

Bark Log & Neighbor Letter Pack

One week of notes that turns "your dog barks all the time" into facts — plus the friendly letter that solves it without a feud.

Animal control officers, landlords and mediators all ask for the same thing: **a dated record**. Seven days of honest notes show the pattern — when it happens, what sets it off, how long it lasts — and keep every conversation afterwards calmer: facts, not feelings. One row per barking episode; reprint this page if a day needs more rows. **Write:** date and start time · how long it went on · what was happening (deliveries, kids walking past, the dog left alone, another dog, nothing obvious) · anything that helped it stop.

Date	Time	How long	What was happening (the trigger)	What helped

Reading your log after 7 days: circle the pattern, not the worst day. Most barking clusters around one or two triggers — a delivery route, the school-run hour, being left alone at the same time daily. That pattern is what you take to your neighbor (page 2): specifics get solved; "all the time" gets argued about.

The Friendly First Letter

Most owners genuinely do not know their dog barks when they are out — the dog is quiet when they are home. This letter assumes good faith, names the pattern from your log (never "constantly" or "all day"), and asks for one specific thing. Fill in the blanks, deliver by hand or mail — not taped to a door — and keep a copy with the date you sent it.

Dear _____ (neighbor's name),

I hope you don't mind me writing — I'm _____ from
_____ (house / number). We haven't properly met, and I wanted to raise something in writing so I explain it properly rather than catching you at a bad moment.

Over the past week or so I've noticed your dog barking at certain times — mainly
_____ (e.g. weekday afternoons / when the mail arrives / in the early evening). I kept a short note of the times, and it seems to happen mostly when
_____ (e.g. the house is empty / people walk past the fence). I completely understand dogs bark — mine would too — and it's only because it's been disturbing
_____ (e.g. my baby's naps / my night-shift sleep / work calls) that I'm mentioning it.

I'm sure you may not even be aware of it, as dogs are usually quiet when their people are home. Would you be open to trying a couple of small changes and seeing if the times I've noted get quieter? I'm happy to help however I can, and to let you know either way whether it's improved.

Thank you for reading, and no hard feelings at all — I'd much rather we sort it out between us.

Warm regards,

_____ (your name)

_____ (phone, optional) · _____ (date)

If Nothing Changes: The Follow-Up Letter

Wait at least 10 days, keep logging, and send the same way. It stays polite but adds the record — and the next step you would rather avoid.

Dear _____,

I wrote on _____ (date of first letter) about your dog's barking — thank you for bearing with me for writing again. Since then I've kept a note of the times, and the pattern is continuing: _____ (e.g. 12 episodes in the last two weeks, mostly between 2 pm and 4 pm, lasting 20–40 minutes).

I really would prefer we solve this between us. If it continues, the next step available to me is to contact _____ (animal control / our landlord / the HOA), which I'd rather not do. Could we talk this week about what might help? I'm at _____ (phone) most evenings.

Thank you,
_____ (your name) · _____ (date)

Before you send either letter: read it once as if you were receiving it — no threats, no exaggeration, no mention of lawyers or money. One specific ask beats a list of complaints. And keep logging afterwards either way: if things improve, a short thank-you note does more for the next ten years of living next door than the letter did.