



Monthly Newsletter

October 2021

Barking dogs: What can you do?

A WDDNA member recently asked us what could be done about barking dogs. "The neighbors' dogs bark constantly, sometimes beginning at 6 in the morning until after 11 at night or later," the member wrote. "I've contacted owners and left messages but the dogs still bark."



Sacramento County animal control officials report that barking dogs are among the most common and the most difficult problems they face. And, even though there is a county ordinance prohibiting loud and disturbing barking, citing a dog owner is problematic.

Sacramento County ordinance Title 8.08.050 reads: "No owner of any animal, wild or domestic, shall permit or suffer the animal to do any of the following: ... (3) Make loud or disturbing noises without provocation, including, but not limited to, chronic howling, yowling, barking, whining, or other utterances."

It sounds definitive, but according to Bill Davidson, a supervisor with Sacramento County Animal Control, it doesn't really work.

"The problem with the ordinance and getting it to court is the definition of what is 'excessive barking'," he explained. "What qualifies as excessive in one neighborhood may not be in another and the barking may bother one neighbor more than another. Judges are reluctant to make rulings on this problem because there are no precise standards for the degree of nuisance. So, resolving the problem is really dependent on how neighbors choose to handle it among themselves."

What can be done?

This is not to say that County Animal Control officers can do nothing.

"When we get a report about a barking dog problem, we typically send the dog owner a form letter that lets the person know that there has been a complaint about their dog barking excessively," Davidson explained. "The letter offers suggestions for how to control the dog and how to mediate the situation with neighbors. Or sometimes we will send an officer to the home to offer the same suggestions."

"If the complaint is repeated, we send a similar letter four or five times, weeks apart. But animal control cannot issue a citation because it is very difficult to establish what 'excessive' means," he noted.

What if the letters don't work? According to Davidson, there is just one statutory option remaining for the neighbor. "The only alternative that remains is for the complaining neighbor to make a citizen's arrest and issue a citation to the dog owner under public nuisance [Penal Code 370](#)," he said.

But it's not quite that simple, he added. "Issuing this citation cannot be done without the [support of the community](#) affected by the nuisance. We interpret that community to be three households surrounding the source of the nuisance. So, the complainant must have the written support of two other neighboring residents. They must attest to the fact that they are fed up and ready to go to court over the situation."

Does this work? Not really, according to Davidson.

"In reality, that rarely happens. In the past few years, I have only been called to two such court cases," he recalled. "In one, the dog owner did not show up, so the judge issued the fine specified by the ordinance ... somewhere around \$200. In the second, the judge listened to all the parties involved, then ordered the dog's owner to buy a bark collar to see if it would teach the dog not to bark and he said they should come back in six months to see if it worked."

The ultimate solution

If all this is true, what's a neighbor to do?

"In the past, I have occasionally written personal letters to the dog owner in hopes of encouraging them to work out the problem with their neighbors," Davidson said. "I always try to get the neighbors involved to work out the process among themselves. That always seems to have the most success."

However, Davidson offered one caveat: "I would not advise the neighbor to start out by telling the neighbor to shut his dog up. Instead, open with a friendly discussion, perhaps ask the dog's name, talk about how much you like dogs, be cordial and gradually work up to a discussion about barking. If you go in with guns blazing, it likely won't work out well."

SAVE THE DATE

This year's annual Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association member meeting is set for 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the Welcome Center adjacent to the gym at Jesuit High School. Jesuit is generously providing us this space at no cost.

This year's program will address a growing problem we are all facing: traffic. Our speakers will be Sgt. Jeff Carlisle, head of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) for the California Highway Patrol in our area, and POP Officer Greg Zumstein, who was recently assigned to cover our neighborhood.

Time to renew your membership

It's that time of year again. On Oct. 1, we will email our first WDDNA membership dues invoices for the 2022 year and, as of Oct. 1, you will be able to renew on our website.

As in the past, if you renew on or before Dec. 31, your dues will be just \$275, a \$25 discount. And we suggest you renew early to avoid the holiday rush in November and December.

Online Renewal Suggested

This year, we are urging members to renew online, if possible. Online payments are recorded automatically by our secure website and accounting software and are automatically deposited into our WDDNA bank account. It is a quick and seamless process that ensures your membership renewal will be recorded promptly.

If you don't see an invoice in your email folder on Oct. 4, we suggest you check your spam folder, in case it may have landed there. However, if you cannot find the invoice due to internet glitches, don't be concerned. You can simply go to our website at Wilhagginna.com, log in and pay online. Your invoice will show up on your member profile page.

If you joined in September ...

For new members who just joined during the month of September, THANK YOU! Your membership already extends to the end of 2022, so no renewal is necessary. You are all set.

Thank you for your support of the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association.



Please forgive any advertising at the start of this WDDNA video.
YouTube inserts the ad and we are unable to remove it.

