

## PUNISHMENT

### Any person(s) found guilty of a violation shall be:

- 1) Punished with a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a first offense.
- 2) Punished with a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a second offense.
- 3) Punished with a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or six months in jail or both for three (3) or more offenses.

Payment of any fine or service of a jail sentence shall not relieve any person from having to correct the problem resulting from the violation. The court may also order that the guilty party pay the County all of its costs for being involved in the case.

If you have any questions about Nuisance Animal Noise, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at **1-800-472-5609**. Thank you.

Completed Animal Noise Nuisance Complaint Forms are to be returned to:

San Bernardino County  
Animal Care & Control - Field Services  
351 N. Mt. View Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010



## San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program

# NUISANCE ANIMAL NOISE



## WHAT IS A NUISANCE ANIMAL?

Any animal that habitually barks, howls, crows makes any other loud noises in such a way as to at any time, day or night, cause annoyance or discomfort to people living in the neighborhood.

### A NUISANCE ANIMAL NOISE MAY EXIST IF:

- 1) The disturbance occurs at any time, day or night.
- 2) The animal owner/keeper lives in an "R" (residential) zone district.
- 3) The complaining party lives within 200 yards of the animal owner/keeper.
  - a) A waiver to the 200 yards may be permitted upon approval of a Waiver Application Form.
- 4) At least two (2) complaints from separate households are filed.

However:

- a) One (1) complaint from a single household may be filed if only one (1) neighbor lives within 200 yards of the animal owner/keeper.

or:
- b) If there is one (1) complaint from a single household seeking a waiver of the two-complaint rule. A Waiver Application Form must be completed and submitted with the complaint form showing good cause for a waiver of the two-complaint rule.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A COMPLAINT IS FILED?

Upon receiving the first complaint of nuisance animal noise, San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control will send a letter to the animal owner/keeper informing them of the complaint and asking for their support in resolving the problem.



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The letter is sent:

- 1) Allow at least two (2) weeks from the date the letter was sent to the animal owner/keeper to see if the problem is resolved. If the animal noise does not stop, at least two (2) persons from separate households must file a **FORMAL WRITTEN COMPLAINT** with San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control.
- 2) Upon receiving two or more completed Nuisance Animal Noise Complaint Forms, (or one if there is only one neighbor or a Waiver Application Form and a waiver or the two-complaint rule is granted) San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control will assign an Animal Control Officer to serve a Notice of Violation on the animal owner/keeper. The Notice of Violation will state that the animal owner/keeper has fourteen (14) days to suppress the animal noise.
- 3) If after fourteen (14) days from the date the Notice of Violation is issued, there is still animal noise occurring, then the complaining party may inform San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control of the violation by calling 1-800-472-5609.
- 4) An Animal Control Officer will be dispatched between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to make contact with one of the complaining parties who signed the Nuisance Animal Noise Complaint Form. The Animal Control Officer will require the complaining party's signature on a citation form that states that they witnessed the violation. **THE COMPLAINING PARTY MUST TESTIFY IN COURT AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO SUBPOENA.**
- 5) The Animal Control Officer will then issue the citation to the animal owner/keeper.
- 6) If a violation occurs after the first citation is issued and it is reported to San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control by a complaining party who has completed and returned a Nuisance Animal Noise Complaint Form, then additional citations can be issued to the animal owner/keeper for every day that the violation occurs.