

If the owner of any dead dog is not known and after inquiry cannot be found the Warden shall dispose of said carcass by cremation or burial.

256J. (Destruction of and Reimbursement for Domestic Animals.) Owners of property seeking compensation from the County are charged with the duty of providing reasonable care and protection for their animals and the requirements of this section are to be construed strictly.

Whoever suffers loss by dogs on his own property by the maiming or killing of his livestock or poultry, outside the premises of the owners or keepers of such dogs, may, provided he acts within seventy-two hours from the date of his knowledge of the occurrence, apply to any justice of the peace in his district for the appointment of three disinterested persons, not being related or members of the family or household, as appraisers to view, if possible, and appraise the damages by him claimed; and they, or a majority of them, under oath, shall state in writing to the Board of County Commissioners their reasons for believing that a dog did the damage, the number of each kind of animal injured or killed, the character and extent of the injury done, the reasonable salvage possible that the net amount of damages sustained by the owners. The owner and the appraisers shall make oath that they believe the damage was done by a dog and when the claim so completed is filed with the said Board it shall direct the Warden of the district to view the premises and, if possible, the animals or carcasses, and investigate the claim and its manner of proof, and determine, if possible, the identity and ownership of the dog responsible for the loss and report his findings and recommendations concerning the same. If such identity and ownership is not known then the Board shall review the claim and the report of the Warden and shall determine the amount, if any, of damages to be awarded and which shall be paid, and the Board's award shall be final. No award or payment on any such claim shall be made unless it is completed and filed with the clerk of said Board within four days from the date of appointment of the appraisers.

If the owner of the dog is known, the Warden shall direct him immediately to impound such dog until authorized by the Board to release it and he, together with the claimant sustaining the loss shall appear before the Board at their next meeting after notice from the Warden and if after review of the claim and the Warden's report on the same, the amount of damages awarded by the Board to the claimant is acknowledged and paid by the owner of the dog, the dog then shall be released provided it is duly licensed at the time of the killing,