

Date: 24th March 2010

Our Ref: FOI/097/10

Contact: Alice Duarte

Fax: 01707 354669

Dear Ms Dunckley,

Thank you for your request for information on dogs seized by Hertfordshire Constabulary.

I am able to confirm that your request has been processed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) and following enquiries within the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Dog Unit, I have answered your questions below.

1. How many dogs have been seized under Section One of the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2009?

42 dogs were seized under section one or section three of the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2009.

2. How many prosecutions under Section One and Section Three of the Dangerous Dogs Act did the Hertfordshire police proceed with in 2008 and 2009?

Please find attached the information as it is recorded and held by the Constabulary.

It is not possible to specify how many prosecutions were brought under Section One and Section Three of the Dangerous Dogs Act, therefore the Total number of detected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act between 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2009 has been provided.

3. How many dogs have been seized under Section One of the Dangerous Dogs Act (prohibited dogs) so far this year (2010)? Of those seized, how many have been signed over for destruction by their owners?

5 dogs have been seized under section one or section three of the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2010 to date.

4. How many applications have been made to the magistrates court under section 4b of the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2008 and 2009? Of those 4b applications, how many resulted in destruction orders and how many resulted in registration onto the Index of Exempted Dogs?

No information is held.

5. How many dogs are currently held under Section One and how many dogs are held under Section Three of the Dangerous Dogs Act?

20 dogs are currently being kennelled following seizure under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

6. What number of dogs seized under Section One of the Dangerous Dogs Act during 2009, have been destroyed or have died whilst in police custody, due to illness, injury or disease?

None

7. What number of dogs seized under Section Three of the Dangerous Dogs Act during 2009, have been destroyed or have died whilst in police custody, due to illness, injury or disease?

None

8. What is the cost to the police for the seizure, kennelling, veterinary treatment and legal costs for dogs seized under section one of the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2007, 2008 and 2009?

The information requested is not recorded and held centrally on a database that would make it easily retrievable. Following enquiries within the Finance Department it is not possible to isolate the costs on the invoices for seized dogs and separate these from the costs for the Dog Units Police dogs.

The cost to kennel a dog is currently £10 plus VAT per day.

For more information that may be of interest I have attached a response to a recent request of a similar nature.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Duarte

Freedom of Information Assistant

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Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. If you decide to request such a review and having followed Hertfordshire Constabulary's full process and you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.