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The UK stag beetle

Official lengths and lifespans, kept side by side. No averaged figure is offered.

Typographic only. No photographs inside.

Official desk	Official wording
The fact list	Length, including mandibles/jaws: males 35–75mm, females 30–50mm. Weight: 2–6 grams. Average lifespan: 3–7 years. Native, partially protected.
The body text	"Male stag beetles measure up to 7.5 centimetres long when their impressive jaws are taken into account, making this species the largest beetle in the UK and in fact the whole of Europe."
A caption	The males "can measure nearly 8cm long." That caption is not treated as a third official length.
Two official clocks	On the biggest-beetle page, larvae "spend up to six years" in rotting wood, and adults "live for about eight weeks." The fact list's 3–7 years is kept as a separate official sentence, not averaged.
The law, quoted	The museum: the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protection "aims to prevent the beetle from being collected for sale." Schedule 5 lists "Beetle, Stag (in respect of section 9(5) only)." This sheet is not legal advice.

A short quiz

1. What male length does the fact list give, including the jaws?
2. What does the body text say about male length?
3. How long do adults live, on the biggest-beetle page?

Answers. 35–75 millimetres. Up to 7.5 centimetres. About eight weeks.

Wording from the Natural History Museum's stag-beetle and biggest-beetle pages, and from Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, re-opened 18 November 2026. beetles.critters.im is independent of the museum. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.