CHAPTER 45 - DOGS

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FIRST SCHEDULE SECOND SCHEDULE

CHAPTER 45

DOGS

A LAW TO REGULATE THE LICENSING OF DOGS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF RABIES

[1 January 1943]

PART I—PRELIMINARY

- 1. This Law may be cited as the Dogs Law.
- 2. In this Law:-

"court" includes an area court;

"disease" and "diseased" means rabies and infected with rabies;

"medical officer of health" and "health officer" means any person appointed as such under the provisions of the Public Health Law;

"suspected dog" means any dog which has been bitten by or has been in contact with any diseased or suspected animal, or which has been otherwise exposed to the infection of rabies; "the authority" means the local government council appointed to be the authority for any district or place for the purpose of this Law by the Governor and the expression shall include all persons authorised in writing to act on its behalf;

"veterinary officer" means a veterinary officer of the Government.

PART II—LICENSING OF DOGS

- **3**. The provisions of this Part of this Law shall apply to such areas, districts, or places as the Governor may by order direct. Any such order shall be published in the State Gazette.
- **4**. Every person in whose custody, charge or possession or in or whose house or premises any dog is found or seen shall be deemed for the purposes of this Part to keep such dog unless the contrary is proved.
- 5. Any person who keeps a dog over the age of six months without a licence issued by the authority for the area, district, or place in which he resides authorising him to keep such dog shall be guilty of an offence, save that where such person changes such residence for another in any area, district or place to which this Part has been applied he shall obtain a fresh licence

from the authority concerned at the end of the quarter year then current paying therefor a proportion of the yearly fee equal to the proportion of the year for which the licence is issued and the former licence shall be deemed to have expired.

- **6.** Licences shall be in the form set out in the First Schedule hereto and shall expire on the 31st day of December in the year in which they are issued.
- 7.—(1) The authority shall issue, free of charge, a suitable badge, differing each year, bearing letters or numbers or other distinguishing marks, to be secured to the collar or other harness of the dog in respect of which a licence has been issued.
- (2) Badges issued under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be returned forthwith to the authority issuing the same by the person registered in accordance with the provisions of section 8:-
- (a) on the expiration of the licence; or
- (b) if the dog dies during the currency of the licence.
- **8.**—(1) The authority shall enter in a register to be kept for that purpose the name, address and occupation of the person keeping each dog in respect of which a licence is issued and also particulars of the letters or other distinguishing mark of the badge issued therefor.
- (2) Where any person so registered parts with the possession of such dog to another person, such other person shall notify the authority concerned giving the particulars set out in subsection (1) and the register shall be rectified accordingly in respect of the unexpired period for which the licence was issued.
- **9.** Licences shall be produced for inspection on demand being made by the authority, a police officer or a health officer.
- **10**. The authority, with the approval of the Governor, may, by order published in such manner as may be directed by the Governor:-
- (a) fix the licence fee to be paid in respect of each dog included in a licence, either generally or in regard to any place within the jurisdiction of the authority or with regard to any class of dogs and may from time to time vary the same;
- (b) alter the form of the licence set out in the First Schedule;
- (c) place restrictions upon dogs during such period as to the authority may seem fit;
- (d) provide for the muzzling of dogs being in or upon any place, other than private premises within the jurisdiction of the authority,

and may attach to the breach of any such order a fine of one hundred naira or imprisonment for one month.

PART III—INOCULATION OF DOGS AND TEMPORARY LICENCES

11. Save as provided in section 12, in any area, district, or place to which the provisions of Part

II apply, no licence shall be issued authorising any person to keep a dog unless the person applying for the licence produces to the authority a certificate (hereinafter called a certificate of inoculation) signed by a person duly authorised in that behalf by the Permanent Secretary and certifying that the dog has been inoculated against rabies since the 30th day of November immediately preceding the date upon which the application is made.

- 12.—(1) If the authority is satisfied that facilities for having the dog inoculated against rabies were not available in the area, district, or place in which the dog has been kept during the material period, the authority may issue a temporary licence for a period not exceeding three months, authorising the holder of the licence to keep the dog.
- (2) A temporary licence shall be in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto.
- (3) The authority may fix the fee for a temporary licence by an order made and published in the same manner as an order made under the provisions of section 10.
- (4) The provisions of section 9 shall apply to a temporary licence.
- (5) For the purposes of section 21 the holder of a temporary licence shall not be deemed to have committed an offence contrary to section 5 in respect of the dog which temporary licence authorises him to keep.
- **13**. The Permanent Secretary may, by notice in the State Gazette, specify, by name or office, the persons who are authorised to sign a certificate of inoculation.

