

(a) (1) For the purposes of Sections 197 and 198 of this article, "person" means an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, or representative of any kind and any partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other entity.

(2) All moneys arising from the dog licenses or taxes shall be kept in a separate fund by the treasurer of the respective counties, or tax collecting office thereof, and shall be used for the payment of damages for the injury and killing of sheep, poultry or other livestock in the respective counties, according to the procedures set out in § 198 of this article.

(3) In the event there are insufficient funds for the payment of all damages the damages shall be paid in the order the claims are presented, and any person or persons whose claims are not paid in any one year by reason of the lack of money to the credit of the fund, which is to be designated "the dog license fund," shall be paid out of the first money coming into the fund after his claim is reached, and shall be paid in the order in which the claims are proved and filed; and any claims now filed and passed upon, but remaining unpaid, shall have preference over any new claims in the order of payment.

(4) The county commissioners of the several counties may expend any funds in excess of \$1,000 remaining in the hands of the treasurer or the tax collecting officer after the payment of the claims for any public purpose which, in their judgment may seem right and proper, and, whenever in their judgment it may become necessary to do so, may enter into a contract or agreement with the persons they may deem suitable, for the removal, care and disposition of unlicensed dogs, or licensed dogs which may create a menace to the safety, security and property of the residents of the counties, on the terms and conditions and for the compensation that may be agreed to by the county commissioners and the persons.

(b) [In Washington County, the County Commissioners are authorized to pay out of the fund claims for damages to shrubbery and trees, and for damages to personal property of any kind] THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

198.

(a) (1) Except in Carroll County, if any person has any sheep, poultry, or livestock destroyed or injured in a county by a dog or dogs, the person may apply to the sheriff or the designated official of the county, who shall appoint three disinterested persons as appraisers to view and appraise the damages sustained by the person. In Carroll County, the sheriff or the designated official of the county shall appoint a deputy sheriff of the county or an animal control officer as the appraiser.