

Former
acts appli-
cable.

and subsequent years shall be applicable to the collections of the said State and county taxes, for the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight in the hands of the said George W. Long and shall be and remain so applicable thereto from two years from and after the passage of this act.

Approved April 7th, 1892.

CHAPTER 340.

AN ACT to regulate the procedure in prosecutions for cruelty to animals.

Cruelty to
animals—
jurisdiction
of magis-
trates

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That justices of the peace shall have jurisdiction concurrent with that of the courts of criminal jurisdiction, to try and determine all cases in relation to cruelty to animals and to pronounce sentence of fine and imprisonment, or either, in the same manner as said courts; but if either the party accused or the State's attorney shall elect to have the case tried before court it shall be the duty of the justice of the peace to give a preliminary hearing, except in cases where such hearing is waived by the accused, and if there be a probable cause of guilt, to commit or bail the the accused for the action of the court having jurisdiction.

Fines

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That whenever a fine is imposed in any such case by any court or justice of the peace one-half thereof shall be paid to the Maryland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Baltimore City, in case there shall be no society of a similar character in the county, city or town where the offence shall have been committed, in which latter event the said one-half of the fine shall be paid to the said local society.

Waiver of
jury trial.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the justice of the peace before whom any party accused shall be brought for his action under the provision of this act shall before proceeding to try and determine the case, make known to such party his right to a trial before the court having criminal jurisdiction, as aforesaid, and shall obtain from such party a written waiver of said right signed by such party to be filed among the proceedings in the case and to be noted on the docket of said justice.

Effective.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 7th, 1892.