



The Scotts Valley Police Department is committed to helping our citizens with information regarding animal nuisance complaints. The following information has been provided below for your reference and information.

The Scotts Valley City Municipal Code states the following:

6.16.10 Prohibition against permitting dogs at large.

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to permit or allow such dog to be at large anywhere in the city. The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) a dog at large on any ranch or similar undeveloped property with permission of the property owner; and (2) a dog entered in a dog show or field trials, and under the reasonable control of a competent person. (Ord. 86.2 § 1 (part), 1987)

6.16.20 Leash requirement in specified areas.

It is unlawful within the city for the owner of any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to permit or allow such dog to be away from the premises of its owner at any time if not securely restrained by a leash except in facilities enclosed by a fence or other restraining barrier where dogs are allowed to be unleashed such as lawfully established and operated dog parks, and then only to the extent authorized by regulations applicable to the facility.



6.16.30 Safety of animals in motor vehicles.

No person shall transport or carry on any public highway or public roadway any dog or other animal in a motor vehicle unless the animal is safely enclosed within the vehicle, or if traveling in an unenclosed vehicle, including, but not limited to, convertibles, pick-up and flat bed trucks, shall be confined by a container, cage, or other device that will prevent the animal from falling or jumping from the motor vehicle.

6.16.40 Safety of animals in parked vehicles.

No person shall leave any animal in any standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's health, safety, or welfare. An animal control officer, state humane officer, or police or safety officer is hereby authorized to use reasonable force to remove the animal from the vehicle whenever it appears that the animal's health, safety, or welfare is or will be endangered.

6.16.70 Defecating on public or private property.

It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to allow or permit such animal to defecate on any public property or improved private property other than that of the owner.

6.16.080 Unrestrained vicious animals or potentially dangerous dogs.

It is unlawful to permit any vicious animal or potentially dangerous dog to go unrestrained. Any vicious animal or potentially dangerous dog may be required by written order of the pound master to be confined to its owner's premises and allowed at liberty only under the direct control of the owner while on a substantial leash, not exceeding six feet in length, and properly muzzled to prevent harm or injury to the public.

6.16.110 Habitual animal noise

It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor any dog, cat or other animal, whether licensed or not, which by habitual howling, yelping, barking, or other noise disturbs or annoys another person.



What do I do if my neighbor's dog keeps barking and disturbing the peace?

Try and contact the neighbor and politely inform them of the problem.

If that is not successful, contact the police department or animal services. They can contact the neighbor and leave a "Notice of Complaint".

What if my dog only barks when someone passes by the house?

In order to be a violation of the code, the barking must be habitual (or continuous).

Can my neighbor be cited if their dog(s) continuously bark?

Yes, generally a documented warning is given first. It is up to the complaining party whether they wish a citation be issued for habitual animal noises. Officers will facilitate issuing a citation on the complaining party's behalf. It is the responsibility of the complaining party to attend any subsequent court dates to testify.

What happens if I get cited?

The citation is handled through the Santa Cruz County traffic court. You will receive a courtesy notice in the mail about the citation and the fine amount for the violation.

What can I do to resolve a barking dog incident before it becomes a code violation?

Barking comes naturally to dogs but if a dog is barking habitually it often becomes an annoyance and frustrates neighbors.

Often the problem occurs when the dog's owner is unaware of the prolonged barking. One of the best ways to resolve the problem is to talk to your neighbors about the barking or animal noise.

As a dog owner, if you are informed of the disturbance, you should take steps to control the dog's barking. If you ignore the problem, you may face legal action.

What you can do if your dog is a habitual barker.

If your four legged friend is a bit more vocal than they should be for the peace of your neighborhood, here are a few things you can do about your barking dog.

Determine what causes your dog to bark and remove or reduce those triggers if possible.

Dogs are less likely to bark if a barrier blocks their view.

Avoid long and unsupervised periods of time for your dog outdoors. If this is unavoidable, provide them treats or toys to play with to help them stay entertained.

Be alert and stop the barking as soon as it starts. This both reinforces that this is a bad behavior to the dog and shows your neighbors that you are making an effort.



Scotts Valley Dog Park

If you haven't all ready done so, take your dog to the local dog park located next to Skypark at 361 Kings Village Road. Exercising your dog regularly can help keep your dog calm at home.



Park Rules:

- Be responsible for your dog and carry a leash at all times!
- Dog owners should pick up after their own dogs (droppings or damaged toys).
- Do not bring any food into the dog park.
- NO aggressive dogs. Dogs must be removed at the first sign of aggression.
- Please do not allow your dog to run into Skypark off leash.



For more information you may click on the link below to obtain information from Santa Cruz County Animal Services.

http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/animalservices/barkform_page.asp