

## HOW TO HANDLE EXCESSIVE DOG BARKING IN COYOTE CREEK

Our pets are integral parts of our families and we tend to be defensive when someone complains about our dogs when they bark excessively. Coyote Creek defines excessive dog barking as "loud, continuous, repetitively, and without owner control so as to be offensive to our neighbors." Excessive dog barking is prohibited by our community governing documents and it is important for dog owners to take steps to help resolve this problem before it becomes an official complaint to the Board of Directors. These steps include training, restricting your dog to a confined area when you are not home, and the use of bark collars.

Even with these corrective steps available to a dog owner, one of the most common complaints received by the Board of Directors from lot owners in Coyote Creek relates to excessive dog barking from neighboring lots. The Association has a policy in place that includes multiple contacts with the barking dog's owner, a hearing and possible fines. However, there is another process that you can add to your arsenal of tools to eliminate this annoyance.

For that reason, if you contact the Association with a complaint of excessive dog barking, this process should be followed:

1. The Association will get in touch with the offending lot owner and implement the [Barking Dog Policy](#).
2. The Board will also ask you, as the complainant, to do a few things, too.
  - You will be asked if you have reached out to your neighbor to try to eliminate the annoyance (and will be encouraged to do so).
  - You will be asked to download a [Dog Barking Log Sheet](#) which will provide the Board with a written record as to any continuing or future violation.
  - Finally, you will be directed to Pima County to get the county animal control officials involved. As you will see by reviewing the [Pima County Animal Noise Complaint Process](#), the county has the legal authority to initiate mediation between owners; issue citations to appear before a judge or Hearing Officer; and issue a fine of up to \$500 per offense, should cause be found.

As a reminder to all pet owners in Coyote Creek, please be a "Good Neighbor." Consider your neighbors and realize that one of the most annoying homeowner issues is when your dog barks incessantly and repeatedly. There are steps you can take to be a good neighbor and you will be expected to take those steps.