



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 14/24

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

**Date issued: 19 April 2024**

### Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of updates to the neutering deadlines, guidance for vets and VCN01 form relating to XL Bully dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

### Updated Deadlines

Owners of XL Bully dogs must provide Defra with evidence that their XL Bully dog has been neutered for their Certificate of Exemption to remain valid. If they do not provide evidence that their dog has been neutered by the relevant deadline, 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](#) 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.

Age of the dog on 31 January 2024	Deadline for receipt of form
12 months old or older	30 June 2024

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.

At least 7 months old, but less than 12 months old	31 December 2024
Less than 7 months old	30 June 2025

## Updates to the VCN01 form

The Confirmation of Neutering Form (VCN01) that Veterinary Surgeons complete alongside owners to verify an XL Bully dog has been neutered has been updated. The form is now shorter, making it simpler to complete and more efficient to administer.

Neutering forms that have already been submitted using the previous version of the VCN01 form remain valid and there is no need to resubmit the information on the new form.

If a Veterinary Surgeon is presented with the previous version of the VCN01 form, they may still complete this and it will be valid.

## Updates to the Guidance for Vets

Some small updates have been made to the published guidance for veterinary surgeons relating to completion of the updated neutering form. The guidance is available here: [Veterinary Guidance for the completion of VCN01](#).

If you are involved in the neutering of an XL Bully dog you must read the relevant guidance thoroughly.

## Further Information

All other guidance relating to the neutering of XL Bully dogs, including the VCN01 confirmation form, 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 an exemption certificate but their 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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