

DOGS GO TO JAIL:

It was D. Day in Slough. That traffic-worried, busy town, noted far and wide for its successful safety campaign, has declared war on unattached dogs, cause of many serious accidents. From now on any dog running about by itself will be taken by the police, its owner notified and perhaps fined £5. Clear notifications of it are on posters and even for dogs that can't rea, ignorance of the law is no excuse; not at any rate for their owner. A bit drastic, say dog-lovers, but safety on the streets must come first.

Rover, here, didn't care a fig for the new regulations. Perhaps now he's relenting behind bars. But those wise owners of Slough's 5,000 dogs who do exercise them on the leash are good, sensible citizens. The town is on the main road to Reading and the west, so crossing its long, congested High Street would be next door to impossible without the multitude of precautions. Small blame to the Council for taking a firm hand over the unattached dog problem. Even if a policeman's life isn't a happy one, it's certainly exciting, with more than a hint of the Wild West and a spice of danger. There's another four-footed criminal, due for a spell in stir.

Warm supporters of this dog-discipline business are the local cats...About time, too, thinks Tibby.

Already the police are rounding up offenders and bringing them in. Never were so many arrested for so little by so few. But, of course, these are all first offenders and let's hope their owners pay any fine that may be levied and the dogs are soon back home. Still, the fact remains, the animals have now got a record.

For the time being, poor Rover is on the inside looking out. And from their point of view, the injustice of it all is, they haven't the faintest idea what they've done wrong.

What do they think of the place? Confidentially, it stinks!