

Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
bristoltown@gmavt.net

August 24, 2017

Brian McCormick
2138 Hardscrabble Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Brian,

After receiving your complaint about Todd Baldwin's dogs that you gave me over the phone on Monday, I called Todd. He said your allegation that the sonar was being turned off is not true and the dogs could not have been barking all day on Saturday and Sunday, as they had taken the dogs bear hunting. He has also spoken with David and Stan Livingston, requesting permission to run the bear off from their property that abuts his. Both David and Stan denied his request, as they enjoy watching the bear and do not want the dogs spooking deer. Todd is also working on building more dog houses and stated he plans to relocate some dogs from behind his house to behind the berm.

On Monday night, I outlined your complaint to the Selectboard. Mike and Sean Freegard were also present at the meeting, as Todd had informed them of my phone call to him. Sean showed the Selectboard photos of the dogs bear hunting in Ripton/Lincoln over the weekend, stating the dogs could not have barked all day, as they were not on the property from 4 am until after noon both Saturday and Sunday. He also stated the sonar is on 24/7, and that it has been relocated behind the fence they installed. Mike said he has purchased hundreds of batteries to keep the sonar operational. Both Sean and Mike confirmed David and Stan Livingston do not want them running bear off their property, and stated they have both seen bear tracks on the edge of Livingston's property. They also stated the dogs wear bark collars at night, but not during the day. The Selectboard agrees with that choice, as they feel the dogs wearing bark collars 24/7 is inhumane.

The Selectboard stated Monday night Todd has done everything they have asked. The dogs are wearing bark collars, two sonar units were purchased and installed, heavy equipment was rented to create a berm to put the dogs behind, a fence was installed and myself, the Road

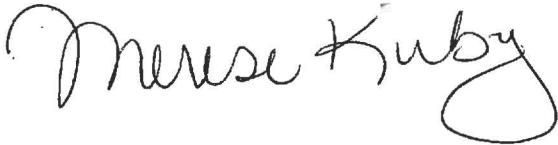
Foreman, the Dog Warden and at least two Selectboard members have been on the property to evaluate the situation. The Town has also spoken with Ms. Marcelle, Mr. Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. Slicer, none of whom have any complaints about the Baldwin's dogs and two of whom live closer to them than you.

They also understand that bear dogs are trained to bark at the scent of bear, despite the sonar and bark collars. You yourself have recently brought video to the Selectboard showing them a bear on your property, hence confirming Todd's statement there are bear in your neighborhood.

As I had written in my June 2, 2017 letter to you, the Bristol Selectboard is once again advising you to speak with your own attorney, as this is a civil matter. They stated Monday night, they are not willing to take any further action on this matter at this time.

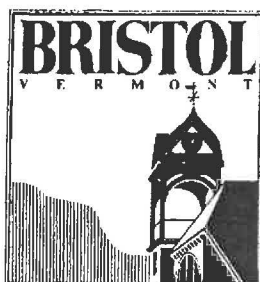
If you have any questions regarding this letter, the next Selectboard meeting is September 11. If you would like an appointment, please contact Interim Town Administrator Peter Coffey, the week of September 4th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Therese Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Therese" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kirby".

Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard
Todd Baldwin
Sean & Mike Freegard



Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
bristoltown@gmavt.net

July 13, 2017

Todd Baldwin
12 Estey Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Todd,

Thank you for speaking with me this morning and yesterday morning. I am glad you were able to speak with Selectboard Member Joel Bouvier, and that he visited your property yesterday. I also spoke with Joel last night and he told me he was at your home for an hour and a half and that your dogs never barked. He also told me he stopped and spoke to a few of your neighbors and none of those neighbors reported any issues/complaints with your dogs.

You told me today that Mike and Sean Freegard have started installing your fence, so the dogs will be blocked from the road, as well as having access to the top of the berm. I understand with all of this rain, fence erection will proceed as the weather allows. You also stated you had eleven dogs on your property, but expect to be down to nine in the next week or two.

As you know, Brian McCormick attended the June 12, 2017 Selectboard meeting where he complained the dogs had been barking and stated he called the Vermont State Police to address the issue. The Selectboard agrees he has every right to do that, as there is a Vermont State Statute addressing noise in the nighttime. Brian was also here to discuss the letter I had sent him on June 2, 2017 after his discussion with the Selectboard at their May 29, 2017 meeting. The letter I sent him said the Town of Bristol was advising him to speak with his attorney to discuss filing a civil suit against you under the State of Vermont nuisance laws, as the Town of Bristol felt there was no further action they could take regarding your barking dogs. You have the same right to contact your attorney and take any action they suggest in handling this civil matter.

