REGISTRATION OF DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1971

House of Assembly, 21 October 1971, page 2437

Second reading

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Local Government)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Registration of Dogs Act, 1924-1968. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

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

It is designed to overcome a serious deficiency in the provisions of the Registration of Dogs Act. The principal Act at present provides for the destruction of bitches that are found at large and on heat, for the impounding and subsequent destruction (if unclaimed) of stray dogs, and for the destruction of dogs found worrying any sheep or cattle. It does not, however, provide for the destruction of stray dogs that are found to be a danger to human life. A number of incidents have occurred in which children have been terrorized and exposed to risk of injury by stray dogs, and the purpose of the present Bill is to provide sufficient powers to enable these situations to be adequately dealt with.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts a new section 20a in the principal Act. This section provides that, where a dog is at large in any public place or in any premises not belonging to, or occupied by, the owner of the dog, and a member of the Police Force forms the opinion that the behaviour of the dog suggests that it constitutes a danger to the public, he may proceed immediately to destroy the dog or arrange for its destruction.

Mr. CARNIE secured the adjournment of the debate.