

## Information Regarding Dogs in Alpine Peaks

May 2021

The APRA Board has been approached by numerous members in the recent past regarding dog-related problems in Alpine Peaks. Primarily these issues have focused on 1) interactions with aggressive dogs running loose, 2) excessive dog barking, and 3) dog owners not cleaning up after their pet. The following information was received from the Placer County Animal Services and is being passed along to remind dog owners of their responsibilities, as well as to provide problem reporting options to residents. This information is extracted from Placer County Codes 6.08.010, 6.08.020 and 6.08.030, which are available here: [http://qcode.us/codes/placercounty/view.php?topic=6-6\\_08](http://qcode.us/codes/placercounty/view.php?topic=6-6_08).

The APRA Board asks all our membership to be considerate of your neighbors if you own a dog. This area is a wonderful environment for dogs to get outside and explore with their humans. It just comes down to being a responsible dog owner and a good neighbor. Thank you!

### Aggressive dogs

If you encounter an aggressive or potentially dangerous dog, try to take a picture of the dog, report the incident along with the picture to:

Officer Melissa Holbrook, Placer County Animal Services

Placer County Animal Services telephone: 530-886-5500

Email: [mholbrook@placer.ca.gov](mailto:mholbrook@placer.ca.gov)

A “potentially dangerous dog” is defined as one which, when unprovoked,

- 1) engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury, when the person and the dog are off the property of the owner of the dog, or
- 2) bites a person, or
- 3) has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury or otherwise caused injury by attacking an animal off the property of the owner or of the dog.

Any dog known to be potentially dangerous or vicious is not allowed to run at large upon any street or other public place within the county. **This means if your dog is potentially dangerous, it cannot run at large in the forest or on trails, it must be under your physical control at all times.**

Your dog does not need to be on a leash in the forest or on trails if you are present and in verbal control of your dog, and provided your dog is not a potentially dangerous, aggressive or vicious animal.

It is also illegal to let any animal trespass upon public property, or upon any private property, without the consent of the owner of the property.

### Excessive Dog Barking

If your dog’s barking has resulted in increased tensions with your neighbors, it is a good idea to discuss the issue with your neighbors to gather information to help you understand the situation more completely. It is perfectly normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time, just like children

make noise playing outside. However, continual barking for long periods of time indicates that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. It might be helpful to figure out the circumstances that lead to most of the barking by setting a recording device or pretending to leave by walking around and returning by another way. Is it a night only event, or when you leave for work, or who they are left with, etc. The Placer County SPCA offers several behavioral options that might be helpful, including various “bark” collars that each have their pluses and minuses as described here: <https://placerspca.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/BarkBarkBark.pdf>.

A nuisance animal is defined as one that howls or barks for an aggregate of 20 minutes in an hour period. The animal control officers highly suggest having a conversation with the dog’s owner before calling them to report nuisance barking. Their experience is that these conversations are likely to go a lot further to reduce the conflict, deescalate the situation, and result in a positive outcome than calling in animal services officers. However, if those conversations are not productive, you are well within your rights to register a complaint with them.

### **Dog Waste**

**Please pick up your dog’s waste on the streets within Alpine Peaks, including during the winter. In the backcountry and on trails, train your dog to go off the trail or pick it up. Nobody wants their skis waxed that way. Because dogs are omnivores, not vegetarians, their poop is not like that of many forest dwellers and does not rapidly decompose. Plastic poop bags are readily available at any pet supply store or online. The BOD is considering installing POOP BAG DISPENSERS at locations along Courchevel. In the meantime, please be a considerate neighbor and clean up after your dog.**