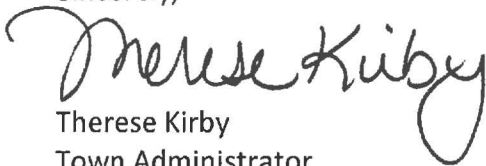
At one of the meetings Brian attended, he showed the Selectboard and I a video he took at his house, where a bear was trying to get into his bird feeder. You have stated you also have

photos of a bear on your property within the same time frame. At the July 10, 2017 meeting, Selectboard Chair Pecker Heffernan stated he has been working on Bear Pond Road, not far from your home, and he has seen a bear there too. It is understandable that dogs trained to run bear would bark when they smelled a bear, bark collar or no bark collar.

The Selectboard and I have been working on passing a new dog ordinance. This ordinance is similar to the previous one, except this ordinance increases fines for violations, does not require the Town to impound dogs, addresses dog waste and a couple of other issues. I have enclosed a copy of the draft for you. It is scheduled for a vote at the August 7th meeting.

As of today, you are working to address the concerns surrounding your barking dogs. Between yourself and the Freeguards, additional bark collars have been purchased, two sonar barking systems have been purchased and installed, the berm has been started and will be finished as money allows and the fencing has been acquired and is starting to be installed. I appreciate your continued work to address this issue, and have written this letter to you only as a recap of the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Therese Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Therese" being more prominent than the last name "Kirby".

Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: file

Selectboard
Brian McCormick



Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
bristoltown@gmavt.net

June 2, 2017

Brian McCormick
2138 Hardscrabble Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Brian,

Per your discussion with the Selectboard at their May 29, 2017 meeting, I contacted an attorney to discuss the ongoing barking dog issue between you and Todd Baldwin. I explained to him the history of the issue, all of the contact the Town has had with Todd, the things we have tried (bark collars, sonar, etc.) and the limitations of our current animal control ordinance.

Per the attorney's recommendation, I am writing to you on behalf of the Bristol Selectboard to advise you to speak with your own attorney, to discuss moving forward with a civil suit against the Baldwin's under the State of Vermont nuisance laws.

The Selectboard will be provided with a sample dog ordinance from Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), which they will begin to review and compare to the existing ordinance, as part of an effort to create a new ordinance. Outside of that, there is no further action the Selectboard can take on this matter at this time.

Sincerely,

Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard
file



Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
bristoltown@gmavt.net

April 28, 2017

Todd Baldwin
12 Estey Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Todd,

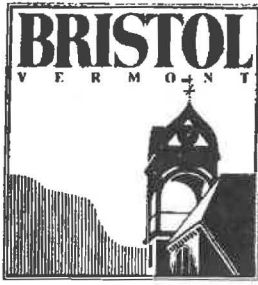
As you know, I visited your neighborhood on the afternoon of Monday, April 10, 2017. I spoke with two of your neighbors regarding your dogs. One had an issue, the other did not. There had been a complaint made regarding Saturday, April 8, but after looking into it, it appears the Estey's were having a pre-auction viewing, hence a lot of traffic and dogs barking. When I was in your neighborhood, they barked a couple of times, but nothing continuous.

Thank you for accommodating my visit, along with Road Foreman Peter Bouvier and Selectboard Chair Peeker Heffernan on Friday, April 21, 2017. While we were there, it was apparent your excavation is working, as your dogs were quiet. They barked when Peter and I pulled in, and again when Peeker pulled in, but I witnessed several cars and GMP trucks going by, and they did not bark. As Peter stated, he is fine with the work you are doing and appreciated that you called Dig Safe before you began. We expect you will have all of the excavation completed, gate installed and all dogs moved to the same location by the end of June. I have made a note on my calendar to swing by the last week in June to touch base.

