



Ministry of Defence

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15 March 2024

Thank you for your email of 12 January 2024 in which you requested the following information:

"1 In relation to the (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022 calendar years please state (a) the number of horses euthanised by the MoD and (b) the number re-homed by the MoD.

2. In relation to the (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022 calendar years please state (a) the number of military dogs euthanised by the MoD and (b) the number re-homed by the MoD.

3. For all the horses euthanised please state the name of the horse, the date it was euthanised, and the medical reason for euthanasia. Please provide jpeg computer images if you have them of the three most recently euthanised horses.

4. For all the military dogs euthanised please state the name of the dog and the date it was euthanised, its breed if recorded and whether it was an explosives detection dog and the medical reason for euthanasia. Please provide jpeg computer images if you have them of the three most recently euthanised dogs.

5. If you have the data please provide it for the 2023 calendar year."

As confirmed in my letter of 9 February 2024, I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Please accept my apologies again for the delay in responding.

Our records show that on 13 January 2022 you submitted a request for the same information for the 2020 calendar year which the Department complied with in its response of 10 February 2022 (reference FOI2022/00523). The Department's position has not changed since that response and consequently it is not obliged to comply with part of your current request under the terms of Section 14(2) of the Act.

The requested data for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years can be found in the below tables. Please note however that the images requested at parts (3) and (4) of your request are not held by the Department. The data for the 2023 calendar year is also not held by the Department. Under Section 16 of the Act, Advice and Assistance, I can advise that collation and verification of Military Working Animal End of Service data, including information on deaths and euthanasia, is undertaken annually. The 2023 data set should be available in April 2024.

Also under Section 16, I should advise that our 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 by the Military Working Animal rehoming board 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. Service animals are only euthanised for one of two reasons; either due to a veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering or because the animal poses an acceptable risk to public safety.

Table 1. The number of Military Working Horses (MWHs) and Military Working Dogs (MWDs) rehomed and euthanised in the 2021 and 2022 calendar years.

Year	Rehomed		Euthanised	
	MWH	MWD	MWH	MWD
2021	32	95	11	13
2022	19	118	9	20

Table 2. MWH euthanasia data for the 2021 calendar year.

Date	Name	Reason
01-02-2021	Kaito	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
30-03-2021	Benjamin	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
13-05-2021	Minden	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
01-06-2021	Hope	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
29-06-2021	Remount	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
23-07-2021	Retro	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
08-10-2021	Recoil	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
09-11-2021	Ryan	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
24-11-2021	Remount	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
03-12-2021	Remount	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
31-12-2021	Ada	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering

Table 3. MWH euthanasia data for the 2022 calendar year.

Date	Name	Reason
17/01/2022	Llamari	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
11-02-2022	Kettleby	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
01-03-2022	Remount	Unacceptable risk to public safety
08-03-2022	Wellesley	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
28-04-2022	Remount	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
03-06-2022	Gurkha	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
13-07-2022	Essex	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
25-07-2022	Lingen	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
07-12-2022	Vigilant	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering

Table 4. MWD euthanasia data for the 2021 calendar year.

Date	Name	Reason	Breed	Explosives Detection Dog
28-01-2021	Doug	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Labrador	N
11-02-2021	Caro	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
31-03-2021	Apollo	Unacceptable risk to safety	Belgian Shepherd	N
02-04-2021	Vita	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Malinois	N
20-04-2021	Duke	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Malinois	N
09-07-2021	Sparta	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Dutch Herder	N
19-07-2021	Volt	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
02-09-2021	Iza	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
24-09-2021	Wera	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
18-10-2021	Daisy	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
19-11-2021	Argus	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
01-12-2021	Ciga	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
13-12-2021	Tracy	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N

Table 5. MWD euthanasia data for the 2022 calendar year.

Date	Name	Reason	Breed	Explosives Detection Dog
05-01-2022	Baron	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
05-01-2022	Jones	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
13-01-2022	Rover	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
03-02-2022	Joy	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
11-02-2022	Max	Unacceptable risk to safety	Malinois	N
22-03-2022	Senne	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
24-03-2022	Kimbo	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
29-03-2022	Miller	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
11-05-2022	Lola	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Dutch Shepherd	N
11-05-2022	Robby	Unacceptable risk to safety	Malinois	N
30-05-2022	Lusa	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N

30-05-2022	Xep	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
15-06-2022	Brek	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
16-06-2022	Newton	Unacceptable risk to safety	Malinois	N
18-07-2022	Vrouwke	Unacceptable risk to safety	Belgian Shepherd	N
26-10-2022	Erna	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
15-11-2022	Maci	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N
30-11-2022	Xavier	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Malinois	N
24-12-2022	Ronin	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	N
30-12-2022	Flex	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	N

Notes/caveats to all tables

1. These figures are single Service estimates based on management information which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.
2. A Remount is an untrained animal which has not been named.

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.gov.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,

Equipment Team
Army Policy & Secretariat