

(b) (1) When the report of the proceedings has been filed, the county commissioners of the county shall review the report, and if in their judgment the amount of damages stated is unfair, they shall award an amount as they may deem fair.

(2) If the owner of the dog or dogs cannot be determined, the award shall be paid out of the dog license fund according to the procedures set out in § 11-507 of this subtitle.

(3) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MAY PROVIDE BY LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE FOR THE COMPENSATION OF ANY PERSON WHOSE SHEEP, POULTRY, OR LIVESTOCK IS DESTROYED OR INJURED BY A DOG.

(2) A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE ENACTED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY REQUIRE THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY, A COUNTY OFFICIAL, OR OTHER PERSON TO APPRAISE THE DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THE PERSON AND REPORT THE FINDINGS TO THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY.

(B) (1) IF THE OWNER OF THE DOG MAY NOT BE DETERMINED, THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY MAY COMPENSATE THE PERSON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPRAISAL OUT OF A DOG LICENSE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 11-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE COUNTY.

(2) [The] A sworn report of the [appraisers or] appraiser shall be deemed prima facie evidence of the fairness of the award of damages in each instance.

(3) IF THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY CONSIDERS THE AMOUNT OF THE APPRAISAL UNFAIR, THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY MAY COMPENSATE THE PERSON AN AMOUNT THAT THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY CONSIDERS FAIR.

[(4) The county commissioners shall not change an award unless they have personal knowledge of its unfairness, or shall receive competent testimony to the effect that the award is in excess of a fair commercial valuation of the sheep, poultry or livestock injured or destroyed by dogs.]

(c) If the owner of the dog [or dogs] doing the damage be known, it is the duty of the county [commissioners] GOVERNING BODY to notify the owner [or owners] to kill the dog [or dogs] immediately. If the owner [or owners refuse or neglect] REFUSES OR NEGLECTS to kill the dog [or dogs] upon notice [as aforesaid], the owner [or owners] shall be liable for the damages to the same extent as [he] THE OWNER would be liable in case of negligence or malicious destruction of property. The county [commissioners] GOVERNING BODY may [in their discretion] have special officers kill the dog [or dogs].

(d) [In Howard and Montgomery Counties, the county council shall prescribe by law the manner in which the powers, duties and responsibilities placed within its jurisdiction and control by this section shall be exercised.

(e) In Washington County, the Board of County Commissioners shall prescribe by ordinance or resolution the manner in which the powers, duties, and responsibilities placed within its jurisdiction and control by this section shall be exercised.