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**Barking Dog Complaints**

*Helena City Code provides it is unlawful and the owner may be cited for a dog that on* ***three*** *(3)* ***separate occasions*** *over the course of a* ***seven day period*** *(1) makes annoying noises continuously for a period of time greater than* ***30 minutes*** *; or (2) makes annoying noises continuously for periods of time that, when counting the time of actual barking, accumulates to a period of time which is greater than* ***60 minutes***  *out of a* ***12-hour*** *period. The term "annoying noises" includes, but is not limited to, barking, howling, yelping, whining, baying or any other noises that annoy any person or neighborhood to an unreasonable degree.  "Continuously" means any noise that is repeated with less than one minute of silence between the annoying noises*.

In order for a prosecution for the violation, you will need to complete a “Barking Dog Log.” You must fill this log out completely. You must also sign the log. You must be willing to be present in court and provide testimony to a judge or a jury if necessary.

A barking dog case will be stronger if supported by more than one neighbor. Each offended neighbor needs to either keep a log or be in close contact with someone who is keeping one, and they to would need to be available for court testimony if necessary.

When filling out the log include:

* Specific dates and times.
* Duration of the barking and if it was **constant** or **intermittent.**
* Any **causes** of the barking or other annoying sound?
* Location of the animal and **which animal** if more than one on the same premise.
* Was there anyone home?
* Did you observe the animal?
* Do not enter “24 hours” or “all day” for the noise duration.

The City Prosecutor will review your log to see if a noisy animal charge is viable. Please keep in mind that whether to prosecute is entirely within the discretion of the City Attorney’s Office