

CHAPTER 140

THE DOGS ACT

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DOGS

1011896.

1811920.

1411921.

811925.

711950.

1511985.

18/1989.

S.I. 3911989.

611991.

(29th June, 1896.)

PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be cited as the Dogs Act. **Short title.**
2. In this Act— **Interpretation.**
- "dangerous" means savage, vicious or likely to spread rabies, distemper or any kind of disease.

PART I

3. Any Magistrate may take cognizance of a complaint that a dog is dangerous or not kept under proper control, and, if it appear to him that any dog, the subject of any such complaint made to him, is dangerous or not kept under proper control, may make an order in a summary way directing that the dog be kept under proper control by its owner, or, if dangerous, destroyed; and every person failing to comply with any such order shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of one hundred dollars for every day during which the default shall have lasted and in default of such payment to imprisonment for three months. **Provision as to dangerous dogs.**

4. If any dog, either at large in any public road, street, alley, thoroughfare, open space or other place, or in charge of any persons, shall attack, worry or put in fear any person or any horse or other animal, the owner of such dog shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for three months, and the convicting Magistrate may, if he think fit, make an order in a summary way directing that the dog be kept under proper control by its owner, or, in the case of a second or any subsequent complaint in respect of the same dog, destroyed. **Furious dogs.**

Evidence.

5. Every person in whose custody, charge or possession or in or upon whose house or premises any dog shall be found or seen shall be deemed for the purposes of this Part of this Act to keep such dog, unless the contrary be proved.

Application of penalties.

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, every sum paid by way of penalty under this Act shall be paid into the Treasury for the use of Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) The Magistrate may, if he thinks fit, order a moiety of any penalty recovered under this Part of this Act to be paid to the person by whom the information is laid.

PART II

Muzzling order.

7. (1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, direct that all dogs being in or upon any place other than private premises shall be muzzled.

(2) Such order may relate either to Antigua and Barbuda or to any part or parts thereof therein named.

Penalty for permitting unmuzzled dog to be at large.

8. Any person who, in a district in which an order under section 7 is in operation, permits any dog to go at large without being muzzled in the prescribed manner shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for three months.

Unmuzzled dog may be destroyed.

9. Any dog found in or upon any place other than private premises without being muzzled in the prescribed manner may be destroyed by any constable or person authorised in writing by the Commissioner of Police in such manner and by such means as may be prescribed, after being kept for not less than three days in a prescribed place of detention, unless in the opinion of a Veterinary Surgeon it be in such condition that it ought to be destroyed forthwith.

Where owners claim unmuzzled dogs.

10. (1) Where any dog found at large without being muzzled is claimed by the owner, such dog unless it has been destroyed as hereinbefore provided shall be restored to the owner upon payment by him of the costs and expenses attendant on the detention and delivery of such dog to its

owner, together with a further sum of one hundred dollars by way of penalty.

(2) If the owner shall refuse or neglect to pay such costs, expenses and penalties, such dog may be destroyed forthwith.

11. (1) Any person who being the owner thereof, suffers or permits any savage or vicious dog, which is known by him to be such, to go at large without being properly muzzled, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

Permitting dangerous or rabid dog to go at large.

(2) Any person who, being the owner thereof, suffers or permits any dog which is known by him to be in a rabid state to go at large, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for twelve months.

12. (1) The Minister may make regulations providing for—

Power to make regulations.

(a) the placing of restrictions on dogs during such period as he may think expedient;

(b) the muzzling of dogs;

(c) the detention of dogs in prescribed places, and the length of the period of such detention;

(d) the manner of conveying dogs to such places, and the charges to be made for such conveyance;

(e) the amount to be paid for the keeping of dogs and for any medicines supplied for their use during detention;

(f) the manner and conditions of removing dogs from places of detention;

(g) the proper supervision of places of detention and the appointment of persons to see that the provisions of this Act are carried into effect therein;

(h) the manner in which dogs are to be kept in places of detention;

(i) the conditions under which dogs confined in places of detention may be killed;

(j) all other matters and things whatsoever, including the payment of the expenses which may be deemed necessary for the better carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act,

and may attach to the breach of any such regulation a fine of five hundred dollars or imprisonment for six months.

(2) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette* and local newspapers, if any, and when so published shall have the force and effect of law.

(3) All penalties for the breach of regulations made under this Act shall be recoverable on summary conviction.
