



XL Bully guidelines/signposting:

As you are probably aware, under the new rules, which come into force on 31st December 2023, it **will be illegal to breed, sell, advertise, exchange, gift, rehome, abandon or allow XL Bully dogs to stray in England and Wales.**

Timeline of actions:

1. From 31 December 2023, owners must keep XL bully dogs on a lead and muzzled when in public. It will also be an offence to breed, sell, advertise, exchange, gift, rehome, abandon, or allow XL Bully dogs to stray.
2. From 31 January 2024, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully unless it is registered on the Index of Exempted dogs and is compliant with the requirements.
3. If your dog is older than one year old on 31 January 2024, it must be neutered by 30 June 2024.
4. If your dog is less than one year old on 31 January 2024, it must be neutered by 31 December 2024.

With immediate effect, every XL bully type will need to be muzzled before entering our hospital & branches. If they are not muzzle trained the following links may be helpful:

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/training/outdoors/muzzle-training>
<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/behaviour-and-training/dogs-and-muzzle-training>

Owners will find the Index of exempted dogs via:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-certificate-of-exemption-to-keep-an-xl-bully-dog>

Please note the following requirements:

- The owner will need to pay £92.40 as an application fee to obtain a ten-digit reference number.
- The owner will need to have third party public liability insurance for banned breed dogs. This can be purchased via the dog's trust for £25 per year:
<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/training/outdoors/muzzle-training>



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- This neutering form will be scanned to: dogsindex@defra.gov.uk and a copy scanned to the patient's veterinary clinical records.
- If the owner chooses to euthanise their dog, normal charges and payment terms will apply. It is the owner's responsibility to obtain the £200 compensation via the VCE01 form. The vet will need to sign this form: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/654e5dc46a650f0012bf4835/veterinary-confirmation-of-euthanasia-owners-vce01.pdf>
- The dog must be euthanised by 31 January 2024. An owner must apply for compensation on or before 15 March 2024. The completed form should be sent by the owner to: XLBullyCompensationScheme@defra.gov.uk and a copy scanned to the patient's veterinary clinical records.
- To be eligible for compensation the owner must register on the rural payment system. The rural payments agency will issue an SBI number and the owner's bank details can be linked to this. The DEFRA helpline is 03459 335577, open Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm. This will be needed to confirm the owner's identity. Once this is confirmed the owner will receive a CRN number and the SBI number. After 3 working days the owner can then register their bank details.

Please note, fees referenced in this document are correct at the time of print but may be subject to change.

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