# Police and RSPCA uncover remains of 37 dogs in Billericay animal neglect case



Essex Police, in collaboration with representatives from the RSPCA and Basildon Borough Council, recently uncovered a harrowing scene at an address in Billericay. Following multiple reports concerning the welfare of animals, a joint visit to the property in the Crays Hill area revealed the remains of 37 dogs and led to the seizure of around 20 additional living dogs, which were taken to ensure their safety. Two men have since been arrested on suspicion of fraud and failing to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals.

Inspector Steve Parry, part of the Basildon neighbourhood policing team, stated, “At this stage, we believe we have found the remains of 37 dogs and about 20 live dogs. The priority is to locate their last-known owners.” This distressing incident raises serious concerns about animal welfare in the region and highlights the ongoing challenges faced by authorities in addressing neglect and abuse.

The attention surrounding dog-related incidents has intensified recently, notably following a tragic event in February 2024, when two XL Bully dogs fatally attacked 68-year-old Esther Martin in Jaywick, Essex. The dogs were destroyed on-site, and a post-mortem examination confirmed their breed. This incident marked the first fatal dog attack in England and Wales for the year, prompting debates on responsible ownership and the potential dangers posed by certain breeds.

Animal neglect has also emerged as a pressing issue beyond the grim discovery in Billericay. In various cases across Essex, authorities have encountered severely mistreated dogs. In November 2024, two emaciated lurcher dogs were found abandoned outside a garden centre in Little Clacton; their dire condition prompted the RSPCA to intervene and appeal for information to locate the owners. This pattern of neglect underscores the urgent need for effective measures to protect vulnerable animals.

A similar case involved a Jack Russell named Foxy, discovered in Billericay with severe injuries likely inflicted by another dog. The RSPCA's efforts to find Foxy a new home highlighted the responsibilities that dog owners bear in preventing such distressing situations. The welfare of animals has never been more in the spotlight, with growing calls for stricter regulations ensuring pet owners provide adequate care.

The RSPCA has been proactive in addressing neglect cases, having recently appealed for information about Roxy, a painfully thin Dogue de Bordeaux found hiding in a garden in Boxted. Such incidents reflect a worrying trend of underreporting and inadequate responses to animal welfare issues, necessitating a collective effort from authorities and the community to combat this crisis.

In exploring the broader context of dog ownership, incidents of dangerous dogs in Essex have revealed the complexities surrounding breed-specific legislation and responsible ownership. For example, earlier this year, a man was sentenced after his XL Bully dog attacked and killed another dog in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Such cases not only highlight the legal implications for owners but also underline the importance of educating the public about the obligations that come with pet ownership.

As the investigation in Billericay continues, law enforcement and animal welfare organisations urge the public to refrain from speculation on social media. The priority remains the safety of the surviving dogs and the identification of their last known owners. Collaborative efforts are vital in addressing the multifaceted issues of animal neglect and dangerous dog behaviour, ensuring that tragedies like these are prevented in the future.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1, 2, 3: Source (1)
2. Paragraph 4: Source (2)
3. Paragraph 5: Source (3)
4. Paragraph 6: Source (4)
5. Paragraph 7: Source (5)
6. Paragraph 8: Source (7)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/two-arrests-after-dogs-and-remains-found-in-billericay/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=two-arrests-after-dogs-and-remains-found-in-billericay> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/09/dogs-who-killed-woman-in-essex-were-xl-bullies-say-police> - In February 2024, two XL bully dogs fatally attacked 68-year-old Esther Martin in Jaywick, Essex. The dogs were destroyed at the scene, and a forensic post-mortem confirmed their breed. A 39-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of dangerous dog offences. The incident marked the first fatal dog attack in England and Wales in 2024. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/09/dogs-who-killed-woman-in-essex-were-xl-bullies-say-police?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgmv8v7y19jo> - In November 2024, two emaciated lurcher dogs were found abandoned outside Hilltop Garden Centre in Little Clacton, Essex. The RSPCA described the dogs as 'shockingly thin' and they were taken into care. The charity appealed for information to locate the owners and prevent further neglect. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgmv8v7y19jo?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/4851807.can-give-home-savaged-dog-foxy/> - In Billericay, a Jack Russell named Foxy was found with severe neck injuries, believed to be from another dog. The RSPCA sought a new home for Foxy, emphasizing the responsibility of dog owners to prevent such incidents. ([echo-news.co.uk](https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/4851807.can-give-home-savaged-dog-foxy/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2024/04/28/appeal-after-skin-and-bone-dog-discovered-hiding-in-garden> - In April 2024, the RSPCA appealed for information after a 'painfully skinny' Dogue de Bordeaux cross named Roxy was found hiding in a garden in Boxted, Essex. Roxy was severely underweight and appeared to have been neglected for some time. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2024-04-28/appeal-after-skin-and-bone-dog-discovered-hiding-in-garden?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/05/human-remains-found-in-harlow-pond-essex-identified-as-phillip-lewis> - In January 2023, human remains found in Oakwood Pond in Harlow, Essex, were identified as 59-year-old Phillip Lewis. Two men were arrested on suspicion of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. The investigation highlighted the importance of thorough searches to uncover vital evidence. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/05/human-remains-found-in-harlow-pond-essex-identified-as-phillip-lewis?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.herts.police.uk/news/hertfordshire/news/2024/january-2024/man-sentenced-after-dangerously-out-of-control-dog-killed-another-dog-in-cheshunt/> - In January 2024, a man was sentenced after his dangerously out-of-control XL Bully dog killed another dog in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. The incident occurred in December 2023, leading to the dog's seizure and the owner's conviction. The case underscored the legal responsibilities of dog owners. ([herts.police.uk](https://www.herts.police.uk/news/hertfordshire/news/2024/january-2024/man-sentenced-after-dangerously-out-of-control-dog-killed-another-dog-in-cheshunt/?utm_source=openai))