

An ACT to prevent the Mischiefs arising from the Multiplicity of useles Dogs, and other Purposes therein mentioned.

Mode of
Taxation,
and how to
be collected
with relation
to Dogs.

BE it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That during the Continuance of this Act, there shall be paid yearly, and every Year, to the Sheriff of the County, by every single Person not having or keeping a Family, and having Property in or keeping any Dog above the Age of Six Months, of what Size or Kind soever, the Sum of One Shilling, and if there shou'd be more than One Dog owned or kept as aforesaid, by any such Person, the Sum of Five Shillings for every other Dog so owned or kept; and if there shou'd be more than One Dog owned or kept as aforesaid, by any Master, Mistress, or Head of a Family, at any one Plantation, or by him or her permitted or suffered to be kept thereon, by any Servant or Servants, Slave or Slaves, there shall be paid to the Sheriff as aforesaid, by such Master, Mistress, or other Head of a Family; the Sum of One Shilling for every other Dog so owned or kept, or permitted or suffered to be kept as aforesaid. And that the Constables of the respective Hundreds, in the several Counties within this Province, shall yearly, and every Year, at the Time of taking the Taxables in their respective Hundreds, take an exact Account of the Number of Dogs owned or kept by any single Person not having or keeping a Family, and also of the Number of Dogs, more than one, belonging to every Family, within their respective Hundreds, and the Person or Persons liable to the Payment of the Sums of Money as aforesaid, shall be obliged to give a List thereof to the Constables, in the same Manner, under their Hands, as they are by Law obliged to give in their Taxables, and return two fair Lists thereof to every August Court, with the Constables Lists, one to be lodged with the Clerk of the County, the other to be delivered to the Sheriff, who is by this Act impowered and obliged to collect the Money aforesaid, in the same Manner that the County Levy is collected. And if any Person or Persons shall conceal or deny that he, she, or they have Property in, or keep any such Dog or Dogs, or hath or have permitted or suffered the same to be kept as aforesaid, and the Constable hath Reason to believe the contrary, it shall and may be lawful for him, and he is hereby commanded to give in the Name or Names of the Person or Persons so offending, or supposed to have offended, to some one Justice of the Peace of the respective County, who is hereby authorized and impowered, directed and required, to summon such Person or Persons, at a Day and Place by him prefixed, and there to examine such Person or Persons touching such Complaint, and upon its appearing by sufficient and disinterested Testimony to be true, the said Justice shall give Judgment and grant Execution if need be, for the Sum of Twenty Shillings for every Dog so concealed or denied, belonging to or continuing at the House of the said Party or Parties ten Days next before the Information of such Constable with Costs, one Half of the said Twenty Shillings to the Constable aforesaid, the other Half to be paid to the Sheriff of the County, for the same Uses as the Tax raised by virtue of this Act.

Damage done
by Dogs, how
to be reme-
died.

II. And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That when any Person or Persons within this Province, shall have sustained Damage by Dogs, of any Kind, Age or Size, killing or wounding his, her, or their Sheep, it shall and may be lawful for him, her, or them, to call in two neighbouring Freeholders of good Credit, not being related to the Person or Persons injured, who are hereby impowered to view the Sheep so killed or hurt, and if it shall appear upon positive or circumstantial Proof to their Satisfaction, that they were killed or wounded by Dogs only, then the said Freeholders, shall certify