Sincerely,

Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard
Mike & Shawn Freegard
Cale Pelland
Brian McCormick



Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
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February 15, 2017

Todd Baldwin
12 Estey Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Todd,

As we discussed on the phone yesterday, the Selectboard met on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6 pm at the Town Offices and discussed the situation involving your dogs. Shawn Freegard was here and did a nice job explaining to the Selectboard the problems with dogs wearing bark collars 24/7 and the more humane way to discourage dogs from barking by using a high pressure transducer. As I informed you yesterday, the Selectboard is ordering you to purchase a model of your choosing and to have it installed by March 1, 2017. You stated yesterday you would be unable to have it installed until April 1, 2017 due to financial reasons. After reading the literature on the device, it states the device should work within two to three weeks. Once the device is installed, I am asking you to call me so I can schedule a visit to your property. This particular device I am including literature on has an automatic bark detection range of up to 75' and beyond that, there is a remote control you can manually press that will trigger the device. The tones from this device will travel up to 300' in front of the unit. Depending on the spacing of your dogs, it may take more than one of these devices to cover. You should work with Shawn Freegard, to try and strategically place your device and his to give you the best coverage.

It is certainly the Selectboard's hope and mine this takes care of the problem so you, your dogs and your neighbors may live with a little more peace and quiet.

Sincerely,

Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard
Mike & Shawn Freegard
Cale Pelland
Brian McCormick



Trusted by Veterinarians, Law Enforcement & Customers Worldwide

DISCREET NEIGHBOR PACK





○○○○○○

When you want to keep peace with your neighbor & their dog.

In stock

\$114.95

Regular price: \$124.95



Add accessories

1

ADD TO CART

45 Day Money Back Guarantee

Includes:

- Dog Silencer®
- Remote Control
- Wall Mount
- 60 ft (foot) Extension Cord
- Your choice of faceplate
- AC adapter

Overview

Close —

Humanely stop your dog or the neighbor's dog barking

Stop barking with our newest, most powerful ultrasonic bark control device to date. Whether it's your dog or the neighbor's dog, the Dog Silencer will help you regain the peace and quiet that's been disrupted by nuisance barking. This revolutionary device automatically detects and stops barking with special sound frequencies and works up to 6× Farther than the competition!



DOG SILENCER™ VS THE COMPETITION

300FT

Dog Silencer
Sound reaches
up to 300ft

75FT

Dog Silencer
Detects Barking
up to 75ft

50FT

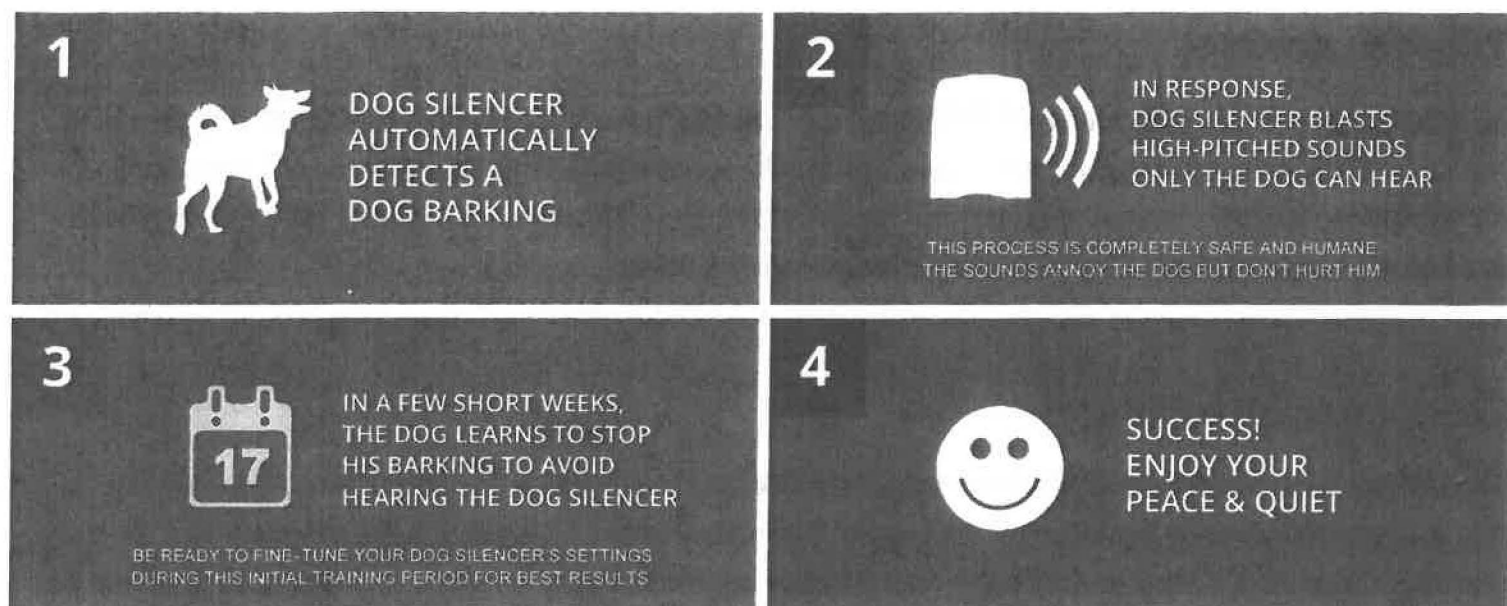
The competition
Detects Barking
up to 50ft



