



August 2007

Re: Barking Dogs

Dear Homeowner/Resident,

Dog barking is one of the most common complaints received by the Board and property manager. Most residents of Hidden Trails comply with our governing documents, as well as city, county and other laws. Hidden Trails rules, and the City of Escondido's municipal code, prohibit excessive barking. A small number of owners allow their pets to disturb the peace of our community. Pet owners may be cited with a misdemeanor by the City, and/or after a hearing, receive a fine from the HOA.

Dog barking, and other noise, is especially of concern when it is repeated, out of apparent boredom, or after dark or early morning hours. Residents have several options when encountering a noise violation. They can speak to the owner of the dog; they can file a complaint with the Homeowners Association, and/or they can make a complaint to the Escondido Humane Society (daytime) or Escondido Police Department (after hours).

As residents of Hidden Trails, we must comply with both HOA rules and regulations, and city/state laws. A small number of dog owners have been irresponsible in allowing their pets to bark such that it disturbs the neighborhood. The Board is again requesting that all homeowners control their dogs, be polite and responsive if approached by a neighbor or Board member regarding a noise complaint, and promptly take appropriate actions to correct the problem.

Failure to control your pet may result in a fine hearing, and a fine or fines designed to achieve compliance (controlling their pet).

**Owners and residents: Please review the attached City of Escondido municipal code sec. 4-6 (Dogs disturbing the peace and quiet prohibited; evidence required of violation) and information from the Escondido Humane Society.**

Sincerely,

Hidden Trails HOA Board

**Sec. 4-6. Dogs disturbing the peace and quiet prohibited; evidence required of violation.**

(a) No person may own or keep a dog within the city in such a manner that the peace and quiet of the public is disturbed or in such a manner that the noise from the dog causes unreasonable annoyance or discomfort to a person of normal sensitivity.

(b) Unless good cause exists, the written affirmation by two persons having separate residences indicating that the noise made by a dog disturbs the peace and quiet or causes unreasonable annoyance or discomfort, as set forth in subsection (a) of this section, shall be required before any proceeding alleging a violation of this section. Good cause shall be the existence of circumstances preventing more than one person from perceiving the disturbance, including but not limited to factors such as the hours during which the disturbance, annoyance or discomfort occurs, the physical configuration of the residences, or the physical inability of additional persons to perceive the disturbance, annoyance or discomfort.

(c) This section shall not be construed to apply to reasonable noises emanating from legally operated veterinary hospitals, humane societies, animal shelters, or similar facilities.

(d) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ord. No. 98-22, § 2, 12-9-98; Ord. No. 2000-05 R, § 1, 3-1-00)

**The following letter is taken from the Escondido Humane Society's website:**

**Reporting:**

You may make a barking dog complaint by calling our office during normal business hours. Our direct extension for barking dog complaints is **(760) 888-2236**. If nighttime barking is disturbing the peace of the neighborhood please call your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number (760) 839-4722.

We initially address barking dog complaints by issuing a letter advising the dog owner of the complaint.

**Reasons for the Barking:**

Whining, barking and howling reflect a dog's emotional state. For example, a dog that is excited or startled may bark to express its agitation. It is important to bear in mind that your reaction to your dog's barking or whining will directly determine its behavior in the future.

- Barking to attract attention – Your dog can learn how to behave in ways that attract attention if you reward its behavior with attention. If your dog barks when it sees food and you then give it food, the dog will learn to bark for food. The dog may then learn to bark in a variety of situations, many of them inappropriate, for a reward. The reward may take many forms, including food, praise or petting. Even in the form of punishment, negative attention is still attention. Sometimes the best way to deal with attention seeking barking or whining is

to simply ignore it. As difficult as this may be, keep in mind that you encourage barking by giving your dog any attention, positive (reward) or negative (punishment).

- Barking during isolation – A dog that is not accustomed to being alone may become anxious when isolated or separated from a playmate or human companion. This anxiety may be expressed by whining, barking and howling. The dog may bark or whine only in the first moments following separation, or may continue the entire period of isolation. Behavior modification, sometimes combined with sedation as necessary, may be the viable solution. Vocalization (barking) may precede other forms of separation anxiety, such as destructiveness, inappropriate elimination and excessive grooming.

