

Dog Barking Noise Complaint

Pima County

Animal Noise Complaint Process

Excessive Noise from Animals (updated 4/6/10)

An animal noise violation is a civil violation.

The following is the current animal noise complaint enforcement process and meets the administrative hearing requirements of proof that the noise disturbs "the public peace, quiet or comfort of the neighboring inhabitants."

1. Register an animal noise complaint with Pima Animal Care Enforcement for **Tucson**: Enforcement: (520)243-5900 for **Ajo**: Main: 1 (520)387-7502.Fax: 1 (520) 243-5960.
2. Letters are sent by Pima Animal Care Center to complainant and the animal owner notifying parties of a possible problem and requests resolution within 7-10 days. For anonymous complaints, a letter will be sent to the animal owner only. If the problem is resolved, process is completed.
3. If not resolved, complainant is instructed to contact a Noise Complaint Specialist at 243-5910, to request further investigation. Mediation between owner and complainant will be offered to complainant, but is not required. If mediation is accepted and successful, process is completed.
4. When mediation is unsuccessful or declined, the complainant can request a noise log be mailed to them to record animal noise incidents.
5. An owner will be cited to appear before a Judge or Hearing Officer within the appropriate jurisdictional court for a violation of the animal noise law if:
 - A valid animal noise log is returned by the complainant who then must appear at any hearing held as a result of a citation, or
 - In the case a second anonymous complaint is submitted, an enforcement officer will be dispatched to the scene:
 1. If the officer hears any animal from the same property howl, bark, meow, squawk or make other sounds continuously for 15 minutes, and
 2. Feels the noise may be a nuisance to the neighborhood, the officer will interview the neighbors to assess if the noise is a nuisance to two to more residents in the area, and
 3. If two or more neighbors are troubled by noise from the animals, the officer will interview the owner, and
 4. If evidence gathered from the neighbors supports a violation, a citation is issued.
6. Fines range from \$50 to \$500 per offense depending on the jurisdiction.
7. Complaint cases will close after six months.
8. Complainants may also pursue civil action of their own.