**Health Services**

**Having a problem with a noisy animal?**

**What Can the Council Do To Help You?**

Sometimes all that is required is for someone from the council to explain the problem to the owner. From our experience, often the owner is unaware that there is a problem. Unfortunately, some owners require more assistance and sometimes official action taken against them. To do this, council requires more detailed information from you.

The Local Law (Keeping and Control of Animals) allows the Local Government to take action against an owner if an animal causes irritation or annoyance by excessive noise. Excessive noise is defined as noise that exceeds three (3) minutes accumulated time in any one (1) hour.

Convincing the owner to change their pet’s habits is not easy, and the more information we have the easier it is to help you.

**Keeping a Record – The Diary**

To make things easier for you, please find enclosed a “Seven Day Diary”. You must complete the Diary every time you are affected by the noise. Guidelines for filling out the diary are printed on it. If the Diary is not completed the Council is unable to take further action. This is because we need a minimum standard of evidence to prove a case to the Court if the matter proceeds to that stage.

**So What Happens From Here?**

Once you have completed the Diary and signed the declaration mail them back to Council or drop them in to the front Shire office at the above address.

An authorised Council officer will visit the owner and advise them about the problem and the local law provisions. We may use the information obtained from you (other than your personal details) to demonstrate the matter and obtain statements.

We allow the owner a reasonable timeframe from our letters and visits to take some steps to abate the nuisance. We may contact you at this point and let you know what the situation is.

**Flinders Shire Council**

**Seven Day Diary**

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that this form be completed with actual times, duration and dates of the animal noise.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
| DATE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6am | 6.15-6.59 | 6.12 – 6.35 | 6.10 – 6.20 | 6.12 – 6.45 | 6.30 – 6.35 | 6.29 - 615 |  |
| 7am | 7.00 – 7.45 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10am |  |  | 10.30 – 10.31 |  |  |  |  |
| 11am |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11.06 11.07 |
| 12noon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3pm |  | 3.50 – 3.59 |  | 3.10 – 3.15 | 3.29 – 3.40 | 3.12 – 3.56 |  |
| 4pm | 4.15 – 4.35 | 4.00 – 4.10 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12midnight |  | 12.05-12.35 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Description of animal(s) behaviour | Barks when I leave for work or start the car |  | Barked when I came home for tea |  |  |  | Dog tied up inside in morning but let out in yard and barked |
| What you did if anything | Yelled out  | Yelled and complained to owner | Knocked on owners door to discuss but they weren’t home | Rang the owner |  | Called the Council |  |

I \_\_\_\_Mr Joe Bloggs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (full name) declare the above recordings are a true record of matters heard and observed by me. I will appear in Court to give evidence as a witness to the truth of the complaint if required to do so by the Flinders Shire Council.

Signed: \_\_\_Joe Bloggs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5/8/2005\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Flinders Shire Council**

**Seven Day Diary**

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that this form be completed with actual times, duration and dates of the animal noise.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
| DATE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 11am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12noon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 9pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12midnight |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Description of dog(s) behaviour |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| What you did if anything |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (full name) declare the above recordings are a true record of matters heard and observed by me. I will appear in Court to give evidence as a witness to the truth of the complaint if required to do so by the Flinders Shire Council.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_