



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

Ref: Army/PolSec/E/A/FOI2025/00278

E-mail: armyseccgroup@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

31 January 2025

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2025 in which you requested the following information:

1. *"In relation to the 2023 calendar year 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 2023 calendar year 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."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. 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 and has been provided below.

Please note that the images requested at parts (3) and (4) of your request are not held by the Department.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), 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. 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 unacceptable risk to public safety.

Table 1. The number of Military Working Horses (MWHs) and Military Working Dogs (MWDs) rehomed and euthanised in the 2023 calendar year.

Year	Rehomed		Euthanised	
	MWH	MWD	MWH	MWD
2023	41	92	14	18

Table 2. Military Working Horse euthanasia data for the 2023 calendar year.

Name	Date	Reason
Indigo	22/12/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Inkspot	14/12/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Isaiah	02/03/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Kaiser	29/08/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Melton	02/07/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
O'Driscoll	21/02/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Osprey	28/09/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Pole-Axe	28/08/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Quantum	02/07/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Quasimodo	27/09/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Salvador	07/10/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Valhalla	12/09/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Waterloo	16/11/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering
Willow	08/04/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering

Table 3. Military Working Dog euthanasia data for the 2023 calendar year.

Name	Date	Reason	Breed	Search dog
Asta	20/06/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	No
Chadow	17/11/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Cindy	29/09/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Gino	02/10/2023	Unacceptable risk to public safety	German Shepherd	No
Indy	13/05/2023	Unacceptable risk to public safety	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Jlay	27/09/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Dutch Herder	No
Leon	08/04/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	No
Loki	03/05/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	No
Odin	12/12/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Rex	09/08/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No

Riki	19/06/2023	Unacceptable risk to public safety	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Rocky	15/08/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Sam	02/10/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	English Springer Spaniel	Yes
Tanya	15/11/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd - Malinois	No
Tjabo	21/11/2023	Unacceptable risk to public safety	Dutch Herder	No
Tweed	09/08/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Springer Spaniel	Yes
Vice	26/01/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	Belgian Shepherd	No
Zorro	07/04/2023	Veterinary condition causing unnecessary suffering	German Shepherd	No

Notes/caveats to all tables

- 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.

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,

Equipment & Operations Team
Army Policy & Secretariat