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Our ref: FOI 2014/05227 (b)  
Your ref:

25 September 2014

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2014 requesting the following information:

*I would like to know all the species of animals used by the Dstl as part of its testing and research programme, and how many of each species was used in each of the last three calendar years (2013, 2012, and 2011).*

*Additionally, I would like to know how many of each of these species was killed, died as a result of injuries sustained or euthanised as a result of this testing and research.*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl's purpose is to maximise the impact of Science and Technology for the defence and security of the UK. As part of this, we develop and create battle-winning technology and protection equipment for UK Forces and Government. Our role in helping protect the UK and its Armed Forces requires us to answer questions and develop solutions to problems that cannot currently be addressed without the use of animals in research.

Dstl operates in accordance with the requirements of UK legislation, namely the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA) 1986, and fully embraces the principles of the 3R's (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). In accordance with this legislation Dstl returns the numbers of procedures involving animals to the Home Office on an annual basis. The information that you have requested has already been placed in the public domain as a response to a Parliamentary Question on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014, which can be found in Hansard at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140722/text/140722w0001.htm#14072281000057>

The large majority of the animals used in each calendar year would have either died during the experiment or been humanely killed at the end of the experiment.

The only exception is three dogs used in 2012. Dstl plays an important role in supporting the military working dog capability, particularly in terms of maximising the dog and handler team's performance and ensuring the highest levels of welfare whilst operating in a wide range of environments. To maximise the dog and handler's performance in such a range of environments, there is often a requirement to develop new equipment and/or training practices.

A total of three operational working dogs were handled in a facility that is able to vary the environmental conditions in a controlled and safe manner. The dogs' handlers and a veterinary surgeon were present with them at all times during the study. The equipment used enabled changes in the environmental conditions to be varied whilst constantly monitoring the dogs to ensure they were able to properly perform their role.

I would like to stress that all three dogs suffered no adverse effects during the conduct of this study and they were all returned to their normal working routine the following day.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Dstl Secretariat