

injured by dogs, he shall, within twenty-four hours after the discovery of such destruction or injury, notify the Chief of Police of Montgomery County and acquaint him with the damage done and the location of the carcasses of the fowls or animals so destroyed or injured. Within twenty-four hours after receiving such notice, the Chief of Police of Montgomery County shall cause an inspection to be made by a member of the Montgomery County Police Force of said fowls or animals so reported to be injured or destroyed, who shall report his findings in writing to the Board of County Commissioners within forty-eight hours thereafter. The owner of any fowls or animals so destroyed or injured by dogs shall then file his claim with the Board of County Commissioners, setting forth therein the number and kind of fowls or animals so destroyed or injured, the date thereof and the amount claimed as damages. Said claim shall have appended thereto the affidavit of the owner that he believes said fowls or animals to have been destroyed or injured by dogs, and if the owner of the dogs is unknown to the claimant, that such is the fact, and, if the owner of the dogs is known to the claimant, that the claimant is unable to collect the amount of damages sustained through the medium of a suit against the owner of said dogs. When the report of the officer investigating the loss or destruction and the claim is filed in the office of the County Commissioners, the said Commissioners shall review said report and claim and if, in their judgment, they find that the claimant is entitled to compensation, they shall award an amount which in their judgment is the fair value of said fowls or animals so injured or destroyed and the amount so awarded shall be paid to the claimant out of the proceeds of the collection of taxes on dogs. This section shall not apply to residents of Montgomery County living in municipalities, incorporated towns or special taxing areas which collect their own dog taxes, and no damages or compensation shall be paid by the Board of County Commissioners to any claimants in such municipalities, incorporated towns or special taxing areas for injuries or destruction to their domestic fowls or animals caused by dogs.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, and being passed by a yea and nay vote, supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved May 6, 1941.