



**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —

Emma Sparkes

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Your Ref:  
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24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Ms Sparkes

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act Ref 310/21 dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, requesting information on the stray dog service provided by Bassetlaw District Council.

Whilst the Act confers a general right of access to information held by public authorities, Section 1 provides that any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled:-

- a) To be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request; and
- b) If that is the case to have that information communicated to him', subject to the effect of the exemptions in Part 11 of the Act.

Therefore pursuant to the Council's duty to confirm or deny whether or not it holds the information requested I can confirm the following:-

1. What is your policy on managing stray dogs in your local Authority area?
  - We have one appointed contract kennels for all our strays to initially kennel strays, but then to attempt to rehome.
  - Dogs seized as strays by the Dog Warden or handed in direct to the kennels are first checked for a microchip. If the microchip is up to date and the owner can be contacted, and it is the first time that the dog has strayed, it will be returned to the owner without charge.
  - If it is not chipped, the chip has not been updated, or it has strayed before, it will be kennelled and the owner must pay a release and daily kennelling fee.
  - After 8 days, the dog will be donated by the Council to the contract kennels to be rehomed – unless it is judged not to be re-homeable, in which case it will be euthanized, or a vet advises that it needs to be euthanized for animal welfare reasons.
  - Very occasionally a dog will be given into the care of the finder under the dog certification provisions of the Act
  - Owners who persistently allow their dogs to stray can be served with a Community Protection Notice under the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014

2. How many stray dogs did your local authority take responsibility for each year between 2018-2020?

**2018 = 194**

How many were then adopted?	101 (via the contract kennels)
How many went to animal rescue?	0
How many were euthanized?	28

What happened to any dogs who did not fall into the above categories?  
65 were returned to their owners, very small number rehomed on certificate

**2019 = 142**

How many were then adopted?	82 (via the contract kennels)
How many went to animal rescue?	0
How many were euthanized?	18

What happened to any dogs who did not fall into the above categories?  
42 were returned to their owners, very small number rehomed on certificate

**2020 = 112**

How many were then adopted?	67 (via the contract kennels)
How many went to animal rescue?	0
How many were euthanized?	5

What happened to any dogs who did not fall into the above categories?  
40 were returned to their owners, very small number rehomed on certificate

3. Of the dogs adopted or went to rescue, please provide a breakdown year by year of the number of dogs to each organisation

All dogs seized are taken to one contract kennels. Dogs are either reclaimed by their owners, donated to the contract kennels for rehoming or are euthanized. The contract kennels are Carlton Forest Rescue Centre, Carlton Forest, Worksop, Notts

If you are dissatisfied with the Freedom of Information response set out in this letter you are able to utilise the Council's complaints procedure which allows one right of review via this system. Details can be found using the link below:

<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/about-us/complaints-compliments.aspx>

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint the Act confers a further right to complain to the Information Commissioner at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) . During the current circumstances with the Coronavirus Pandemic the ICO are asking if possible to be contacted online and not to correspond by post. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113 or via email [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk) . However the Information Commissioner will not usually consider a complaint if the complainant has not utilised their one right of review via the Council's complaints procedure.

I trust this answers your query fully.

Yours sincerely

**M Bussey**  
**ENVIRONMENT SERVICES.**