

Rules regarding ownership of XL Bully in LHA properties

Under LHA's pet policy you will not be allowed to keep an animal that is prohibited by the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, or by any other law. This means you must ensure that you adhere to the following guidance and legislative changes, otherwise the Association will require you to remove the dog from the property and may take action for breach of tenancy in the event you fail to do so.

What will the XL Bully ban mean for owners?

On 18 January 2024, the Scottish Government announced the XL Bully ban, which replicates the laws set in England and Wales. This ban has two stages to help owners comply with the law.

Announcement 18 January 2024

Owners were recommended to start to muzzle and lead train their XL Bully dog as soon as possible so that they will be more comfortable with it by the time it comes into law on 23 February 2024. Breeding of XL Bully dogs should now stop, and you should look into arranging for your dog to be neutered and microchipped if not already done. Non neutered XL Bully dogs will not be permitted in LHA properties from the 31st July 2024.

Stage 1: 23 February 2024

From 23 February 2024, it will be illegal in Scotland to:

- Sell an XL Bully dog
- Abandon an XL Bully dog
- Give away an XL Bully dog
- Breed an XL Bully dog
- Have an XL Bully dog in public without being on a lead and wearing a muzzle
- Own an XL Bully dog that has not been microchipped

Stage 2: 31 July 2024

It will be illegal to own an XL Bully dog in Scotland from 31 July – unless you have a Certificate of Exemption and you follow the rules, which include:

- Microchipping your dog
- Muzzling your dog and keeping them on a lead in public
- Neutering your dog
- Taking out third-party insurance against your dog injuring other people – this can be provided through Dogs Trust Membership
- Be over 16 years old

If you have an XL Bully and live in Scotland, you must have your dog neutered and return a **Confirmation of Neutering form** to the Scottish Government. Download it [here](#).

The deadlines set out from the Government are:

- Dogs aged 18 months or older on 31 July 2024 will need to be neutered by 31 January 2025
- For dogs younger than 18 months on 31 July 2024, evidence of neutering must be provided to the Scottish Government by 31 January 2025 or within one month of your dog reaching the age of 18 months.

If you have an XL Bully, you must apply for a Certificate of Exemption by the 31 July 2024 – or you will be breaking the law and could be convicted of a crime. If your dog has been neutered already, fill in the form mentioned straight away and return it to the Scottish Government.



LHA will require a copy of the Confirmation of Neutering form and Certificate of Exemption to enable you to keep the dog in your property.

How can I apply for a Certificate of Exemption?

To get a Certificate of Exemption for your XL Bully, you'll need to:

- Get your dog microchipped by the time it's 8 weeks old.
- Have your dog neutered by the time it's 18 months old.
- Have third party liability insurance for your XL Bully.
- Pay the application fee of £92.40.

If your dog is too young or unfit to have a microchip, read the Scottish Government's guidelines [here](#).

For a **Certificate of Exemption**, you can [apply online here](#) and have until 31 July 2024, or you can download and print a paper form to [post here](#) and return by 15 July 2024. As previously mentioned, there is an application fee of £92.40 per dog. If you need help with your application, you can email the Scottish Government at: xlbullydogenquiries@gov.scot.

What should I do if I am unable to adhere to the restrictions?

To help make it easier for owners to comply with the law, the Scottish Government has broken up the ban into different stages. Sadly, if you cannot adhere to the requirements by the deadlines, you could be convicted of a crime. This can lead to a fine of up to £5,000, a prison sentence of up to six months, and your dog could be seized.

If you have made the difficult decision to euthanise your XL Bully, you can claim compensation. You must have arranged this with a vet by 31 July 2024. The appointment can happen after this date, but the Scottish Government must receive your claim by 30 September 2024 with confirmation of euthanasia from a vet.

You can claim up to £200:

- £100 to help cover the cost of euthanasia
- £100 for the loss of the dog

If you use a free charity service to euthanise your XL Bully, you can only claim £100.

To claim £200 in compensation if you're paying for the euthanasia, [download this form](#).

To claim £100 in compensation if you're using a free charity service, [download this form](#).

Make sure that you fill in the correct form with your vet and send it to the Scottish Government by the deadline. For more information on claiming compensation for euthanasia, [click here](#).

LHA in enforcing our pet policy for XL Bully's will require you to have completed these key legal steps by the deadlines stated and adhere to the strict rules of ownership. Failure to adhere to these requirements will be a breach of tenancy.

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