

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2025 SESSION

CHAPTER 319

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-6553 of the Code of Virginia, relating to compensation for livestock and poultry killed by dogs.

[S 1000]

Approved March 21, 2025

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.2-6553 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 3.2-6553. Compensation for livestock and poultry killed by dogs.

Any person who has any livestock or poultry killed or injured by any dog not his own shall be entitled to receive as compensation the fair market value of such livestock or poultry not to exceed ~~\$750~~ *\$1,000* per animal or ~~\$10~~ *\$25* per fowl if (i) the claimant has furnished evidence within 60 days of discovery of the quantity and value of the dead or injured livestock and the reasons the claimant believes that death or injury was caused by a dog; (ii) the animal control officer or other officer shall have been notified of the incident within 72 hours of its discovery; and (iii) the claimant first has exhausted his legal remedies against the owner, if known, of the dog doing the damage for which compensation under this section is sought. Exhaustion shall mean a judgment against the owner of the dog upon which an execution has been returned unsatisfied.

Local jurisdictions may by ordinance waive the requirements of clause (ii) or (iii) or both provided that the ordinance adopted requires that the animal control officer has conducted an investigation and that his investigation supports the claim. Upon payment under this section, the local governing body shall be subrogated to the extent of compensation paid to the right of action to the owner of the livestock or poultry against the owner of the dog and may enforce the same in an appropriate action at law.