

# BARKING DOGS AND COMPLAINT PROCESS

*(Applicable within City Spheres of Influence)*

In December 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted a new section of Chapter 4 of the Butte County Code that changed the procedure for barking dog complaints in the areas of the county that are defined as being within the sphere of influence of an incorporated city.

Note: [Click here to see the maps designating city/county spheres of influence.](#)

Before filing a formal barking dog complaint, we encourage you to attempt to make contact with the owner of the barking dog. If the dog is barking when the owner is not home, the owner may not be aware of the problem.

If you are within the sphere of influence of a city, the following procedure shall be used to file a barking dog complaint. Please note that at least two (2) complainants from separate households are required to initiate the process. [\(Click here for the barking dog excerpt from the Butte County Code\)](#)

- **You, and at least one other party**, initiates the first complaint by mailing or faxing the completed and signed [Barking Dog Complaint Form \(click for form\)](#). When the two separate complaints are received, an Animal Control Officer will make a personal visit with the dog owner or “responsible person” to issue a courtesy notice, requesting that immediate measures be taken to resolve the problem. A copy of the Barking Dog Ordinance and educational will also be provided.
- From the day of the visit, the dog owner or “responsible person” is allowed ten (10) days to remedy the barking violation.
- If after ten (10) days from the day of the visit the barking continues, the original complainants must file a second complaint by mail or fax on forms provided. This form includes a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that the dog barking is violating the county ordinance. Please contact our office to request the required forms.
- An Animal Control Officer will then make a second visit with the dog owner and may issue a civil citation for the barking dog violation.
- The dog owner or “responsible person, may request an Administrative Hearing to dispute the citation. The Administrative Hearing Officer will make the final determination.