How it works

When the Dog Silencer detects barking it immediately sends a high-pitched sound heard only by the barking dog. Using this proven method, dogs are safely and humanely discouraged from barking. Relax while Silencer quietly trains your dog, your neighbor's dog or even multiple dogs!





No-shock technology

Our humane training technique uses an age-old principle that teaches dogs to associate their barking with the irritating frequencies. Unlike shock collars that are painful and can be used only on one dog, the Dog Silencer can be used virtually anywhere without you having to ask permission from your neighbors. The Dog Silencer trains dogs to stop nuisance barking (boredom and attention-getting barking) but is designed to have no effect on instinctual or protective barking.

ORDER YOUR DOG SILENCER NOW

Exclusive features

The Dog Silencer is the world's first indoor AND outdoor bark control device as well as the first anti-bark unit to operate electrically or with 6 AA batteries so you have extra portability. With the new Rechargeable Battery Pack you can always have fresh batteries — just charge one set while using the other.

Our exclusive High Pressure Transducer carries sound further than any other anti-bark unit on the market so even the most strong-willed dog can't feign deafness. We conveniently include fold out feet so you can stand the Dog Silencer on any surface, and mounting holes on the back of the unit so you can hang it anywhere. Add our new Wall Mount w/ Pan & Tilt for a perfect fit every time on fences, decks, trees, walls and posts!



Remote control

Your Dog Silencer package includes a tiny keychain remote control — the only bark control device in the industry to include such a luxury. If for some reason Rover is outside the Dog Silencer's 75-foot sound sensor range, you can manually trigger the device with the simple press of a button. The remote control can be used from inside your home, car, or even in your pocket!

Live a bark free life

The silence you experience with the humane Dog Silencer™ will make you throw away your old ear plugs, open your windows and enjoy the beautiful harmony of birds chirping in the morning. Our worldwide customers rave about how the technology behind the Dog Silencer is bringing back peace and quiet to their lives!

Help us spread the word!

While you are here, please take *just 2 minutes* and text or email our website (www.ultimatebarkcontrol.com) to your family and friends who have dogs, so they too will know that there is a safe and humane option to stop dog barking and to train their dogs. Many of your family and friends may be already using shock collars — please let everyone know there is a safe and humane alternative!

ORDER YOUR DOG SILENCER NOW

Included

- Dog Silencer
- Remote Control
- AC Adapter — **\$10 Value!**
- Money Back Guarantee



Designed in Oregon, USA by Good Life®

CLOSE —

Specs

Close —

Bark detection:

Up to 75 feet

Remote control range:

Up to 200 feet

Installation options:

Mounting bracket (back of unit)

Mounting feet (bottom of unit)

Power consumption:

1.6 w (watts) (Ultrasonic)

1.8 w (watts) (Audible)

Dimensions:

5.25"H x 4.25"W x 1.8"D

Instruction manual:

Dog Silencer Manual [PDF 550KB (kilobytes)]

Sound distance:

Up to 300 feet



Use outdoors or indoors

Weather resistant (IPX4 Rated)

Power options:

- AC adapter (included)
- 6 AA batteries (not included)

Warranty:

- 1 year manufacturer warranty
- 45 Day Guarantee

Weight:

1 lb (pounds) (2 lb (pounds) with AC Adapter)

CLOSE —

FAQs

Close —

What is the range/coverage area?

The sound emitted from the Dog Silencer expands in a "cone" shape totaling about 130 degrees or up to 65 degrees on either side. The sound will be most powerful and have the best training results if the unit is pointed directly at the dog you would like to train. The ultrasonic tones will travel up to 300 feet in front of the unit. This range is up to 6× Farther than the competition!

Does it have to be on all the time?



