



Our Ref: ATIC2328

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

09 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about dog importation which we received on 28 January 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

1. The total number of dogs imported into the United Kingdom from 2015 until Jan 2021 (broken down by year) under the EU Pet Travel Scheme and Balai Directives.
2. The total number of dogs imported from Romania, broken down by year (2015-2021)”

	TRACES	Pets
2015	Not available	164836
2016	34,295	275876
2017	40,290	287016
2018	41,416	307357
2019	44,561	307263
2020	63,320	163562
Jan 2021	514	Not available

	Romania (TRACES only)
2016	11,640
2017	15,556
2018	17,194
2019	19,489
2020	32,525
Jan 2021	133

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can't guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES and the pets returns by a third party.

TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) is a European Commission system employed by EU member states to facilitate and record animal/animal product movements into and throughout the EU. Part of this data was extracted from TRACES. The data for commercial dog imports was extracted from TRACES through the data warehouse facility by searching for imports of *canis familiaris*. These figures cover all commercially imported dogs including commercial puppies, rescue dogs, research dogs and unaccompanied pets.

The data regarding the Pet Travel Scheme covers pets entering Great Britain and is based on information provided by checkers employed by approved carriers of pet animals.

With regards to the annual throughput for pets, the figures are higher in 2016 than previous years as prior to 2016 we relied on pet carriers to input data electronically onto a database. We began to have reservations about how accurate this data was and moved to a new method of collecting data which we believe is more accurate, although still reliant on accurate and timely data entry by the external companies (the carriers). APHA stopped recording the country of origin of compliant animals imported under the scheme in 2016. Detailed data on non-compliant pet animals, including the country in which the paperwork accompanying the animal was issued, is always collected. As such we can only provide information on dogs imported via Romania on TRACES from 2016.

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.

An Annex is attached 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. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

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

## Annex

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk) and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

### Coronavirus

However, following the changes to Government advice, from Tuesday 24 March 2020 the ICO offices will be closed. They will therefore not be able to collect correspondence sent via post. Where possible, they ask that you [contact them online](#) or call on 0303 123 1113