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BARKING DOGS AND THE COMPLAINT PROCESS

(Applicable to the Rural Areas of Butte County)

The following procedure shall be used to document a barking dog nuisance in the rural areas of Butte County. "Rural areas" are defined as those areas that are not within the sphere of influence of a city.

If you are experiencing problems with a neighbor's barking dog, first we encourage you to contact the barking dog owners to let them know of the barking problem. Many times the owner is unaware of the problem or the extent of the problem. Sometimes an owner may have been out of town for an extended period, leaving the dog at home and unaware of the issue at hand. Your neighbor may also have already been advised of the problem and could be in the process of resolving the barking nuisance. In any case, simple neighborhood communication could be the start to the resolution of a problem.

If you wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding barking dogs in the rural area, at least two (2) complainants from separate households must:

- Keep a five (5) day barking log, detailing the time and duration of the barking.
- Provide the address and if known, the name of the dog owner.
- Provide description of dog(s).
- Any audio or video documentation may be submitted, but is not required.

After the barking logs are submitted, they will be reviewed for completeness and evaluated to see if enough evidence has been collected to issue a court citation. If a citation is issued and contested, you will be notified and asked to appear as a witness if the dog owner requests a court trial. Failure to appear in court as a witness could void a citation.