For best results, the unit needs to be ON and in use near the dog at all times. This unit is a training device, so the dog needs to hear this activate each and every time he barks. The unit will go into a "stand by" mode when the dog is not barking. During this standby time no power is being used, but the unit must remain "on."

How does this actually work?

While many customers see the effects of the Dog Silencer™ within a few days, this unit is a training device and will depend on how quickly the dog associates the ultrasound as a result of his barking. We strongly recommend you give the unit two to three weeks to see full results. This powerful training system is based on Pavlov's Dog Study.

Will it hurt or harm the dog in any way?

The Dog Silencer uses a high-pitched ultrasound that is designed to simply "irritate" the dog. It is not designed to cause pain or harm to their ears (we compare it to someone dragging their fingernails on a blackboard). We do not recommend using the Dog Silencer™ with puppies under 1 year of age. Please consult your veterinarian before using this product with puppies. The sound from the Dog Silencer™, although irritating, is not designed to hinder 100% of your dog's barking. If your dog "needs" to bark, he can. The Dog Silencer will not train the dog to stop barking out of instinct (at an intruder for example).

Should I use batteries or electricity? How long does the battery last?

You can use battery or electricity — your choice. For the base price, you get the Dog Silencer and its convenient remote control. If you chose this base option, you will run the unit on six (6) AA batteries. For



a limited time we are also including a 5 ft. AC adapter. Please do not use after-market AC adapters (those not purchased from Good Life) with the Dog Silencer. This will void your warranty.

Battery life varies on the dog's barking habits since the device only turns on when the dog barks. When first using the Dog Silencer™, the dog will be barking normally since it has yet to make the connection between its barking and the sound frequencies. At first, the batteries may only last about a week. As the dog becomes trained and barks less the batteries can last anywhere from 2-4 weeks. Battery life will also depend on the weather, the quality of the battery, and how often the unit is being activated. You may use rechargeable AA batteries if you wish.

How does the Remote Control work?

Even though the Dog Silencer can "hear" barking up to 75 feet. away, the corrective ultrasound emitted from the unit can actually travel up to 300 feet in a clear, straight path. If the dog is 100 feet away, for example, his barking probably won't activate the unit automatically. However, pressing the remote control will activate the Dog Silencer manually and the dog will still be able to hear the corrective sound.

If for some reason Rover is outside the Dog Silencer's 75 foot sound sensor range, you can manually trigger the device with the simple press of a button. The remote control can be used from inside your home, car, or even in your pocket! As an additional option, you can turn the Dog Silencer microphone sensitivity all the way down and solely activate your Pro using the remote control. Not only does this special convenience allow you to train dogs more than 75 feet away, but you can customize your own dog's training to include staying off furniture, away from the trash and anything else you want to teach your dog to do. The key chain remote can be used up to 200 feet away from the main unit.



How does this work with Electronic/Invisible Fence systems?

Will this work through fences, walls, windows, or bushes?

The high-pitched ultrasound emitted by the Dog Silencer will *not* penetrate any solid objects such as wood fences, windows, walls or thick shrubbery. Sparse trees, window screens, chain link and wrought-iron fences should be okay. Please see our Video on Getting the Best Results with your Dog Silencer.

Can I use the Dog Silencer with a puppy?

Will this work for whining or howling?

If the Dog Silencer is fairly close to the dog, you may be able to adjust the microphone sensitivity higher to pick up howling or even whining. If this doesn't work, you might consider our BarkWise no-shock training collars for your dog. Also keep in mind that a dog might be howling or whining for reasons such as discomfort, fear or anxiety. These issues should be discussed with a veterinarian instead of "punished" with any bark control system.

Will this bother my other pets?

Cats and dogs do have very similar hearing ranges, so if your cat is near the unit when it's activated, yes, it will probably bother the cat. However, the sound from the Dog Silencer does not go through walls or around corners. For example, if the Dog Silencer™ is located in the back yard, and your cat is in the front yard or even in the house, the sound should not bother him at all. If the Dog Silencer™ is being used indoors, you'll want to keep cats and/or rodent pets out of the area where that is being used.



Is the "High-Low" dial for Volume?

The high-low dial on the side of the unit is used to customize the microphone sensitivity. This is not a volume setting. You may adjust the sensitivity of the bark sensor between High (if the dog is far away) and Low (if the dog is close to the unit, or if the unit is being used indoors). We recommend you start with the unit on low, and then increase the sensitivity as needed. There is no volume adjustment necessary on the Dog Silencer, as the ultrasonic frequencies can travel up to 300 feet in a clear, unobstructed path.

