

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REVISED STATUTES  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE  
1954

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1955 SUPPLEMENT

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ANNOTATED

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IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOLUME 4

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**Place in Pocket of Corresponding  
Volume of Main Set**

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THE MICHIE COMPANY  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
1955

## Chapter 140.

### Cruelty to Animals.

**Sec. 3. Shooting of pigeons and other birds for amusement; not applicable to wild game.**—Whoever keeps or uses any live pigeon, fowl or other bird for a target or to be shot at, either for amusement or as a test of skill in marksmanship, and whoever shoots at any bird as aforesaid or is present as a party, umpire or judge at such shooting, and whoever rents any building, shed, room, yard, field or premises, or knowingly suffers the use of the same for such purpose, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days. Nothing in this section prohibits the shooting of wild game in its wild state or the shooting of birds at field trials under the supervision of the department of inland fisheries and game in accordance with the provisions of section 117-A of chapter 37. (R. S. c. 127, § 3. 1953, c. 11, § 1. 1955, c. 290, § 23.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment substituted, in the last sentence, the reference to § 117-A of chapter 37 for a reference to § 151 of chapter 37.

**Sec. 17. Disposition of old, maimed, disabled, diseased, injured or abandoned animals.**—Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer or agent for any society for the prevention of cruelty to animals or any person authorized to make arrests may apply to any municipal court or trial justice for process to permit the applicant to take possession of any old, maimed, disabled, diseased or injured animal or any animal whose owner has cruelly abandoned or cruelly fails to take care of or provide for, or for process to cause the same to be destroyed or turned over to the applicant or some other suitable person. If the owner is known, a copy of such application shall be served upon him in hand with an order of court to appear at a time and place named, to show cause why such animal should not be taken or destroyed or turned over to the applicant or some other suitable person. If the owner cannot be found by reasonable diligence, or is out of the state although a resident therein, a copy of such application and order of court shall be left at his last and usual place of abode. If the owner is not known, then the court shall order notices to be posted in 2 public and conspicuous places in the town, where the animal was found, stating the case and circumstances and giving 48 hours' notice of hearing thereon. At such hearing, if it appears that such animal has been abandoned by its owner, or that such animal is old, maimed, disabled, diseased or injured, or its owner has cruelly failed to take care of it and provide for it, the court shall order such animal to be destroyed or shall issue process, directing the applicant for such process or some other suitable person to take and retain possession of and provide for such animal pending disposition by the court, and to sell or dispose of the same or return the same to the owner as may be ordered by the court, which order shall be subject to modification from time to time. In the event of the return of said animal to the owner, the owner shall pay all fees and all expenses incurred in connection with taking and keeping of said animal and providing it with care and support; in the event of sale of said animal all of said fees and expenses of taking, keeping, caring for and supporting shall be deducted from the sale price and the balance if any turned over to the owner or forfeited to the county from which the process issued. The court may direct the applicant or some other suitable person to take possession of and provide for said animal pending the hearing on the process sought under the provisions of this section or pending any continuance of said hearing; said persons providing for said animal pursuant to order or direction of the court to have, unless the complaint is dismissed, a lien for their expenses thus incurred, said lien to be enforced as hereinafter provided. The defendant may appeal as in

a civil action and pending such appeal the court may order the applicant or some other suitable person to take possession of said animal and to furnish the same with proper shelter, nourishment and care for the same, but before such appeal shall be allowed, the defendant shall give sufficient security to satisfy the applicant or such other person as the court shall direct to take possession of said animal, approved by the court, to pay all of the expenses for the care and support of such animal pending appeal.

Any person taking possession of any animal as provided in this section shall have a lien thereon for his expense of furnishing the same with proper shelter, nourishment and care, and may enforce said lien in the same manner as liens on goods in possession and choses in action; and the court in giving judgment for such lien shall include thereon a pro rata amount for pasturage, feed and shelter, provided by the lienor from the date of the commencement of proceedings to the date of the judgment or the final disposition of the animal as ordered by the court. (R. S. c. 127, § 17. 1955, c. 222.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment inserted the words “or turned over to the applicant or some other suitable person” in the first and second sentences and the words “where the animal was found” in the fourth sentence. It also made

changes in the fifth and seventh sentences and inserted the sixth sentence, and added the words “or the final disposition of the animal as ordered by the court” at the end of the section.

**Sec. 18. Dogs brought to veterinarian.**—Any person finding a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog may take the same to any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter within the state, who may accept the same, providing such shelter has been approved by the commissioner of agriculture or his agent. Any licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter accepting such a sick, stray, injured or abandoned dog shall keep the same for a period of 2 weeks and shall be entitled to receive from the state the sum of \$1 per day for such period or part thereof as they shall provide food and shelter, provided that such licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter shall notify the clerk of their respective town or city within 24 hours after accepting such a dog, such notice to include a detailed description of the dog and the circumstances of its finding. Upon the expiration of said 2 weeks if the owner of the dog has not appeared to claim the same then said licensed veterinarian, humane society or shelter may give away, sell or otherwise humanely dispose of said dog; proceeds from any sale shall be deducted from any claim for board made to the state. In the event the owner of such a dog shall appear and claim the dog while still in possession of said keeper, the owner may have and receive the same upon payment of all charges provided for in this section. All moneys paid by the state to such keepers shall be taken from the fund received from dog licenses. (1953, c. 367. 1955, c. 257.)

**Effect of amendment.**—The 1955 amendment added at the end of the first sentence the provision as to approval of the shelter.

## Chapter 141.

### Nuisances.

#### Sec. 6. Certain nuisances described.

Cited in *Verreault v. Lewiston*, 150 Me. 67, 104 A. (2d) 538.

#### Sec. 14. Repealed by Public Laws 1955, c. 405, § 46.

#### Sec. 18. Action for damages caused by nuisance.

Cited in *Verreault v. Lewiston*, 150 Me. 67, 104 A. (2d) 538