



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/11102 Your e-mail dated 03-09-2018

E-mail: Army Sec-group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

27 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 03 September requesting the following information:

Under the FOI Act, could you please provide me with numbers of service horses destroyed by the Ministry of Defence and the reasons why they were destroyed since 2014 together with the number rehomed. In the case of those that were destroyed could you please provide details of the reasons for their destruction.

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

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is below, with further details on reasons for destructions attached separately within the email:

Euthanised

Year	Quantity
2014	10
2015	14
2016	10
2017	14
2018 (as at 26 Sep 18)	3

Rehoused

Year	Quantity
2014	26
2015	58
2016	66
2017	52
2018 (as at 26 Sep 18)	21

Military Working Animals provide an invaluable service to our troops, and every effort is made to rehome them at the end of their service life. Decisions are taken following an extensive assessment of the animals and any potential new home. Sadly, there are some occasions where it is not possible to rehome an animal safely, for example when the animal poses a risk to public safety. In such cases decisions are taken following a full assessment by military veterinarians and horse behaviourist experts.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat

Euthanased (as at 26 Sep 18)

Serial	Reason for euthanasia	Remarks
1	Welfare ¹	Poor foot condition
2	Welfare	Fractured tibia right hind limb (kick wound)
3	Welfare	Chronic lymphangitis
4	Welfare	Metacarpal Osteoarthritis right fore limb
5	Welfare	Euthanased during colic surgery
6	Welfare	Euthanased for colic. Post mortem found small intestinal entrapment with small torsion
7	Welfare	Chronic lameness
8	Welfare	Hind limb lameness chronic
9	Welfare	Infected wound to fetlock and pastern joint
10	Welfare	Sepsis of hock joint
11	Welfare	Enteritis with gut necrosis
12	Welfare	Impacted colic
13	Welfare	Suspected abdominal neoplasia
14	Safety ²	Unacceptable risk to public safety
15	Welfare	Immune-mediated purpura/vasculitis/myopathy/haemolysis
16	Welfare	Sacroiliac pain
17	Welfare	Proximal suspensory desmitis. Tarso-metatarsal and Distal Intertarsal osteoarthritis, stifle pathology
18	Welfare	Septic carpal sheath
19	Welfare	Osteoarthritis

¹ To prevent unnecessary suffering or where it has become impossible to provide for an MWA's welfare needs.

² Where an MWA poses an unacceptable risk to people or other animals (and to release could constitute an offence).

20	Welfare	Fractured Tibia
21	Welfare	Neurological disease
22	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety
23	Welfare	Osteoarthritis (spinal)
24	Welfare	Osteoarthritis
25	Welfare	Suspected neoplasia
26	Welfare	Bladder inactivity, partial blindness both eyes.
27	Welfare	Small Intestinal/Large Intestinal inflammatory disease
28	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety
29	Welfare	Navicular syndrome, laminitis
30	Welfare	Colic (rupture)
31	Welfare	Navicular syndrome
32	Welfare	Uncontrolled Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) oronasal fistula
33	Welfare	Advanced Distal Interphalangeal Osteoarthritis
34	Welfare	Lameness and old age
35	Welfare	Fractured pelvis
36	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety
37	Welfare	Sarcoids
38	Welfare	Colic
39	Welfare	Neurological disease & non-responsive to medication
40	Welfare	Untreatable lameness
41	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety

42	Welfare	Laminitis and pedal bone rotation
44	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety
43	Safety	Unacceptable risk to public safety
45	Welfare	Did not recover after surgery
46	Welfare	Concussive laminitis, P3 rotated and dropped
47	Welfare	Complications post-surgery for epiploic foramen entrapment
48	Welfare	Bilateral fore limb lameness, cellulitis & nonhealing infection
49	Welfare	Broken leg left fore limb
50	Welfare	Gastric rupture during colic
51	Welfare	Septic tendon sheath

Please note that the data provided is based upon Defence Animal Training Regiment records; the 'Remarks' column represents a clerical summary of expert veterinary assessments made in each case for information management purposes.

Rehomed

Year	Quantity
2014	26
2015	56
2016	66
2017	52
2018 (as at 26 Sep 18)	21