



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 03/24

Ban on XL Bully Dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 – key dates

Date issued: 29 January 2024

Purpose

To remind Official Veterinarians (OVs) of upcoming deadlines relating to the neutering and euthanasia of XL Bully dogs in line with their ban under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Deadlines

From 1 February 2024 it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully dog in England and Wales unless the owner has a Certificate of Exemption for their dog.

If XL Bully owners wish to keep their dog, they must apply for a Certificate of Exemption by 31 January 2024, and arrange for their dog to be neutered by the following dates.

If the XL Bully is:

- less than 1 year old on 31 January 2024, Defra must receive proof of neutering by 31 December 2024
- 1 year old or older on 31 January 2024, Defra must receive proof of neutering by 30 June 2024

If XL Bully owners decide not to keep their dog, they must arrange for their dog to be euthanised by a registered vet by 31 January 2024.

A contribution towards the associated costs will be available to these owners. Euthanasia carried out on XL Bullies after this date is not eligible for compensation, and vets should not complete the compensation form in these cases.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Further Information

If you are involved in the neutering of an XL Bully dog whose owner wants to apply for a Certificate of Exemption, or euthanasia of an XL Bully dog for an owner who wishes to claim compensation, you must read the relevant guidance thoroughly.

Neutering

Defra's guidance for vets in relation to neutering of XL Bully dogs in order to comply with the exemption scheme, is available on the [Vet Gateway](#).

All other guidance relating to the neutering of XL Bully dogs, including the confirmation form is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Euthanasia

Defra's guidance for vets relating to euthanasia of XL Bully dogs is available on the [Vet Gateway](#).

All other guidance aimed at owners relating to the euthanasia of XL Bully dogs is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Actions

Whilst this information is being disseminated via other routes, OV's are encouraged to share this information with colleagues who may be involved with the neutering or euthanasia of XL Bully dogs.