



My Ref: FOI5866  
Enquiries to: Information Requests  
E-Mail: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

Dear Requester,

**Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

**I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the handling of stray dogs and kennelling arrangements within your authority.**

**Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, or the most recent 5-year period available.**

**If providing 5 years of data would exceed the cost limit, please provide the most recent 3-year period instead.**

Please see table below and information on rescue rehoming.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Strays Kennelled</b>	159	173	143
<b>Reclaimed by owner</b>	141	66	52
<b>Put to sleep</b>	21	35	42

**1. Stray Dog Intake and Outcomes**

**a) The total number of stray dogs taken into your authority's care**

**b) Of those, the number: Reclaimed by owners**

**Rehomed (via rescues or otherwise)**

**Euthanised**

**Transferred to rescue organisations**

Barnsley Council's contract with Stray Dog Kennels, provides that after 7 clear days, dogs which need are assessed as unhomeable, are banned breeds or have significant health issues, are put to sleep. Ownership of the remaining dogs is transferred to our Kennel provider who place the dog in their own rehoming programme, to find new homes for those animals by way of new private owners, rescues or charitable organisations. We do not hold the data for these final outcomes.

**2. Kennelling and Costs**

**a) The average cost per dog per day for kennelling £15.20**

**b) The average length of stay for stray dogs** – entirely variable/unable to provide this within time constraints.

**c) The total annual cost of stray dog kennelling (if available)**

2023/2024 - £37,708.56

2024/2025 - £37,800.80

2025/2026 - £40,588.21

### **3. Holding Period and Decision Making**

**a) The standard holding period for stray dogs before outcome decisions**

**Assessment is made on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.**

7 full days

**b) Whether your authority has arrangements with rescue organisations for rehoming**

rehoming is facilitated via our contracted Kennels who have links with a number of rescue organisations.

**c) If so, the criteria used to determine whether a dog is suitable for rehoming**

Decisions of this nature are made by our kennelling provider.

### **4. Dogs Suspected of Prohibited Type**

**Where recorded:**

a) The number of stray dogs identified or suspected to be of a prohibited type Particularly since the introduction of the XL Bully ban and the subjectivity of the assessment of which dogs fall within that definition, it is difficult to provide reliable data for this. Were an owner to come forward for a suspect XL Bully Dog support would be requested from the Police Dog Liaison Officer prior to release. Large bull breed dogs are usually difficult to rehome, and, in cases where the owner does not come forward, are more likely to be put to sleep at the end of the 7 day period without formal assessment of whether they would fall within the definition of an XL Bully dog.

**b) The number of such dogs: Referred to police**

**Retained in kennels pending assessment  
Euthanised**

We do not hold this information as extractable data, liaison is made by contracting kennels or the dog wardens where necessary. Any referral would Be dependant on an owner actively seeking to reclaim a dog that might be Defined as an XL Bully.

**Transferred to rescue (if applicable)**

None

**c) Whether stray dogs identified or suspected as being of a prohibited type are afforded the standard statutory 7-day holding period under Section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990**

Yes as long as the dog was not ill or deemed too dangerous to kennel.

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**d) Where such dogs are not afforded the 7-day holding period, please provide:**  
• the policy or legal basis for this decision • whether the dog is immediately transferred to police • and the point at which responsibility transfers from the local authority to the police

This would be determined on a case by case basis.

**d) Whether any internal guidance or policy exists regarding the handling of stray dogs suspected to be of a prohibited type, and if so, please provide a copy**

There is no such document.

## **5. Clarification**

**If any of the requested information is not held in the format requested, please provide the closest available data and explain any limitations.**

**If this request exceeds cost limits, I would be grateful if you could prioritise and provide the information relating to stray dogs identified or suspected as being of a prohibited type.**

**If, after limiting response to the prohibited type section, this request still exceeds cost limits, please advise how it may be refined.**

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC  
Information Requests Team  
PO Box 634  
Barnsley  
S70 9GG  
email: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane

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**PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG**

Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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