

Barking complaints

We ask that neighbors try to come to an amicable solution before we get involved in dog barking issues. If a neighbor is not comfortable speaking with the dog owner in person, an informative and polite note can be placed on the dog owner's door or sent through the mail.

If an attempt at addressing the problem with the dog owner fails, please call us at 650-3164 or email rosie.deffinbaugh@ci.stcloud.mn.us. The dog's address, date and time frame that the dog was barking and description of the dog should be included. We will send the owner a courtesy warning and some information that might be helpful to them in trying to change their dog's behavior.

Dogs observed by City staff which bark, cry, howl or whine for six minutes or longer will be issued a \$50 Administrative citation. Future offenses within the same year result in doubled fines.

Additional information can be found on the Health and Inspections Department page on the city website at www.ci.stcloud.mn.us.



Shhhhhh.....Quieting barking dogs

Many dog owners are not aware that their dogs are causing inconvenience to others because they are gone or have grown accustomed to the noise. Below are some of the most common reasons dogs bark and some suggestions on how to address the underlying issue:

- **Protecting their territory:** Dogs often have a job to do. For many breeds, their job is to notify you of when they see a potential intruder. In reality, it may simply be a neighbor gardening in their backyard or children walking home from school. If your dog's posture while barking appears threatening - tail held high and ears up and forward, this could be the motivation for barking.
- **Fears and Phobias:** Dogs often bark as a response to something they are afraid of. This generally occurs when they're exposed to loud noises, thunderstorms, firecrackers, or construction noise. If your dog's posture while barking appears fearful - ears are back and tail held low, this could be the reason behind the noisy behavior.
- **Separation Anxiety:** Dogs often bark when they are lonely. If your dog barks only when you're gone and starts as soon as, or shortly after you leave, they may be experiencing separation anxiety. Dogs are social animals and need to be part of a pack or family.

There are numerous resources available to assist you in finding a solution to the barking problem. Your veterinarian and the public library are good places to start.

Adoptable animals

St. Cloud Animal Control impounds over 600 animals yearly. Over half of these are not claimed by their owners and need loving homes. Visit the Health & Inspections webpage at www.ci.stcloud.mn.us to see both lost and adoptable animals. The shelter is located at Central Minnesota Animal Care & Control (CMAACC) at 1021 Benton Drive South. Call 257-0103 for more information.