**Schenectady Police Department**

**Animal Control**

531 Liberty St

Schenectady NY, 12305

(518) 382-5200 ext. 5655

Dear Neighbor,

You may not be aware but your dog is currently causing a noise nuisance in the neighborhood by barking.

I have discussed this problem with Schenectady Animal Control which has suggested this as a first step. I express my concern to you, to allow you the opportunity to rectify the situation without recording an official complaint against you with Animal Control which could result in tickets being issued.

On the back of this letter is some information that may be of assistance to you in resolving this matter.

Your cooperation at this stage is all that is needed to avoid this matter from progressing any further.

Best regards,

Your Neighbor

**Some simple tips to reduce barking**

* If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of the fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
* If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or vehicles passing, keep the dog inside at those times.
* If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the way to slow the dog down.
* Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training based on breed.
* Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather if outside for an extended amount of time.
* If the dog is barking through gaps and cracks in the fence, fill or block them off.
* If the dog is barking at people it can see passing, try blocking the dogs view.
* If the dog is barking at night consider bringing the dog in for the night.
* The dog could be bored. Try hiding food and/or toys around the yard to keep your dog distracted and mentally stimulated.
* An anti-barking collar may be useful. Most anti barking collars have 3 different modes to correct the issue. Vibration, high pitched beeps, and shock. Some collars also have a remote so you control when the dog needs to be corrected. You can purchase these online or in local pet stores.
* If your dog suffers from separation anxiety try relaxing music when you are away, leaving the TV on or talk to your vet about medications that may help your pet.