

Chris Taggart

From: sharon renfro <sammcfro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dry Gulch Nuisance Dogs, and lots of them

> 12-18-2021

>>

>>

>> Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

>>

>> The barking dogs on Dry Gulch have gotten worse, not better. There

>> is no escaping the very disruptive and disturbing noise. The owners of the 8? dogs at 755 Dry Gulch Road, Stevensville, Mt. are not doing anything to stop this incessant barking/howling/yapping. At first they did put up a vinyl tarp around the small yard where dogs are, and that did partly quiet them for a couple of days until these dogs figured up how to see over it, and the barking continues.

>>

>> These dogs have also figured how to escape their confined little yard and have been out harassing our horses, me, and at least one other neighbor who has two very small children. This same large dog charged at her and her smallest toddler, and he charged at me in my own front yard, as one of his buddies nipped at my horse's heels as she was grazing in our front field. (The field between the dogs' run and our house is about 6 acres with 3 fence lines, and a pretty thick shelter belt between me and Lindsay Lane. These dogs live across Lindsay Lane at the corner of Dry Gulch Rd., right on the cul-de-sac.) The blond dog that charged me is larger than a lab, had bared teeth, and was being very threatening. When I told the owner, she said "He's just a puppy." I worry what that "puppy" will do to me or my horses or my cats or dog if it catches one of us. That "puppy" will only get larger and more aggressive if left unchecked.

>>

>> These dogs being out of their "yard" worries me, as their owners are gone all day say, 7am to 6:30pm. The dogs are alone, outside all day while the owners are in Missoula working. The owners don't get to suffer this incessant barking/howling/yapping, we do. And when they are out of their yard, the dogs run wild all day.

>> This worries me because:

>> There are 2 toddlers living next door to these dogs. (8? dogs that are not under the control of anybody once they escape.)

>> We have many deer that will be birthing their fawns here this spring. Fawns will not have a chance against these dogs who want to chase. (I want to stop these dogs

>> before I see another fawn run to death by a chasing dog.)

>> I want to feel safe walking out to my mailbox on the cul-de-sac. I now carry a pepper spray in my pocket. I have been forced into carrying pepper spray while on my own

>> property or on Dr Gulch Rd. I have never felt so unsafe here.

>> My horses have displayed agitated behavior lately and I think it is from being chased and having their heels nipped. They are a docile, chilled out breed, and this agitation is something new to them and me. They are work horses and staying calm and collected is imperative for them to work safely with my husband.

>>

>> These uncontrollable dogs have changed, and are changing the neighborhood. One neighbor has created such a beautiful oasis for herself and her family on her back deck. They sat out there all summer and fall. It was a beautiful gathering spot that will be forever changed by these dogs. Another neighbor spent hours with her children in her yard and garden. It will no longer be a respite for her and her family. We had a couple of beautiful warmer days last month and i went out to enjoy a cup of coffee on my front porch. I brought a book with me, as it was so warm and pleasant out. But sitting out on my front porch is no longer an option. Nor is sitting on the back porch. I was cleaning up the stalls at

the barn one morning around 10:00am and started to hear this awful commotion that has become oh so familiar. It sounded like i was living right next to the Bitterroot Humane Society at feeding time and someone had just let a cat loose in the dog kennel. I will try to attach a recording of this for your listening "pleasure". These disruptions go on every day at all different times. Another recording I would like to send is from my front porch. I can hear them inside my house with all the doors and windows closed and the thermal blinds drawn. I cannot imagine what my neighbors are living with. These dogs have disrupted what was once a peaceful, pleasant place. The recordings will be sent separately following this email.

>>

>> I was just musing to my husband about our neighborhood. As you drive up the road you see American flags, Trump flags, Bernie posters: we are a diverse bunch of people who walk by or drive by and wave. We are pretty much a "live and let live" neighborhood. But we cannot, nor should we be forced to live with these nuisance dogs that disturb the peace on a constant basis.

>>

>> So this neighborhood is being changed due to one couple's selfish want to have 8+/- dogs that they are not even with for 12 hours a day. Why do we have to tolerate these dogs?

>> It was 4 degrees out last night and the dogs were putting up a real ruckus at 7pm and still at 8 pm. I don't blame the dogs. I'd be howling too if i was left out in that cold, after having been out all day with no attention. Can they be charged with cruelty to animals?

>>

>> Please help us with this constant disruption to our lives as we no longer have free use of our property or comfortable enjoyment of life here.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>>

>> Sharon Renfro

>> 783 Dry Gulch Rd.

>> Stevensville, Mt.

>> 406-550-3528

>>

>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Ravalli County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe the email to be malicious and/or phishing email, please use the Phish Alert button.