What is Audio Mode?

When using Audio Mode, you will be able to hear the Dog Silencer activate. It's recommended you switch to this mode when adjusting the bark sensitivity when first setting up the unit. In addition, you can use the audio mode for older dogs or dogs with poor hearing as an alternative to the ultrasonic sound training.

Also Keep in Mind:

Seeing Results

Your Dog Silencer is a training device. Some customers report seeing results within a few days, but *most will see results in 2 – 3 weeks.*

Sounds Traveling Through Walls and Floors

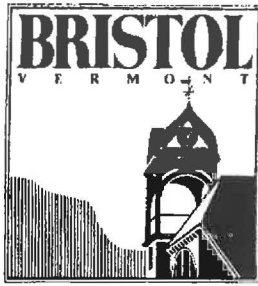
The sounds emitted by the Dog Silencer will not travel through solid objects such as walls or floors. If using indoors, make sure to put the Dog Silencer in the same room as the dog.

Using with Puppies

Consult with your veterinarian before using the Dog Silencer with a puppy.

Using with Invisible Fence Systems





Town of Bristol
Therese Kirby
Town Administrator
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
bristoltown@gmavt.net

October 17, 2016

Todd Baldwin
12 Estey Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Todd,

Thank you for speaking with me today regarding the on-going dog complaint about the barking hunting dogs on your property. You stated you have ordered, and expect to receive, two more bark collars for your dogs this week. You also stated that Mike Freegard comes every night to feed his dogs and places bark collars on his dogs at that time. The bark collars are removed in the mornings, as you feel it would not be healthy for the dogs to wear them 24/7. I spoke with Road Foreman Peter Bouvier, and you can expect a visit from him and Dog Warden Cale Pelland this week. You are proposing to relocate the dogs and build a berm between the dogs and properties north of you. The Road Foreman will need to look at the location to determine if it is outside of the Town's right of way. The Dog Warden will be able to discuss any other options you have to keep the dogs quiet, and look at the area they are currently being housed.

It appeared during our phone conversation today, that you felt barking/noise was only a problem if it occurred at night and that is not the case. The Animal Control Ordinance defines "excessive noise" as "any noise that is created by a domestic pet or wolf-hybrid, audible to an individual in a location where he or she is lawfully permitted to be, that is of such volume, duration or frequency that a reasonable person would find it disturbing or irritating".

While I appreciate the efforts and cost of the corrective measures you are taking, the dogs, whether yours or the Freegard's, are ultimately your responsibility, as they are housed on your property. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 453-2410.

Sincerely,


Therese Kirby
Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard
Cale Pelland
Brian McCormick



Town of Bristol

Holley Hall

P.O. Box 249

Bristol, VT 05443

(802) 453-2410 • Fax 453-5188

September 12, 2016

Ms. Gertrude Baldwin
12 Estey Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear Gertrude:

The Town has received an animal complaint regarding on-going incidents where the dogs belonging to Shawn Freegard, are not under his control and acting as a nuisance. In this case, barking incessantly. As defined in Section 2(n) of the Town of Bristol's Animal Control Ordinance, his dogs are a "nuisance animal" as they "are uncontrolled and making excessive noise or otherwise acts to create a nuisance or disturbance". The Town has also received a complaint regarding an odor coming from the property. The complainant believes is due to the number of dogs. This problem will also need to be addressed as well and a solution reached to eliminate the odor and barking problems.

This letter serves as a Notice of Violation of the Town of Bristol's Animal Control Ordinance. You will have ten days from the date of this letter to comply with the Animal Control Ordinance. Please instruct Shawn to read and follow the enclosed copy of the Animal Control Ordinance. If he fails to quiet his dogs, the Dog Warden may impound his dogs and he would be scheduled a hearing with the Selectboard, who have the right to take action outlined in Section 8 of the Ordinance.

The Town appreciates your co-operation in this matter and adherence to the Ordinance. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the issues arising from your neighbors land, not yours, please contact me at 453-2410.

Sincerely,

Pam Correia
Administrative Assistant

enc

c Cale Pelland, Dog Warden
Shawn Freegard

9.14.16

Spoke w/ Todd

Baldwin. He will

put a bark collar
on Shawn's dog that
leads the barking.

The smell is due to
pigs.