate offense. (See below.)

Code of Ordinances 90.18 Barking Dogs (Ordinance 142 passed 7-14-1980)

It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog in the city by which loud and frequent barking, howling, yelping, growling or other noise, causes serious annoyance to any people of the city.

Code of Ordinances 94.05 Animal Noises (Ordinance 160 passed 9-26-1983)

No person shall keep or maintain or permit the keeping of, on any premise owned, occupied or controlled by such person, any animal or bird otherwise permitted to be kept, which by frequent or habitual howling, barking, meowing, squawking, or other noise reasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood or causes discomfort or annoyance to any person,

Code of Ordinances 12.06 F Civil Penalties, Ordinance 257 passed 2-5-2001

Decriminalizes barking dog violations by establishing the violation as a Municipal Civil Infraction. First offenses carry a \$45 fine; second offenses are set at \$90 and third offenses are \$135. Fourth offenses are criminal offenses as per City Code of Ordinances per 10.99