PART IV—PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND DISEASED AREAS

- 14. For the purposes of Parts IV, V and VI of this Law the expression "owner" includes the person having charge or custody of a dog.
- 15.—(1) Every owner of a diseased dog shall forthwith cause the same to be killed and shall give notice thereof immediately to the authority.
- (2) Every owner of a suspected dog shall forthwith cause the same to be killed or securely tied or otherwise confined and shall give notice thereof immediately to the authority.
- 16. The authority receiving credible information of, or having reasonable grounds for suspecting, the existence of disease, shall forthwith cause the matter to be investigated, and for such purpose may cause any dog to be examined, and thereafter, on the advice of a medical officer of health or of a veterinary officer, may cause any diseased dog to be killed and any suspected dog to be killed or otherwise dealt with as may be considered necessary.
- 17. The authority may in case of an outbreak or expected outbreak of disease, or to guard against the possibility of such an outbreak within the jurisdiction of the authority, make rules providing for:-
- (a) the keeping of dogs under control by the owner in such manner as may be prescribed in such rules and for prohibiting or restricting the movement of any dog;

- (b) the seizure, detention and disposal, including the destruction by any lawful means without requiring that the dogs shall first be seized and examined, of dogs not being kept under control in the manner prescribed in such rules;
- (c) the recovery by the authority from the owner of a dog of the expenses incurred in respect of the detention of any dog seized, detained and disposed of by virtue of such rules, and such rules shall be notified in such manner as the authority may think fit.
- 18.—(1) The Governor may at any time by order to be published in the State Gazette:-
- (a) declare any area to be a diseased area;
- (b) extend, diminish or otherwise alter the limit of an area declared to be a diseased area;
- (c) declare an area to be free from disease;
- (d) prohibit the removal of dogs from one area, district or place to any other area, district or place whether within or without a diseased area;
- (e) direct the destruction within any area, district or place, whether such area, district or place be within or without a diseased area of any animal shown to his satisfaction to be capable of carrying or otherwise spreading the disease;
- (f) direct any authority to make rules in respect of all or any of the matters referred to in section 17;
- (g) in the event of the failure of any of the measures previously taken effectively to control the disease to require the destruction of all dogs within a diseased area.
- (2) The Governor may delegate in writing all or any of his powers under subsection (1) to a Commissioner or to the Chairman of the authority concerned and upon such delegation such Commissioner or Chairman shall have and exercise such powers and perform such duties subject to such conditions, exceptions and qualifications as may be contained in any such delegation:-

Provided that any such delegation shall be revocable at will and no delegation shall prevent the exercise of such powers by the Governor.

PART V—SEIZURE AND DETENTION

- 19. In any area, district, or place to which Part II of this Law has been applied the authority, a police officer or health officer may seize and detain the dog:-
- (a) found or upon any place, other than private premises, without a badge secured in accordance with the provisions of section 7 and valid in the area concerned;
- (b) found with a badge which has been issued in respect of another dog or a badge having the appearance of a badge issued by any authority but not so issued.
- 20.—(1) Every dog seized in accordance with the provisions of section 19 shall be detained in such place as may be appointed in that behalf by the authority, for a period of seven clear days

- unless the owner or person registered under the provisions of section 8 shall have claimed the dog and paid all expenses incurred by reason of such detention within such period.
- (2) In every case in which the owner of any dog so seized or the person registered as aforesaid is known he shall be notified immediately of such seizure and the place of detention.
- (3) On the expiry of the seven clear days provided for in subsection (1) without any claim being made and expenses being paid in accordance with the provisions of that subsection, the authority may cause the dog to be sold or destroyed.

PART VI—PENALTIES AND COURT PROCEEDINGS

- 21. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of Part II of this Law for which no special penalty is provided therein shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of fifty naira.
- 22. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of Part IV of this Law or any rule or order made thereunder shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of five hundred naira or imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.
- 23. In any case in which a dog is seized and detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of section 19 the person keeping such dog within the meaning of section 4 shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of fifty naira.
- 24.—(1) A court may, if satisfied on complaint made by any person that a dog is dangerous or not kept under proper control, and after affording a hearing to the owner of such dog or to the person keeping such dog within the meaning of section 4, make an order directed to such owner or person requiring that such dog be kept under proper control or if proved to be dangerous, that such dog be destroyed.
- (2) Every person who fails to comply with any order made under the provisions of subsection
- (1) shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of one hundred naira or to imprisonment for one month and the dog in respect of which the order was made may be seized in any place and destroyed in such manner as the court may think fit.
- 25. A court may, when imposing any fine under the provisions of this Law, award to the informer a sum not exceeding one-half of the fine recovered.

PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS

- 26. The Governor may make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Law.
- 27. Licence fees and all sums paid for the keep of dogs and for medicines supplied for their use during detention or quarantine shall be credited to the revenue of the authority concerned.

The Dogs Law

Section 6.			FORM OF LICENCE						
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