

Dog Problems and Responsibilities

Neighborhood Observations

Neighbors have noticed dogs that are not on leashes going into people's yards, into their shrubs and into their flower beds. These dogs, some quite large, can do significant damage to a neighbor's landscape. Pets, both dogs *and cats*, should remain on their owners' property or be on a leash.

Neighbors have observed people not cleaning up after their dogs when they are on walks. This is a frequent occurrence along the roads that lead to the TCU walking path around the sports complex. Pet owners are allowing their dogs to walk into neighbors' yards on a long leash and then failing to clean up their pets' waste. Please take a plastic bag with you when you walk!

There have been many occurrences of dogs left outside and unattended, who bark at all hours of the day and night. Many owners have a gate across the driveway, and when left unattended, the dogs bark at everything that comes in view or at anything they hear. In most cases, these dogs aren't being watchdogs – they are simply overstimulated. Owners should see *why* their dogs are barking and bring them inside if the barking continues.

Being a pet owner is a huge responsibility. Let's be certain our pets are blessings, as they were intended to be, lest neighbors are driven to report violations to the city.

Fort Worth Animal Ordinance Information

The City of Fort Worth has a noise ordinance, which states that animals that cause “frequent or long-continued noise” that disturbs “the comfort and repose of any person of ordinary sensibilities in the immediate vicinity” are prohibited. Their owners may be subject to a fine of up to \$500. By not mentioning the time of day, the ordinance is sensitive to residents who work at night and sleep during the day. If your comfort and repose has been disturbed, you can file a complaint with the Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Division.

Being a good pet owner also includes picking up after your pet. If someone fails to pick up pet waste when they are out walking their pet, this too is a violation of the law.

Noise and animal waste complaints are handled in similar ways. To report a violation call 817-392-7012 or use this link:

http://www.fortworthgov.org/forms/default.aspx?ekfrm=21020&ekmense=c577fa7b_1238_4200_21020_3. Your information remains anonymous.