

194.

(e) The boards of county commissioners of Allegany, Charles, *St. Mary's* and Carroll counties are hereby authorized and empowered, in order to safeguard the health, safety and public welfare of the residents of such counties to pass rules, regulations or resolutions for the purpose of carrying out the powers hereinafter granted, provided that such rules, regulations or resolutions shall contain proper standards for the exercise of the discretion contained herein, and shall operate uniformly. The said rules, regulations or resolutions shall provide for the sale of dog licenses in said county, the keeping of records of all sales, the designation of persons authorized to sell such licenses, the taking into custody and disposition of any dogs found running at large within the limits of such county with power to delegate by written contract the enforcement of such rules, regulations or resolutions, provided, however, in any such contract said boards of county commissioners shall reserve the right to cancel, without notice or recourse, such delegation for stated cause or on thirty days notice without cause. Before the county commissioners shall proceed to enforce any rule, regulation or resolution, passed in pursuance of the provisions of this section, advertisement of such rule, regulation or resolution shall be made in some newspaper of general circulation published in such county once each week for four (4) successive weeks, in order to provide any person, firm or corporation adversely affected thereby an opportunity to be heard by the county commissioners in opposition to the adoption of such rule, regulation or resolution. The said boards of county commissioners are further authorized and empowered to enter into a contract with any animal welfare or humane society of any other individual, association or corporation specially qualified for the purposes hereinafter set forth, for the establishment of a dog pound, and for the collection, disposition and destruction of stray, injured and sick dogs. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 195 of this article, said county commissioners may in their discretion use all or any part of the dog license tax for the establishment of said pound, and for the collection or destruction of said dogs.

(i)

(1) The county commissioners of Charles, *St. Mary's* and Washington counties are authorized and empowered by rule, regulation or resolution to provide that owners of dogs in the county shall not permit the dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to run at large off the premises of the owner, except when it is under the control of the owner or an authorized agent of the owner by leash, cord or chain, provided that the following dogs may be permitted to run at large when accompanied by the owner or an authorized agent and when kept within sight or calling distance:

1. Dogs proved to be obedient, in accordance with any regulation or resolution of the county commissioners.
2. Dogs being used for hunting, or trained for hunting, and
3. Dogs being accompanied by the owner on horseback.

(2) The county commissioners by rule, regulation or resolution may provide for investigation of reports of violations of paragraph (1) and for enforcement of the provisions of this subsection.