

CHAPTER 463.

AN ACT for the better protection of sheep in Wicomico county.

Unlawful for dogs to kill sheep.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That hereafter it shall be unlawful for any dog to kill or wound any sheep in Wicomico county; and if any owner of any sheep, his or her tenant or agent, in said county, shall at any time obtain any reliable information of any dog having killed or wounded any sheep belonging to said owner, or left in the care of said tenant or agent, the said owner, tenant or agent, shall forthwith notify, by the most convenient means, the owner, owners or keeper of said dog, of the depredations so committed; and if the owner, owners or keeper of said dog shall refuse or fail to kill, or remove and keep the same from said county, within ten days after receiving said notice, then it shall be lawful for the owner of said sheep, or the said tenant or agent, to kill said dog at the first opportunity thereafter.

Owner held responsible.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That in addition to the provisions in the foregoing section of this act, the owner, owners or keeper of said dog, shall be held responsible in law for all losses or damages sustained by the owner of said sheep, in consequence of the killing or wounding of the same as aforesaid, and shall be liable to all legal proceedings for the collection of debts in this State, for the recovery of the said damages.

Justices to try cases.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the several justices of the peace in Wicomico county be and they are hereby authorized to try and determine all cases that may arise under this act, and to construe the provisions of this act liberally, so as to contribute as much as possible to the protection of sheep in said county.

Effective.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 10, 1880.