

manner possible. The court may order the dog restrained or enter such other appropriate order as the case may require. Any owner failing to comply with the provisions of this paragraph or a court order entered thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each offense. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, the barking of hunting dogs in pursuit of game shall not be considered a disturbance of the public peace for the purposes hereof.

[(3)] (4) In addition to and not in substitution for any powers granted under this subtitle, the County Commissioners of Cecil County by resolution or ordinance enacted according to its usual procedure may provide for a comprehensive system for regulation of domestic animals in the county, including licensing and control of domestic animals. As a part of such regulation the County Commissioners may establish separate domestic animal control districts in the county with regulations applicable solely within the district, provide for the impounding and disposal of domestic animals found to be dangerous to persons and property, and provide reasonable penalties for violations of any regulations applicable to domestic animals.

[(4)] (5) It is unlawful in Cecil County for any person to own or keep a domestic animal which disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or which is vicious and bites any person. Upon the sworn complaint before a trial magistrate in Cecil County of any two or more persons of different households alleging that a domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area of Cecil County, or upon the sworn complaint of any one or more persons that a domestic animal is vicious and has bitten any person, a summons shall issue to the owner or keeper of such domestic animal to appear before a trial magistrate in Cecil County. Upon proof that the domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or is vicious and has bitten any person, the owner or keeper may be required to deliver up the offending domestic animal to be killed in the most humane manner possible unless he removes the domestic animal permanently from the neighborhood. If the owner or keeper is required to deliver up the domestic animal to be killed or to remove it as aforesaid, and he refuses or fails to do so, then it is the duty of any police officer or any duly empowered agent on behalf of the county to seize the domestic animal wherever it may be found and to cause it to be killed in the most humane manner possible. The court may order the domestic animal restrained or enter such other appropriate order as the case may require. Any owner failing to comply with the provisions of this paragraph or a court order entered thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each offense. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, the barking of hunting dogs in pursuit of game shall not be considered a disturbance of the public peace for the purposes hereof.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.

Approved April 26, 1972.