

# What To Do About Barking Dogs in Scottsdale

Barking dogs in the City of Scottsdale can be a frustrating situation for both neighbors and pet owners. This handout provides helpful information and resources to guide you through what to do if you're experiencing a nuisance animal issue.



## Barking Dog Violations

**Scottsdale City Code Sec. 4-17(c)** states:

No person shall knowingly keep or harbor any animal or fowl which by frequent or habitual howling, yelping, barking, crowing or the making of other noises shall annoy or disturb a neighborhood or any two (2) or more persons, one (1) of which may be a police officer or an animal control officer.

### Key things to know about this ordinance:

- The barking must be habitual—not a one-time event.
- The person reporting must be willing to press charges and participate in the court process.
- Police or Animal Control cannot act as victims; they can only help verify the nuisance.

## First Steps You Can Take

1. **Talk to your neighbor or apartment complex** about the issue. Many dog owners don't realize their pet is a problem when they're away from home.
2. **Leave this information packet** with your neighbor. It's a helpful, non-confrontational way to raise awareness.
3. **Not comfortable talking to your neighbor?** You can report barking dogs through Scottsdale EZ for assistance. Visit [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), and search "EZ".

## Pro Tip: Use Scottsdale EZ!

Did you know you can report barking dogs (and a whole lot more) through the Scottsdale EZ system?

It's your all-in-one tool to report potholes, missed trash pickup, overgrown weeds, and—yes—even noisy pets.

### Fast, easy, and accessible 24/7.

Report online, track updates, and stay in the know. Visit Scottsdale EZ to get started.

## What About the Police?

You can call the Scottsdale Police, but remember:

- Most barking dog calls occur when owners aren't home.
- Officers cannot enter private property or impound a dog just for barking.
- Their first step will be to contact the owner with this information—just like Code Enforcement.

## Mediation Option

Still barking after your first efforts? The City offers **free mediation services** to help neighbors come to a peaceful solution.

For mediation info, visit [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), and search "Mediation Program".

## Legal Steps: Filing Charges

If nothing else works and you're ready to move forward legally:

1. A police officer or aide must verify the barking is habitual.
2. A case number may be opened and the neighbor notified.
3. A district staff member will manage the case.
4. If verified, charges may be submitted to the City Prosecutor.

You must be willing to follow through with the court process.

## If You Live in an Apartment or HOA

Your complex or HOA should be your first stop.

- They can issue notices, fines, or even help relocate tenants.
- Police will not be able to solve barking problems while the owner is away.
- Your complex has the same info and tools the City does.

## In Summary

We get it—barking dogs can truly disrupt your peace with little recourse available to you in the moment for an immediate fix. Your best actions are:

- Start with your neighbor to talk about your concern
- Use Scottsdale EZ to activate City of Scottsdale staff
- Contact a Community Officer or Constituent Services
- Request mediation
- Consider legal action if the above remedies prove ineffective