



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2016/07359/77554 &
FOI2016/07793/77555

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22 August 2016

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your emails of 25 July and 11 August in which you asked for the following information:

"Under the FOI Act I would like details of the number of police dogs destroyed by Ministry of Defence Police for medical reasons since 2012. I would also like details of the reason why the dog was destroyed".

"Under the Freedom of Information Act can you please advise how many police dogs since 2012 have been destroyed as part of your service's breed programme and the reasons for their destruction."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm the Ministry of Defence holds some of the information you have requested. With regard to your first question, I have attached a table providing details of 29 Ministry of Defence police dogs that had been euthanized since 2012 and the reasons for the euthanasia.

At the end of their service life Military Working Animals will, where possible, be rehomed. However sadly there are some occasions where veterinary reasons indicate that re-homing would compromise the welfare of the animal, or rehoming would pose an unacceptable risk to public safety as a result of the animal's service life. The decision to euthanase a Military Working Animal must always be balanced and pragmatic, and consider a range of factors which requires us to:

- Make decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare by balancing scientific knowledge and professional judgment with consideration of ethical and societal values Ensure animals are treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and, when necessary, provided a humane death
- Ensure animals are treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and, when necessary, provided a humane death


Moving to your second question, as the Ministry of Defence does not have a dog breeding programme, there have been no dogs euthanized under such a scheme.

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, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,


Disclosure and Litigation Leader

Reason	Frequency
Neurological / Osteoarthritis	1
Splenic Neoplasia	2
Abdominal Mass	1
Cruciate Disease & Hip Dysplasia	1
Osteoarthritis	4
Osteoarthritis and anal furunculosis	1
Calcium issues	1
Congestive Heart Failure	1
Neurological disease	2
Acute Spinal Injury	1
Neoplasia	4
Acute Heart Failure	1
Haemolytic Anaemia	1
Subcuticular Fibrosis/nodular dermatofibrosis	1
Severe dermatitis	1
Septic Peritonitis following GDV surgery	1
Pleurisy	1
Chronic Protein Losing Enteropathy with ascites	1
Megacolon	1
Intractable Inflammatory bowel disease	1
Cardiac disease	1