



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2362

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

1 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information regarding brucella in dogs which we received on 5 March 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I would like to make a freedom of information request to find out how many positive Brucella cases in dogs have been identified in the UK over the last 12 months or longer if the information is available (would it be possible to get information from 2000 onwards?). I would also be interested to know if the country of origin of the affected dogs is available or the country of origin of the dam/sire of the infected dog if that dog was born in the UK ie the origin of the infection where known."

Detection of *Brucella canis* has not been reportable prior to 2021 so Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) can only comment on the cases we are aware of, noting that this may not be all cases.

The first bacteriologically confirmed case of *Brucella canis* was in 2017, followed by another in the same year. Both dogs were imported from Eastern Europe.

Then there was a third bacteriologically confirmed case in 2018 that was identified in a private lab (not captured in the APHA annual report). This dog was also imported from Eastern Europe. There were no such cases in 2019.

These 2017 cases were also reported in the Veterinary Record; attached as Appendix 1 and 2.

The publically available annual non-statutory zoonoses report documenting the above are here: [2017](#), [2018](#) and [2019](#).

In 2020 there were more cases. These are summarised in the APHA Zoonoses and Veterinary Public Health Annual report 2020. This is publically available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961904/zoonoses-veterinary-public-health-Q4-2020.pdf. This records 10 incidents, most of which involve multiple dogs. In total approximately 80 dogs were

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

tested and of these approximately 50 were considered to be infected. This was on the basis of serological, bacteriological and epidemiological (including clinical) evidence. *Brucella canis* was not bacteriologically isolated in all incidents (this is not a straightforward process) but in such case the other evidence was compelling.

The picture so far for 2021 is similar to 2020 with four further incidents so far.

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

Annex

Copyright

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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 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

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.