

the health, safety and public welfare of the residents of these counties to adopt rules and regulations, by resolution and/or ordinance, for the purpose of carrying out the powers hereinafter granted, provided that such rules and regulations shall contain proper standards for the exercise of the discretion contained therein, and shall operate uniformly. The said rules and regulations shall provide for the sale of dog licenses in said counties, the keeping of records of all sales, the designation of persons authorized to sell such licenses and taking into custody and disposition of any dog running at large within the limits of these counties, with power to delegate by written contract for the enforcement of such rules and regulations provided, however, that in any such contract, the 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 or regulation adopted pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, advertisement of a summary of such rule, regulation, resolution or ordinance shall be made in some newspaper published in the county once each week for two 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, resolution or ordinance. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 197 of this article, the county commissioners may in their discretion use all or any part of the dog license tax for the establishment of a pound, and for the collection or destruction of dogs. The county commissioners are further authorized and empowered, hereby, to appoint dog wardens and to provide compensation therefor, who shall have all the powers of a peace officer who may sell and issue dog licenses, and take into custody and dispose of stray, injured, unlicensed, diseased or vicious dogs in accordance with rules and regulations of the county commissioners and pursuant to this subsection. The county commissioners are further authorized and empowered to provide dog pounds wherein dogs seized by dog wardens may be placed or, in the discretion of the commissioners to enter into agreement with adjacent counties for the establishment of a dog pound to serve all of such counties. The commissioners are further authorized to pay any expenses arising from the operation of this subsection. This subsection shall not be operative or effective within the corporate limits of any incorporated town or city within either county unless and until the governing body thereof shall indicate by resolution its intention to be governed by the provisions of this subsection.

(2) Any dog owner violating the rules and regulations provided for in the preceding paragraph (1), in Worcester County, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof will be subject to a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense or a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each additional offense.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.*

Approved May 17, 1971.