



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: RESPONSE TO BARKING DOG COMPLAINTS			NO: H-1700
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: April 12, 2004	REVIEWED: 10/22/2020	REVISED: 04/13/2004	UPDATED: 1/19/2018

POLICY

It is the policy of the Kern County Sheriff's Office to utilize a progressive approach in the enforcement of the animal nuisance ordinance. Such enforcement shall include an educational warning on the first response to allow an owner or responsible party the opportunity to resolve the nuisance issue. Subsequent violations within a twelve-month period will result in the responsible party being issued a written citation to appear in court. The first such citation issued will be an infraction; the second citation issued will be a misdemeanor. (Reference K.C. Ordinance Code 7.08.380).

DIRECTIVE 1

The Sheriff's Office will respond to nuisance/barking dog calls for service during all hours in which an Animal Control Officer is not on duty. This will be a low priority call. If an Animal Control Officer is on duty, the complaint will be referred to Animal Control to respond.

DIRECTIVE 2

In cases of blatant negligence on the part of the responsible party/owner, this policy does not negate the authority of the responding deputy to issue an infraction citation on a first response to a complaint as provided by Ordinance Code 7.08.380.

DIRECTIVE 3

The responding deputy will not make or take a physical arrest based solely on a violation of the Kern County Ordinance Code. (Reference K.C. Ordinance Code 1.12.010).

PROCEDURE A – RESPONSE

Upon receiving an animal nuisance complaint, the Sheriff's Dispatcher will:

- Call up location incident information in CAD.
- Dispatch a deputy to respond.
- Advise the deputy of any prior responses to barking dog complaints at the address occurring in the preceding twelve-month period and any prior action taken, i.e.; warning; infraction citation issued; misdemeanor citation issued.
- Enter information provided by the deputy at the conclusion of the incident into the CAD system.

The assigned deputy will:

- Make contact with the responsible party and administer one of the following actions:
 - o **First Response** - The deputy will determine the cause of the nuisance and advise the owner/responsible party of Ordinance Code 7.08.380, and warn of further action in the event of subsequent complaints.
 - o **Second Response** – Upon a second response to an animal nuisance complaint within a twelve-month period, the deputy will issue an infraction citation to the owner/responsible party for an offense occurring in the deputy’s presence.
 - o **Third Response** – Upon a third response to an animal nuisance complaint within a twelve-month period, the deputy will issue a misdemeanor citation to the owner/responsible party for an offense occurring in the deputy’s presence.
- Advise the dispatcher of the following information for entry into CAD:
 - o Address;
 - o Name of Owner/Responsible party;
 - o Type of action taken: verbal warning, infraction citation, misdemeanor citation.
- If a responsible party cannot be located, the address and call information will be logged by the dispatcher and forwarded to Animal Control for follow-up.

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