

Section 4-4-25. Noisy dogs.

(a) No person shall keep any dog which barks, bays, cries, howls or makes any other noise continuously or incessantly for a period of ten minutes or barks, bays, cries, howls or makes any other noise intermittently for a period of twenty minutes within a thirty-minute period of time to the disturbance of any person at any time of day or night and regardless of whether the dog is physically situated in or upon private property.

(b) A dog shall not be deemed a noisy dog for purposes of this section if, at the time the dog is barking or making any other noise, a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in or upon which the dog is situated or for any other legitimate cause which teased or provoked the dog. Such action is declared to be a public nuisance and detrimental to the public health and welfare.

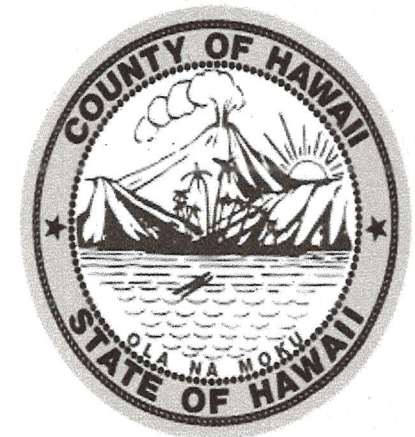
Tips for dog owners to help control barking:

The key to solving the problem of excess barking in your dog begins with an understanding of what is causing this behavior. Once you have determined a cause, you have a greater chance of choosing the most effective solution or behavioral modification.

- Always ensure access to fresh water, shade, shelter and exercise. Feed once per day, at minimum.
- Give your dog something to do with lots of toys such as balls and chewy toys.
- If your dog is seeing or hearing something that is causing him to bark, move him to the other side or back of the house. If inside the house, close the curtains and leave a radio on for company.
- In the event your dog is barking in response to environmental noises or the barking is simply due to its temperament, behavioral modification methods should be used. These methods can include reconditioning using a verbal reprimand such as "No!" and leash correction. Corrective actions should be applied while the barking is occurring in order for your dog to associate the unwanted behavior with the positive reinforcement instead of punishment. Reward your dog when it stops barking.
- Indirect intervention methods can also be applied. These techniques can range from spraying your dog with water while it is barking or using anti-bark collars such as a citronella spray collar or one which emits loud or high frequency sounds that interrupt and deter barking. These devices can be controlled by the owner or triggered by the dog's barking. Those devices are particularly effective when barking occurs in the owner's absence.

STOP YOUR NEIGHBOR'S

DOG FROM BARKING



Section 4-4-26. Noisy dog; reasonable attempts to reduce noise; penalties.

(a) Any person disturbed by a noisy dog shall make a reasonable attempt to advise the owner or custodian who keeps such dog of this fact.

Reasonable attempts for notification include by letter, email, visit to the owner or custodian, or any other legal method. If the person disturbed by a noisy dog is unable to notify the owner or custodian of the noisy dog, or after notifying the owner or custodian, the nuisance is not abated, the person disturbed by the noisy dog may then notify the appropriate enforcement agency.

(b) The owner or custodian of a noisy dog that causes a disturbance as provided in section 4-4-25 shall be guilty of a violation of this section:

(1) If after being advised of the disturbance per subsection (a), the owner or custodian of a noisy dog does not take immediate and effective action to abate the nuisance; or

(2) If the appropriate enforcement agency is notified and responds to a complaint of a noisy dog and the nuisance is not abated.

(c) There shall be a penalty of \$25 for the first violation of this section. The second violation has a penalty of \$75, the third \$100, and any subsequent violation \$200.



Reasons for barking:

Improper confinement. This might include leaving a dog alone in a locked room, a too-small kennel, restricted tethering outdoors, or in a setting without proper shelter. All can cause frustration which may lead to excess barking.

Environmental sounds. These might include perception of potential danger such as an intruder, people walking on the street, loud noises such as thunder, construction, or other barking dogs.

Other causes might include separation anxiety, the dog's own temperament, over aggressiveness, being strongly territorial or needing food or water.

Inadequate exercise can easily result in a dog that has pent-up energy and barks out of frustration. A well exercised dog is more likely to sleep when you're not there.

Hawaii County Animal Control and Protection Agency
808-327-3558

Hawaii County Police non-emergency
808-935-3311