

## WATCHDOG or NUISANCE?

Does your dog bark excessively...

- \* When someone rings the doorbell?
- \* When large vehicles drive by?
- \* When children are playing outside?
- \* When another animal comes into view?
- \* When hearing a siren?
- \* When wanting to get into the house?
- \* When you leave or come home?
- \* When left alone and lonely?

Just like the boy who cried wolf,  
a persistent barker is more likely  
to be ignored  
when there's a real emergency.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT YOUR BARKING DOG?

- \* Determine what causes the dog to bark
- \* Block the dogs view
- \* Stop the barking as soon as it starts
- \* Train your dog to respond to a "quiet" command
- \* Reward when barking for watchdog reasons
- \* Don't leave unattended for long periods of time.
- \* Walk your dog everyday, at least once

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**911 - Emergency**  
770-909-5423 - Non-Emergency

**Crime Statistics**  
[www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

**City Ordinances**  
[www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com) - online library

**State Code**  
[www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode)

**Humane Society**  
[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

**Animal Control**  
Intergovernmental agreement - Clayton County  
[www.claytonpolice.com/AnimalControl.htm](http://www.claytonpolice.com/AnimalControl.htm)



Be an active part of your neighborhood

### CITY OFFICIALS

Dr. Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, *Mayor*

Mrs. Cynthia Stamps-Jones, *Councilperson, Ward 1*

Mr. An'Cel Davis, *Councilperson, Ward 2*

Ms. Wanda Wallace, *Councilperson, Ward 3*

Mr. Kenny Ruffin, *Councilperson, Ward 4*

Mr. Scott E. Wood, *City Manager*

Ms. Sylvia Vaughan, *City Clerk*

Lieutenant Nicole Rabel  
Community Services Office  
770-909-5416 or [nrabel@riverdalega.gov](mailto:nrabel@riverdalega.gov)

City of Riverdale Public Safety Department  
6690 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274  
[www.riverdalega.gov](http://www.riverdalega.gov)



## **DOGS**

Information for  
City of Riverdale  
Owners & Residents



*A guide provided by the  
Riverdale Police Department*

### Mission Statement

We are a value driven organization dedicated to our community and the protection of all who live in and visit our city. Our primary focus is public safety and the reduction of crime through strategic partnerships with the community.



**Riverdale Police Department**  
Internationally Accredited Agency

**Chief R. T. Spivey**  
**Assistant Chief M. Reynolds**



# Community Policing with Professionalism...Everyday

## 1. WHEN TO CALL 911

- \* Inhumane treatment of dogs
- \* Dangerous dogs
- \* Dogs not confined

## 2. PROTECTING YOURSELF

You have the right to be secure in your yard or in a public place. If a dog attacks you or your pet in these settings you have a right to protect yourself  
*GA Code § 16-3-21—Use of force in defense of self or others*

## 3. HOW TO HANDLE NUISANCES

It is frustrating to be the neighbor of a continuously barking dog.

Tips on how you can best handle the situation:

- A. Talk to your neighbor
- B. Offer to take the dog on a daily walk
- C. Video the nuisance for evidence
- D. Document the dates and times
- E. Contact: Riverdale Police Department's Community Services Office (*info on back panel*)



*Taking care of your dog  
is part of being a good neighbor.*



*For all information regarding the laws of the  
City of Riverdale and the State of Georgia  
go to the websites listed on the back of this panel.*

## Riverdale Ordinances Chapter 14 Animals—Article 1

### Sec. 14-3 Confinement of Animals

- \* "... Such animal shall not be permitted to run at large on any street, alley, park, property owned by another or any other place in the city other than the premises of the guardian or owner of such animal except on a leash not more than 6' long and in the care of a competent person.
- \* An owner of a dog shall confine such dog while on the owner's property within an adequate fence or enclosure of sufficient height and construction to prevent the dog from escaping by jumping, digging, etc.

### Sec. 14-6 Nuisances

- \* "... it shall constitute a nuisance per se for a dog or cat to bark, howl, whine, scream or mew, or emit any noises whatsoever in a continuous manner for a period of one hour or longer so as to disturb any occupant of any adjoining or adjacent property within hearing distance of such property."

### Sec. 14-8 Prohibited Treatment

- \* To confine an animal in a vehicle in an inhumane manner such that the animal can become overheated, lacks adequate ventilation or is otherwise harmed.
- \* "...For any owner to fail to provide any animal under his control with adequate and proper food, fresh water and veterinary care."
- \* "...To fail to provide any animal access to adequate shelter to protect it from all types of weather, 24 hours a day."



### Article 2— Dangerous Dogs

*This article is enacted pursuant to Riverdale City Charter, sec. 47 & 58. O.C.G.A. § 4-8-20 et seq.*

1. Defined by the State of Georgia 40-8-21:
  - \* (2)(A) - Causes a substantial puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury...
  - \* (2)(B) - Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs...
  - \* While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal..