



How to obtain a Certificate of Exemption

You have received this document and an application form to place your dog(s) on the Index of Exempted Dogs (Dogs Index) because a court has made a Contingent Destruction Order in respect of your dog(s).

1. You must complete a copy of the attached form **for each dog**. You must read the declarations and sign and date each form.
2. An application fee of £92.40 must be paid **for each dog**.

To make a credit/debit card payment, telephone the Contact Centre on **+44 (0) 1633 631800** or you can pay by postal order, made payable to 'Defra' and sent to **Dogs Index, PO Box 68250, London SW1P 9XG**

3. You must take out third-party liability insurance and you must provide the Dogs Index with proof of that insurance. This can be provided by [Dogs Trust Membership](#). **Proof of insurance must be sent to us** by email to dogsindex@defra.gov.uk or by post to the address above.
4. Your dog(s) must be microchipped before a certificate of exemption can be issued. To meet the conditions of exemption, your dog(s) must be neutered by 18 months of age.

PLEASE NOTE: Your signed and dated application form, fee and insurance documentation must be sent to the Dogs Index.

What are the time limits?

Dogs 18 months and older of age

You must be issued a Certificate of Exemption within 2 months of the date the Contingent Destruction Order was made by the court. This means that the completed application form(s), application fee(s), proof of insurance and confirmation that the dog has been microchipped and neutered, must be received by Dogs Index in good time for the certificate to be issued.

XL Bully Dogs over 6 months and under 18 months of age

You must be issued a Certificate of Exemption within 2 months of the date the Contingent Destruction Order was made by the court. This means that the completed application form(s), application fee(s), proof of insurance and confirmation that the dog has been microchipped, must be received by Dogs Index in good time for the certificate to be issued. Neutering can be carried out after issuing the Certificate of Exemption, if the dog was under 16 months of age on the date the Contingent Destruction Order (CDO) was issued. For the Certificate of Exemption to remain valid, the dog must be neutered on or before it is 18 months old with neutering documents provided to the Dogs Index within 28 days of neutering.



Dogs under 6 months of age

If your dog was under the age of 6 months at the time the court made a Contingent Destruction Order, you must ensure that the Certificate of Exemption is obtained within one month of the dog turning 6 months old. This means that the completed application form(s), application fee(s), proof of insurance and confirmation that the dog has been microchipped, must be received by Dogs Index in good time for the certificate to be issued.

If you do not meet the time limits

The Dogs Index will inform the police and your dog(s) may be destroyed. If you think you cannot meet the deadline you must ask the Court (before the order expires) for an extension of time to comply with the Contingent Destruction Order. You must inform the Dogs Index before the deadline that you have extended the court order, to avoid your dog(s) being destroyed.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have received the Certificate of Exemption within the time limits.

What happens next?

The Dogs Index will issue your Certificate(s) of Exemption and the police will contact you to arrange for you to pick up your dog(s). Do not forget to take a lead(s) and a muzzle(s).

You must follow all the requirements on the Certificate of Exemption for the life of your dog(s). If you do not, or if you breach any of the other requirements on the Certificate(s) of Exemption your dog will no longer be exempt and it may be seized by the police. You may be arrested and prosecuted, and your dog(s) may be destroyed.

Notes

The legislative requirements in relation to prohibited dogs are set out in:

- The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; [Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/61/contents/enacted)
- The Dangerous Dogs Exemption Schemes (England and Wales) Order 2015 SI No. 138 (for England and Wales); [The Dangerous Dogs Exemption Schemes \(England and Wales\) Order 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/138/contents/made)
- The Dangerous Dogs Compensation and Exemption Schemes Order 1991 SI No. 1744 (for Scotland only); [The Dangerous Dogs Compensation and Exemption Schemes Order 1991 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1991/1744/contents/made)

The privacy notice explaining how your personal data is managed is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/index-of-exempted-dogs-privacy-notice>.

If you have any queries about the content of this privacy notice, please email

dogsindex@defra.gov.uk.



Index Number	
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INDEX OF EXEMPTED DOGS

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FOR A DOG

(Once completed please return this form to the Dogs Index with a payment reference number (if paying over the phone) or with a postal order made payable to Defra for £92.40)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE DOG

First Name	
Surname	
Address Line 1	
Address Line 2	
Address Line 3	
County	
Post Code	
Telephone Number	
e-mail address	

Details of Dog

Name			
Gender	Male		Female
Colour			
Microchip number (15 digits)			
Dog's date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)			

Was your dog returned to you by the Police under the suspected prohibited Dogs Interim Exemption Scheme	YES	NO
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Has third party public liability insurance for your dog been obtained and documentation forwarded to the Dogs Index	YES	NO
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Please now turn over the page for the requirements attached to the Certificate of Exemption and read the declaration and complete the box at the end.



Requirements attached to the Certificate of Exemption

- (a) to keep the dog at same address as the person to whom the certificate is issued save for any 30 days in a 12-month period;
- (b) to notify the Dogs Index of any proposed change of address (not to include any changes of address in the 30 days mentioned in paragraph (a));
- (c) to notify the Dogs Index of the death or export of the dog;
- (d) to satisfy the Dogs Index that a policy of third-party insurance compliant with article 8 is in force;
- (e) to keep the dog muzzled and, on a lead, when in a public place (keeping the dog muzzled means the dog must be securely fitted with a muzzle sufficient to prevent the dog from biting any person and keeping on a lead means that it must be securely held by someone who is at least 16 years old);
- (f) to keep the dog in sufficiently secure conditions to prevent its escape;
- (g) to provide access to the dog for the purpose of reading a microchip on request by a police constable or authorised officer of the local authority;
- (h) to produce to a police constable or an authorised officer of the local authority confirmation that third-party insurance compliant with article 8 is in force within five days of being requested to do so by that person;
- (i) to produce to a police constable or an authorised officer of the local authority the Certificate of Exemption within five days of being requested to do so by that person.
- (j) **XL Bully Dogs Only:** If the dog was under 16 months of age on the date the Contingent Destruction Order (CDO) was issued, it must be neutered on or before it is 18 months old and satisfactory evidence to show that it has been neutered must also be provided to Defra within 28 days.

Declaration

I understand 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 or offer it as a gift or to anyone or advertise it as a gift,
- abandon it or allow it to stray,

I understand that if the details given by me in this application are false or I fail to comply with any of the requirements of the Certificate of Exemption, the Certificate will be invalid, and the dog not exempt from the prohibition. In these circumstances I may be prosecuted and the dog to which this application refers may be seized and destroyed.

Date	Signed	Print name	My date of birth