#### Stopping the Racket:

Barking may be desirable if you value a good watchdog. However, it may also escalate to excessive levels. When your dog is overreacting to the slightest sound or is barking constantly for no apparent reason, try these tips:

Regular leash walks – provide a dog with mental and physical stimulation so that it is calmer in general and less likely to seek objectionable activities. Walking also allows the dog an opportunity for important social interaction

"Rain on his parade" – to remind your dog that his barking is not appreciated and that you saying, "no barking" means "stop barking," give him a short blast of water with a squirt bottle. It's best to aim for the body and not the face. When he stops barking, praise him immediately.

"Stoke" his chew toy – your dog will have a hard time barking if his mouth is busy chewing. Chewing is a natural stress release for dogs and an occupier of time. If you're going to be gone, give your dog his favorite chew toy just before you leave. Certain toys like "Kong" allow for the addition of peanut butter or cream cheese to be added inside, making them more desirable.

A soda can with pebbles – has an effect on both dogs and cats that is the pet equivalent of running your fingernails down a blackboard. Put some pebbles or small coins in an empty soda can and tape the opening shut. When the barking dog doesn't respond to the command to be quiet, shake the can a couple of times. They don't like the sound, so they often stop what they're doing when they hear it. When they stop barking, praise them immediately. For more stubborn cases, hurling the can towards the culprit (but not directly at him) will have the same effect. Once again, praise the dog immediately after you get the desired result.

Bring them inside – if your dog sleeps outside and likes to be a "voice over the evening," you may want to bring him indoors. He'll have much less to bark at.

Block the stimulus with "White Noise" – if your dog is super sensitive to noises, try blocking some of that noise (desensitizing him) so he's not so inspired to bark. "White Noise" may help refocus his attention and calm him to other stimulating noises around him. Turning on the vacuum cleaner to block the approaching steps of a mail carrier, or children walking home from school. Playing your stereo at a normal level may also help.

A little citronella – your dog trainer may recommend a specialized "no-bark" collar which delivers a squirt of citronella, a high frequency sound or a light shock whenever your dog barks. Animal Services Division recommends the Citronella Collar over the others. Some collars go off immediately, while others allow the dog to bark a few times before being activated. Some of the older model shock collars may be activated by planes flying overhead. Be very selective-your dog training expert can help you choose the right size for your pet. Some of these collars can be extremely effective, but you really need to work with someone who can help you get a good collar and training. Pet supply stores and trainers offer these specialized collars. Be very selective – your dog training expert can help you choose the right size for your pet. Some of these collars can be extremely effective, but you really need to work with someone who can help you get a good collar and training. Pet supply stores and trainers offer these specialized collars

---

## HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2007

**HOA Officers (\*all are volunteers):** President: Brian D. Swanson (760) 739-5451; Vice-President: John Lindsay; Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Esther.

**Design Review Committee:** Co-Chairs: Marcus Harrel & Darryl Turner, Rick Wood; adjunct members: Karen Burns, Angel Martinez, Ellie Montalvo.

**Property Manager:** Fabiana Lansner (flansner@menas.com), Menas Realty (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270-7870.

**Escondido Police Department:** 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-4722. **Escondido Fire Department** (Fires, fireworks, rattlesnakes in yard): 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-5400

**Henry Avocado** (grove issues like avocado theft, sprinklers, dumping): 745-6632

**City of Escondido, Code Enforcement** (graffiti): 839-4650

**East Valley Community Center:** 2245 East Valley Parkway, 839-4382

**Broken sprinklers in HOA landscaping:** Menas Realty (760) 942-2667

1. A home and several cars have been burglarized this summer. Be sure to remove all valuables from your car, or park in your garage. 1AM – 4AM seems to be prime car-prowl time...report "prowling" cars to the police.
2. A mountain lion was reported in the neighborhood one night. Keep dogs inside after dark, do not run if you see a lion. Stand tall, make noise, pick up small children.
3. Nearby hiking: Daley Ranch, 3,000 acre City of Escondido open space park with abundant wildlife and hiking and bicycling trails. Entrance off of La Honda Drive. Adjacent to Lake Dixon, which offers fishing, boating and camping opportunities. See the City of Escondido web site for additional information.
4. Next HOA meeting 6PM 9/5 at East Valley Comm. Ctr.