**REGISTRATION OF DOGS ACT AMENDMENT ACT 1957**

**Legislative Council, 17 October 1957, page 1143**

Second reading

**The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Minister of Local Government),** having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Registration of Dogs Act, 1924-1948. Read a first time.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I move—

*That this Bill he now read a second time.*

Its purpose is to increase the fees payable for registration of dogs under the Registration of Dogs Act. The fees now payable are set out in the second schedule to the Act which provides that the annual registration fee for a male dog is to be 5s. and for a female dog 7s. 6d. By an amendment made to the schedule in 1948 it is provided that, if the registration fee for a dog is not paid within 31 days of the due date, an additional fee of 1s. is to be paid.

The enactment of legislation relating to dogs was a very early and frequent preoccupation with the South Australian Legislature, and it is interesting to see how the fees to be paid for registration of dogs have varied over more than 100 years of registration. The first Dog Act was passed in 1852 and it has the following preamble:—

Whereas the streets of the City of Adelaide and other places within the Province are invested by great numbers of dogs, which are allowed to go loose at all hours of the day and night, to the danger of passengers as well as the great annoyance of the inhabitants at large: And whereas much loss is occasioned to the owners of poultry, of sheep, and other small cattle, by the ravages of such dogs, as well as by dogs of the native breed.

The enactment then proceeded to require the registration of dogs kept within 10 miles of Adelaide and fixed a registration fee of Is. In I860 another Act was passed extending the liability to register dogs to the whole of the Province and the registration fee was increased to 10s. In 1867, a further Act was passed and, apparently, the fee of 10s. was then considered too high, as it was reduced to 5s. These fees continued until 1884, when the fee was fixed at 7s. 6d. for a dog and 12s. 6d. for a slut. Yet another alteration was made in 1889, when the registration fee was fixed at 5s. for a dog and 7s. 6d. for a slut. These are the fees now provided in the present Act, although the term “female dog” has been substituted for the more robust word “slut.”

Thus, the existing fees have been left unchanged for some 67 years, although the value of money has altered tremendously during that period. The point is taken by councils that the existing fees are inadequate to cover the cost of administration, and the Government has been asked to introduce legislation giving effect to a recommendation of the Local Government Advisory Committee to increase the present fees of 5s. and 7s. 6d. to 10s. and 15s. respectively. These increases, Sir, are provided for in Clause 2. It will be seen that the fees proposed are only slightly higher than those thought appropriate to the occasion by the Legislature many years ago.

It is also provided by clause 2 that the additional fee of 1s. for late registration should be increased to 10s. It is obvious that the payment of an additional fee of 1s. is, in these days, not a very powerful inducement to owners to register their dogs by the due date, and it is considered that the penalty fee of 10s. proposed is a suitable fee for the purpose. This amendment also was recommended by the Local Government Advisory Committee.

The annual registration fee for Alsatian dogs is fixed under the Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934, at £2. No alteration to this fee is proposed by the Bill. Clause 3, Sir, makes a drafting alteration to the fourth schedule to the Act. Section 20 provides that, if a stray dog is seized, it may be sold or destroyed unless claimed within four days. The fourth schedule contains a form of notice to be sent to the owner of a registered dog which is seized, and sets out that it will be sold or destroyed if not claimed within 72 hours. Obviously, the reference to 72 hours should be four days to conform with section 20, and clause 3 alters the form accordingly. I commend the Bill to members for their consideration.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.