

Damages by Animals to Property

Ref: *Sefer Nezikin, Hilchot Nezikey Mamon, Chapter 5*

Rules of preventing damage to other people's property.

If an animal enters someone else's fields, even although it did not cause any damage, the owner is warned not to do this (3 warnings). After this the owner of the field has the right to slaughter the animal and tell the owner to come and collect it.



The Sages forbade raising of small animals in *Eretz Yisrael* where there are fields and vineyards.

Yehoshua and his Court established 10 general conditions regarding the Land so as to consider other people.

- 1) One may pasture small animals only in thick forests.
- 2) Any person may collect fresh wood (twigs etc) anywhere even in a colleagues field.
- 3) Wild grass may be collected anywhere.
- 4) One may cut off a branch of a tree anywhere except if it will cause damage to the tree by cutting.
- 5) A spring of water may be used free by local inhabitants.
- 6) Any one may fish with small nets in the *Kineret*. *Naftali* (the Tribe) may use large nets because the lake falls into their territory.
- 7) One may relieve oneself in the field of another.
- 8) If one is lost in someone else's field, one may damage say vines to escape.
- 9) If public roads are inaccessible, passers-by may use paths of private property.
- 10) A corpse acquires its place where it is found.



The Sages also forbade the raising of pigs and dogs (because they can cause great damage)