Protect deliveries from porch pirates

We soon will be into the holiday package delivery season – prime time for porch pirates.

How can you protect yourself from porch pirates? One way is to use delivery options provided by the various carriers.

Federal Express, UPS, Amazon and the Postal Service all have options that allow homeowners to either redirect packages to other addresses (such as your workplace or a neighbor's home) or have the packages held at stores or distribution centers for later pick-up.

AMAZON

Amazon has a service called Amazon Hub that allows you to choose an Amazon Hub location as a shipping destination for your Amazon.com orders. Instead of having a package delivered to your home or business address, you can select a hub Pickup Point location and pick up your package at a time that's convenient for you during the hub's business hours.

There are two Amazon Hub Lockers near us:

- The Whole Foods at Arden and Eastern,
- Inside the 76 station at Watt Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard.

There are some limitations as to what you can ship to a hub locker. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

To place an order for delivery to an Amazon Hub:

- Place an eligible item in your shopping cart and click the Proceed to Checkout button.
- Click Search for a Pickup Point location near you when selecting a delivery address.
- Search by postcode, address or landmark to find a location.
- From the search results, you'll see the locations available. Select one by clicking Ship to this address next to the location of your choice. Complete your order as usual.

When your package is ready to be picked up, you'll receive an e-mail notice from Amazon.com, with a unique pickup barcode. Note: You can also add an Amazon Hub location as your default shipping address in Your Account.

For home deliveries, Amazon also offers a text alert service. You can sign up for shipment updates via text by going to your Amazon account. Under the "Email alerts, message, and ads" section, click "Shipment Updates via Text." These texts are only available for orders shipped by Amazon, not other sellers. [CLICK HERE](#) for the instructions.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

The US Postal Service has a personal tracking service that even includes mailed envelopes. This service is called "Informed Delivery."

According to the USPS website, Informed Delivery is a free and optional notification service that allows you to see what is coming to your mailbox by viewing it on a computer, tablet or mobile device.

USPS digitally images mail pieces that run through its automation equipment and uses those images to provide digital notifications in advance of the delivery of physical mail. You also can track packages through the system and even get email or text notices about the status of packages.

To learn more about Informed Delivery and to sign up for free, [CLICK HERE](#).

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Federal Express offers its FedEx Delivery Manager program that allows you to track and direct packages to alternative delivery locations. For instance, you can have your packages delivered to a FedEx Drop Box. Following are three FedEx drop box locations near us:

- Outside the Robert Powell Building, 3636-3640 American River Drive
- Inside Jackson Properties, 3600 American River Drive
- Walgreens at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Arden Way.

For more information about the FedEx program, [CLICK HERE](#)

UPS

UPS has a program called UPS MyChoice. When you sign up for the free service, you get delivery alerts, a delivery planner and estimated delivery times. You can also provide “leave at” instructions, tell them to leave the package with a neighbor and you can hold or “will call” for a package at a UPS store. If you frequently receive shipments while you are away from home, there is a premium service that, for a fee, allows you greater control over where and when things are delivered.

UPS also offers drop box shipping and delivery. The closest such delivery locations to our neighborhood are at:

- The office park at 3604 Fair Oaks Blvd.
- The office park at 3406 American River Drive, next to the Watt Avenue south-bound on-ramp.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Q&A

Q: This year, may I pay my WDDNA dues over the phone using a credit card?

A: Unfortunately, we are not able to take orders over the phone. If you wish to use your credit card, the best way is to go to our website at Wilhagginna.com. Just login with your email and password. When you do, you will land on the Your Profile page. You can then click on the Renew/Pay Dues link. Or, instead, you can go to the Home page and either click on the Renew/Pay dues link in the Members Only menu, or scroll down to the “Renew” icon and click on it. Any of these methods will take you to the Renew/Pay Dues page, where you will find your dues invoice and a payment link. We accept all major credit cards.

You also may pay by check and mail it, along with your name, address and email information, to WDDNA, P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 05609.

HOW TO CALL FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger, if you feel threatened by someone on or near your property, if you have just become the victim of a crime or if you are witnessing a crime in progress:

- CALL 911 from a land line.
- Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

TO REPORT A CRIME

There are two ways to report a crime to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

1. Call the Sheriff's Department NON-EMERGENCY LINE at (916) 874-5115. To bypass the recorded messaging when you call, dial 0 after the line is answered.
2. File a report online through the Sheriff's Department website. Click on this link to begin the process: https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY (Not an emergency)

If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity but it is not an emergency, call 916-874-5115 (Sheriff's Department non-emergency line).

GENERAL CONCERNS, REPORTS OR QUESTIONS

If you have an issue that can be addressed later, you may contact our neighborhood patrol officers about it. The best way is via email at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com.

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