



**Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service**

**Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs**

**Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service**

**Legislative and
Public Affairs**

**Freedom of
Information**

**4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232**

October 15, 2014

Jacob Luplow, Journalist
Lyle Muller, Executive Director-Editor
IOWAWatch
The Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism
Email: jacob-Luplow@iowawatch.org
Lyle-muller@iowawatch.org

Dear Mr. Luplow and Ms. Muller:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated and received in this office on June 30, 2014 and assigned tracking number 2014-APHIS-04252-F. You requested copies of the following statistical data:

- The number of inspections performed annually on USDA licensed dog breeders from 2004 through 2011.
- The number of direct, indirect, and repeat noncompliance issues cited annually on USDA licensed dog breeders from 2004 through 2011.
- The number of enforcement actions issued annually to and the number of prosecutions against USDA licensed dog breeders from 2004 through 2011.
- The number of inspections performed annually on USDA licensed dog dealers from 2004 through 2011.
- The number of direct, indirect, and repeat noncompliance issues cited annually on USDA licensed dog dealers from 2004 through 2011.
- The number of enforcement actions issued annually to and the number of prosecutions against USDA licensed dog dealers from 2004 through 2011.
- Any reports that exist that contain or refer to this data.

Your request was forwarded to the Offices of Animal Care (AC) and Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) to search for responsive records. IES located 18 pages responsive to item #3 and item #6 which are being released in full.

AC has informed this office that AC does not maintain the statistical data that you requested. Information can be found online through this website:

<https://acisearch.aphis.usda.gov/LPASearch/faces/CustomSearch.jspx>

However, our Animal Care Information System (ACIS), which has been a valuable resource for countless special interest persons and groups searching for information about individuals and facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act, has been plagued with technical issues that have affected the speed with which users retrieve information, as well as the accuracy and consistency of some of that information. The technical issues also affect program offices within USDA APHIS and we are experiencing the same issues with regards to retrieval.

The Animal Care technical team has decided that the best course of action is to create a new and improved ACIS rather than trying to fix the current version. As the new database is being designed, they are addressing the current technical issues while also improving the overall usability so it will be easier for you to create customized searches and retrieve inspection reports, animal inventories and annual reports.

Steady progress is being made – while also complying with all federal requirements for data security. The target timeframe for having the new database up and running is the end of 2014. Until then, you can still retrieve data from the current database, but please be aware that searches requesting a large volume of data affects the speed of the search tool and may not provide complete responses to your complex search requests. You may have more success if you narrow the search parameters and request information in smaller batches. Please note we have some past Annual Reports and Inspections Reports in the FOIA Reading Room, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/reports>. Should you have any questions you can contact the FOIA office at Foia.officer@aphis.usda.gov.

You have the right to appeal our partial denial determination. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter. Please send to:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Ag Box 3401
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401

Please refer to FOIA 2014-APHIS-04252-F in your appeal letter and add the words “FOIA Appeal” to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sophie Lau-Lopez of my staff at (301) 851-4083.

Sincerely,



For
Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosures