

Problems with Barking Dogs

It has been our experience many neighbourhood issues can be favourably resolved by personal contact between the two parties involved. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to personally express your concerns to the owner of the troublesome dog(s).

Should your communication with him/her fail to bring about the desired results relative to the behaviour of their dog(s) we are prepared to prosecute the owner in court on your behalf.

To ensure a successful prosecution in Provincial Court, there is a requirement for very specific information to be gathered, concerning the details of your complaint. Such as:

- a) All incidents of nuisance barking by the offending dog must be documented, including the date, times the dog started and stopped barking, and a brief description of the type of disturbance. We have attached a form for your convenience to assist you in keeping records of the nuisance. Also attached is a questionnaire that we would like returned to us as soon as possible.
- b) The documentation completed by you must be from personal observation of the offending dog.
- c) Documentation should be kept for a minimum of three days, however five days is preferred.
- d) **If we prosecute the owner of the offending dog on your behalf and a plea of "not guilty" is entered it will be necessary for you and any other witness to testify under oath, as well the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the accused is able to obtain a full disclosure of all evidence, which may include your name, address and telephone number. You must be able to state that you personally observed the dog barking and be prepared to describe the dog and a brief description of what took place. It is not sufficient for a witness to say they only heard a dog bark.**

Should you require further information, please contact our General Inquiries line at 403-529-8481.

Medicine Hat Police Service Municipal Bylaw & Enforcement Section

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