



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 42/24

# Ban on XL Bully Dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 – Neutering updates

**Date issued: 14 November 2024**

## Purpose

To remind Official Veterinarians (OVs) of the upcoming XL Bully neutering deadline relating to XL Bully dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

To signpost OVs to the guidance for vets and the Confirmation of Neutering form (VCN01).

## Upcoming Neutering Deadline

Owners of XL Bully dogs who were at least 7 months old, but less than 12 months old on 31 January 2024 must provide Defra with evidence that their XL Bully dog has been neutered on or before 31 December 2024.

If they do not provide evidence that their dog has been neutered by the relevant deadline, the Certificate of Exemption for their dog will no longer be valid and their dog will no longer be exempt.

Owners must arrange to have their XL Bully dog permanently neutered. Male dogs must be neutered through castration, and female dogs must be spayed. The procedure must be carried out by a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)-registered veterinary surgeon, or an RCVS-registered veterinary surgeon must confirm that it has been previously neutered.

Owners must use the [Confirmation of Neutering form \(VCN01\)](#) which is completed by the vet and the owner, to tell Defra their dog has been neutered. They must provide the completed form to Defra on or before the relevant deadline.

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

Guidance for Vets can be found here: [Veterinary Guidance for the completion of VCN01 \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

All other guidance relating to the neutering of XL Bully dogs, including the Confirmation of Neutering form (VCN01), is available at: [Confirm an XL Bully dog has been neutered - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## 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 of XL Bully dogs.

OV's are also encouraged to remind owners of XL Bully dogs who have a Certificate of Exemption, and whose dog still requires neutering, to make sure that this is carried out by the relevant deadline and that evidence is sent to Defra.

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