

XL BULLY TYPE DOGS POLICY

Accountable Director/Manager:	Director of Customer and Communities
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1. POLICY OVERVIEW

- 1.1 At Karibu Community Homes, we recognise the numerous benefits that pets bring to many of our customers. We also understand the recent changes in legislation and the concerns it may cause for both pet owners and other members of our community. In particular, we acknowledge the distress caused to responsible owners of XL Bully-type dogs following the announcement of the upcoming ban under the Dangerous Dogs Act, effective 31 December 2023.
- 1.2 This policy aims to strike a balance between ensuring the safety and well-being of all Karibu customers, while also supporting responsible pet ownership. We seek to clarify our position on XL Bully-type dogs and outline the steps customers must follow to comply with the new legal requirements.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the safety and comfort of all Karibu residents.
- To comply with government regulations regarding the keeping of XL Bully-type dogs.
- To support responsible pet ownership while adhering to new legal requirements.
- To prevent any unnecessary distress or harm to both animals and residents.
- To foster positive relationships with law enforcement, including Police Dog Legislation Officers, to address any concerns related to pet ownership.

3. SCOPE OF POLICY

- 3.1 This policy applies to all current and prospective tenants of Karibu Community Homes. It specifically addresses the ownership and management of XL Bully-type dogs, as defined under the Dangerous Dogs Act, which will include these breeds on the list of banned dogs from 31 December 2023.

New Pet Ownership Requests

- 3.2 With immediate effect, Karibu Community Homes will not consent to any new requests to keep XL Bully-type dogs. This decision is in line with the upcoming legislative changes and is aimed at ensuring the safety and peace of mind for all residents. Any new applications for pets that do not fall under the ban will continue to be considered in accordance with our existing pet policy.

Existing XL Bully-type Dog Owners

- 3.3 We understand that some of our current customers are responsible owners of XL Bully-type dogs. In recognition of this, we will not be withdrawing our consent for current owners to keep their XL Bully-type dogs, provided that the following conditions are met:

Registration

- 3.4 All XL Bully-type dogs must be registered in accordance with government regulations. Compliance with Legal Requirements: Owners must follow the full guidance from the UK government, which includes obtaining an exemption certificate for their pet.
- 3.5 Public Safety Measures: Owners must ensure that their dogs are always on a lead and

- muzzled when in public areas, as stipulated by the new legislation.
- 3.6 Failure to comply with these conditions may result in Karibu Community Homes revoking its consent to keep the dog.

Ongoing Responsibilities for Existing and New Tenants

- 3.7 All existing and prospective tenants who own XL Bully-type dogs are required to:
- Keep their pets in compliance with the law and all relevant regulations.
 - Register their dogs and acquire the necessary exemption certificates.
 - Ensure dogs are always leashed and muzzled in public spaces to prevent any potential incidents.
 - Work collaboratively with Karibu Housing Association to ensure that any safety concerns are promptly addressed.

Animal Welfare Considerations

- 3.8 Our decisions have been made in alignment with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) recommendations, which advocate for avoiding the destruction of healthy and much-loved family pets. Karibu Community Homes remains committed to being a pet-friendly landlord, where the well-being of both residents and their animals is of utmost importance.
- 3.9 We encourage all pet owners to familiarize themselves with the government's guidance on responsible pet ownership, which can be found on the official UK government website. This will help ensure that pets are cared for in a way that complies with the law and maintains the safety of all Karibu tenants.

Enforcement and Monitoring

- 3.10 Karibu Community Homes will continue to collaborate closely with Police Dog Legislation Officers and other relevant authorities to address any concerns or issues that arise regarding pet ownership within our housing communities. Regular monitoring will be conducted to ensure compliance with this policy and the new legislation.
- 3.11 If concerns are raised by other tenants regarding the behaviour or management of XL Bully-type dogs, Karibu Community Homes will investigate and take appropriate action. This may include working with law enforcement and ensuring that any legal breaches are promptly addressed.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Karibu Community Homes is committed to supporting responsible pet ownership while maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all tenants. While we will no longer consent to new requests to keep XL Bully-type dogs, we respect the rights of existing owners who comply with the legal requirements to continue caring for their pets. This policy ensures that we meet our obligations under the law, while balancing the needs and safety of our entire community.

For further information and guidance on caring for pets under the new legislation, please refer to the UK government's official guidelines on responsible pet ownership.

*This policy is effective immediately and will be reviewed as necessary in response to any changes in legislation or customer needs.