

Animal Law Enforcement Pueblo County

How do I file a complaint?

To have an Animal Law Enforcement Officer respond to a complaint, call Pueblo Animal Services at (719) 544-3005 during regular business hours. A dispatcher will dispatch an officer to investigate your complaint. If the officer witnesses a violation when he/she arrives, appropriate action will be taken. Our officers cannot take any legal action unless they actually witness a violation in progress. This does not mean nothing can be done about a violation. Citizens who have witnessed a violation can request to meet with an officer. An officer will then investigate the complaint and take the appropriate action.

Tips on approaching your neighbor before filing a complaint:

If comfortable, approach your neighbors in a proactive and friendly manner. Your neighbors may appreciate you showing sincere interest in solving the problem together before resorting to a complaint. You may have valuable information to help them resolve the reasons for their dog's behavior, such as a pattern of the behaviors or a specific reason behind it. They may be oblivious to the specific issues and may be grateful for it being brought to their attention. ****NOTE** When contacting your neighbor, hostile attitudes can and do lead to more serious criminal charges. If you are unable to approach your neighbor in a civil manner or they are unreasonable, do NOT attempt to contact them.**

If I call in a complaint, can I be anonymous?

All calls received by Animal Law Enforcement Services are subject to the public records laws, and are subject to public inspection. There are exceptions, such as information identifying juveniles, medical information, and information about ongoing criminal investigations in which a violator has not been charged with the crime.

We do offer to mail one anonymous letter within a six (6) month time period for both noisy pet violations and leash law violations. The anonymous letter may be all that is needed to make the owner/keeper aware of the situation and of the negative impact it may be having on the neighborhood.

Why do you take complaints from people who remain anonymous?

We cannot force people to provide personal information when they call, although we always request it and having it helps us to provide better service. However, there are circumstances that sometimes warrant anonymous calls. Fear of reprisal and not wanting to have confrontations with the owners are the main reasons people give for remaining anonymous.

Many significant cases, such as animal cruelty and dangerous animals, would not be investigated if anonymous calls were not accepted. An Animal Law Enforcement Officer will investigate all cases reported to us. If there is probable cause to proceed, the officer will do so. Otherwise, the officer will close the case.

Barking Dog Reporting

Pueblo County Resolution 6.04.040 states:

- A. *It is unlawful for the owner or any person having custody of a dog to keep or permit upon any premises, lot or parcel of land in the unincorporated areas of Pueblo County and the Towns of Rye and Boone, any dog which by any sound, or cry, or offensive odor disturb the peace and comfort of any neighborhood, or in any other manner present a nuisance or menace to the public health or safety.*
For the purposes of this section, it shall be presumed that the barking, whining, howling, baying or crying of any dog continuously for a period of time in excess of five minutes or intermittently for a period of time in excess of one hour, which is plainly audible from neighboring properties constitutes a nuisance. The presumption may be rebutted by evidence that such barking, whining, howling, baying or crying was caused, at the relevant time, by either taunting of the dog by a person or persons other than the owner, or a person in control of the dog, injury to the dog, trespass upon the premises where the dog is kept, or other such evidence.

Pueblo County Resolution dictates that a dog must be creating a noise nuisance for either five (5) minutes continually or intermittently for excess of one (1) hour. There must be a witness to such violation for a citation to be issued. Contact Animal Law Enforcement Services at (719) 544-3005 and an officer will be dispatched to your location to meet with you and investigate the noisy dog allegation.

Pueblo County Resolution requires that the Animal Law Enforcement Officer provide the name of the complainant to the pet owner/keeper. Therefore, the complainant's name will appear on any citation issued as a result of noisy pet complaint.