

1. A person wishing to file a complaint against the owner of a dog creating a disturbance by barking, howling or yelping may wish to print and anonymously mail the letter on page 4 and 5 of this document in an attempt to notify your neighbor in a discrete manner that their dog is causing a noise nuisance.
2. If you do not see an improvement in a reasonable amount of time, you might want to consider filing an official complaint with the Town of Omro. To do so, you will need to complete the **Barking Dog Complaint Form** as well as the **Barking Complaint Log** below. A detailed, specific, and accurately kept log means a better chance of success if the case should be challenged in court.
3. Keep the log for 48 continuous hours. It is not necessary to stay up all night to monitor noise; just note when noise annoys you.
4. Indicate each and every time the noise is annoying and for how long the dog makes noise. Make sure you verify that the dog in question is the dog making the noise.
5. A detailed, specific, and accurate log is absolutely necessary in order to resolve or prove a public nuisance violation.
6. The information you submit will be used for investigating the complaint and will not be disclosed to any other party except as required by law. If you fail to provide the information, no action can be taken in regards to this complaint.
7. Additional witnesses from neighbors residing in the vicinity who are willing to not only complete these forms but also appear in court could be helpful should charges be filed and legal action taken.
7. **By filing an official complaint with the Town of Omro, you are stating that the noise created by this dog (or these dogs) was loud and annoyed or disturbed you personally. If legal action is taken and a trial set, you may be subpoenaed and required to testify based on your verification of the evidence contained on the complaint form and the log.**



## BARKING DOG COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION	
COMPLAINANT'S NAME:	
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:	
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	
HOME (     )	OTHER (     )

BARKING DOG INFORMATION			
OWNER'S NAME (if known):			
ADDRESS OF BARKING DOG(S):			
TELEPHONE NUMBERS (if known):			
HOME (     )	OTHER (     )		
DESCRIPTION OF BARKING DOG(S) (IF KNOWN):			
(BREED)	(COLOR)	(SIZE)	GENDER M/F

Have you attempted to contact the dog(s) owner or any other party? YES/NO

If yes, name of party contacted and date: \_\_\_\_\_

What happened as a result of this contact?: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

(Please return Complaint Form with completed log.)





Dear Neighbor,

You may not be aware but your dog is currently causing a noise nuisance in the neighborhood by barking and/or howling.

I have discussed this problem with the Town of Omro which suggested that as a first step, I express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without recording an official complaint.

Attached to this letter is some information that may be of assistance to you in resolving the problem.

Your cooperation at this stage is all that is needed to avoid this matter progressing any further.

Your neighbor,

## Some simple tips for reducing barking:

- If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or garbage trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If the dog is barking through gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- An anti-barking collar may be useful for some, but not all, barking dogs.
- Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking, give a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking. If the dog will not listen to you, it will need obedience training.
- Remember, dogs bark for many reasons. If these simple tips do not help you, seek further advice.