



Apply for a Certificate of Exemption to keep an XL Bully dog

Use this form to apply for a Certificate of Exemption for up to 30 XL bully dogs by post or email.

Check if you have an XL bully

Use the [official definition of an XL Bully dog](#) published on GOV.UK to check if you have an XL bully. Defra recommends taking a precautionary approach. If you're not sure if you have an XL Bully dog, you should apply for a Certificate of Exemption.

Where to send this form

You should fill in this form and email it to dogsindex@defra.gov.uk or post to:

Dogs Index
PO Box 68250
London
SW1P 9XG

Defra will process your application and will send either you a:

- Certificate of Exemption
- rejection letter or email

Third party public liability insurance

You must have third party public liability insurance for your XL Bully dog. The cover must start no later than 1 February 2024. This can be provided by [Dogs Trust Membership](#).

If you use a different insurance provider, you must check the policy:

- covers the policyholder for death or bodily injury to any person caused by the exempted dog
- is suitable for a prohibited breed as defined under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Neutering

If your XL Bully dog is:

- less than 1 year old on 31 January 2024, it must be neutered by 31 December 2024
- 1 year or older on 31 January 2024, it must be neutered by 30 June 2024

Once your XL Bully dog has been neutered you should ask your vet to fill in a [confirmation of neutering form](#). The vet will return the form to Defra.

If your dog has already been neutered, you can ask your vet to fill in a confirmation of neutering form and return it to Defra.

Microchips

You must make sure your dog is fitted with a microchip and registered on a database by the time it's 8 weeks old. Search GOV.UK to find out how to [get your dog microchipped](#).

If you're not sure if your dog is microchipped, you should ask your vet.

If your dog is less than 8 weeks old when you apply for a Certificate of Exemption, you'll have until 31 March 2024 to give the microchip number to Defra.

If a vet certifies that your dog is unfit to have a microchip for a period of time, you must send a copy of the veterinary certificate to Defra by 31 March 2024. You must then arrange to have your dog microchipped and to provide the microchip number to Defra within 28 days of the expiry date of the veterinary certificate.

Applicant details

Name

Address

Postcode

Do you live in England or Wales?

England

Wales

Date of birth

Use DD/MM/YYYY format

Phone number

Email address

Dog details

	Name of dog	Date of birth of dog (Estimate the date if you do not know it)	Colour of dog	Sex of dog (Male or female)	Is your dog neutered? (Yes or no)	Microchip number (Leave blank if the dog is not microchipped)	Insurance policy start (DD/MM/YYYY)	Payment reference number (10 digits)
Dog 1								
Dog 2								
Dog 3								
Dog 4								
Dog 5								
Dog 6								
Dog 7								
Dog 8								
Dog 9								
Dog 10								
Dog 11								
Dog 12								
Dog 13								
Dog 14								
Dog 15								

	Name of dog	Date of birth of dog (Estimate the date if you do not know it)	Colour of dog	Sex of dog (Male or female)	Is your dog neutered? (Yes or no)	Microchip number (Leave blank if the dog is not microchipped)	Insurance policy start (DD/MM/YYYY)	Payment reference number (10 digits)
Dog 16								
Dog 17								
Dog 18								
Dog 19								
Dog 20								
Dog 21								
Dog 22								
Dog 23								
Dog 24								
Dog 25								
Dog 26								
Dog 27								
Dog 28								
Dog 29								
Dog 30								

Certificate of Exemption requirements

You must:

- A. Keep the dog at the same address as the certificate holder, except for a maximum of 30 days in a year.
- B. Notify the Index of any change of address, excluding changes within the 30-day period mentioned in paragraph A.
- C. Notify the Index of the dog's death or export.
- D. Maintain suitable third-party insurance for the lifetime of the dog.
- E. Keep the dog muzzled and on a lead in public places. Muzzling must adequately prevent biting, and the lead must be held by someone at least 16 years old.
- F. Keep the dog in sufficiently secure conditions to prevent the dog's escape.
- G. Provide access for reading the dog's microchip upon request by a police constable or authorised local authority officer.
- H. Provide confirmation of suitable third-party insurance to a police constable or authorised local authority officer within 5 days of their request.
- I. Provide the Certificate of Exemption to a police constable or authorised local authority officer within 5 days of their request.
- J. Provide evidence the dog is neutered by 30 June 2024, if over 12 months old on 31 January 2024, or by 31 December 2024, if under 12 months old on January 2024.
- K. Provide microchip number by 31 March 2024, if not given at time of application.

Declaration

I understand the requirements listed above must be complied with throughout the lifetime of the dog, or by the date specified in the condition, for the dog to remain exempted.

I understand that I must not do any of the following in relation to the dog:

- breed from it
- sell or exchange it
- advertise or expose it for sale, give it as a gift, or advertise it as a gift
- abandon it or allow it to stray

I acknowledge that providing false details or failing to comply with the Certificate of Exemption requirements will invalidate the certificate, and the dogs will not be exempt from the prohibition. In such cases, I may face prosecution, and the dogs mentioned in this application may be seized and destroyed.

Signature

Date of signature