



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC1356

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

28 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on the continental puppy trade which we received on 06 June 2018. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

'Between 1st May 2017 and 30th April 2018 how many puppies were

- a) intercepted each month on suspicion they were in breach of the Rabies Order 1974 and
- b) how many of these puppies were subsequently quarantined each month?'

In most cases Trading Standards are the enforcement authority responsible for intercepting and quarantining puppies that do not comply with the Pet Travel requirements. However since December 2015 the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has been taking an intelligence-led approach at Dover aimed at disrupting the illegal importation of puppies and abuse of the Pet Travel Scheme. As part of this activity APHA is working with the Dogs Trust and Kent County Council to quarantine underage dogs intercepted by APHA at both Dover Port and Eurotunnel.

APHA do not hold data regarding puppies intercepted by Trading Standards which were not placed into quarantine. As such any data regarding interceptions by APHA only relate to puppies intercepted as part of the intelligence-led approach at Dover.

The data regarding puppies quarantined is taken from APHA records of quarantine licences issued for illegally landed animals quarantined by APHA and Trading Standards. The definition of 'illegally landed' does not necessarily mean the animal was smuggled into Great Britain. Our definition of an illegal landing is any dog, cat or ferret that is landed in Great Britain which does not meet the import requirements and therefore requires quarantine under the Rabies Importation Order. While these figures may include some smuggled animals, it also includes:

- pet animals that arrive at UK airports and during the pets check are found to be non-compliant
- animals that are found 'inland' and after a trading standards investigation are found to be non-compliant

While we do record whether the animal is a puppy on our records, we rely on Trading Standards to advise us if an animal is a puppy when they submit the paperwork to us. There is no requirement for Trading Standards to inform us of the age of the dog: we only record this if it is stated on any paperwork sent to us. So while the information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data as we can only rely on the information that has been provided to us by Trading Standards.

Month	APHA interceptions	Total puppies quarantined
May-17	59	40
Jun-17	44	36
Jul-17	41	16
Aug-17	14	34
Sep-17	36	28
Oct-17	90	64
Nov-17	105	50
Dec-17	43	25
Jan-18	26	10
Feb-18	21	17
Mar-18	7	20
Apr-18	14	13

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

I attach an Annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex

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### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF