



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 25/23

Ban on XL Bully Dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 – veterinary guidance relating to neutering and euthanasia of these dogs.

Date issued: 14 November 2023

Purpose

To provide Official Veterinarians (OVs) with links to Defra's guidance relating to the neutering and euthanasia of XL Bully dogs in line with their ban under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Background

Following a concerning rise in attacks and fatalities caused by XL Bully dogs, the government has added this breed to the list of dogs banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

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 and they must arrange for their dog to be neutered by a certain date (by the 31 December 2024 for dogs less than one year old on 31 January 2024 and by the 30 June 2024 for dogs older than one year old on 31 January 2024).

If XL Bully owners decide not to keep their dog, they must arrange for their dog to be euthanised by a registered vet before 31 January 2024. A contribution towards the associated costs will be available to these owners.

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.

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 [here](#).

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

Euthanasia

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

All other guidance aimed at owners relating to the euthanasia of XL Bully dogs, including the relevant compensation forms, is available [here](#).

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.