

ANIMALS CREATING A NUISANCE
Pasco County Code of Ordinances – Chapter 14, Section 14-98

Animal Services recognizes that most nuisance complaints will be investigated on a case by case basis. No complaint affidavit will automatically result in the issuance of a citation. Complaints will be investigated by an Animal Control Officer upon receipt of a Citizens Service Request. Animal Control Officers will investigate the complaint with the following guidelines in mind:

- *Frequent of habitual barking is generally defined as barking, howling, or making of noise between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. or for periods of ten (10) minutes or more at any time. The complaint must be specific as to the time and date.*
- *Animal Control Officers will question the complainants and determine their proximity to the animal being reported.*
- *With regard to the nuisances caused by loose dogs, photographic evidence taken by the complainant may be considered as evidence of the violation if properly documented with the date of violation, dog owners name and the name of the photographer on the back of each photo.*
- *The owner of the animal causing the alleged nuisance will be notified of the complaint against him. The owner will be issued a written warning notice to correct the nuisance situation within seventy- two (72) hours.*
- *If after seventy-two (72) hours the nuisance is not corrected, the complaining party should begin documenting the violation(s) through use of the Nuisance Animal Affidavit form.*
- *All complaints are public record and may be examined upon request.*

Be advised that if a citation is issued and is contested by the pet owner, you may be subpoenaed to appear to testify in a Court of Law. When completing an affidavit, make sure that all of the information is complete. Record as many instances as possible. It is important that dates, times, etc. be correct and accurate. Be specific about the exact dates and times that the violation occurred. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE CASE AS THE COURTS WILL PAY ATTENTION TO THE ACCURACY OF THE AFFIDAVIT TO DETERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR TESTIMONY.

Example of a correctly completed affidavit:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	LENGTH OF TIME In Hours & Minutes if Noise Violation
3/14/20xx	2:00 pm	Owner's back yard	47 minutes
3/17/20xx	5:35 pm	Owner's front yard	2 hours 37 minutes
3/18/20xx	1:05 am	Running loose in street	1 hour 19 minutes

It is very important that accurate information is recorded!
These records are essential for successful prosecution and enforcement!