



Liz Ekrem
request-979554-05c7143d@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI2023/08990
10 July 2023

Dear Liz Ekrem,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Brucella Canis information

Thank you for your request for information of 10th May about Brucella Canis information. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“Please can you tell me the following:

1. How many healthy overseas dogs and reported on the lab form to have come from Romania AND imported into the UK (routine screen, no clinical signs reported on the lab form) have had a 1st external lab sample for brucella canis processed by yourself using at least the SAT and iELISA?
2. Of these dogs how many tested positive on the SAT, how many tested positive on the iELISA, and how many tested positive on both?

Section 12 – Cost

The information you have requested is being withheld under Section 12 of the Freedom of information Act (FOIA) 2000.

APHA want to be as open as possible in answering requests for information. The FOIA itself also requires APHA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to those seeking to make such a request. Unfortunately, your request could cover an enormous amount of information. Gathering it together would therefore involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from APHA's other work.

It may be helpful to explain why your request would involve a significant cost. The information requested is held on submission forms that are retained for no more than 18 months. APHA can only insist on the minimum information which is veterinary practice and animal ID.

On the form, there is no field for country of origin or clinical history. It is sometimes written on the form but at the submitter's own discretion.

In the last 18 months APHA have received thousands of submissions which would need to be checked manually for tests requested, then country of origin. It should also be noted, submitting veterinary surgeons can ask for one or more serology test types and submit serum from the same dog multiple times, therefore the data may overlap.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows APHA to refuse a request for information if estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, APHA consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request.

Section 12(2) provides that APHA are not required to confirm whether we hold the information requested if by doing so we would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £600. This is the case for the information that you have requested, and so please note that this response should not be taken as confirmation that the information is held by APHA.

Section 16 – Advice and Assistance

You may consider making a new request for a narrower category of information, that APHA could comply with within the appropriate limit, although this cannot be guaranteed.

The best way APHA can help, is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. You could, for example, explain more fully and precisely the kind of information you are looking for. For example as the request covers one country, consider asking for a review of the last fifty forms received to check if Romania has been noted on any of those forms.

Please note that if you alter your request, APHA will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding would commence from the date APHA receive the modified request.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Team

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy

Annex

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law.

Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.