



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI2025/21794
04 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Testing of laboratory beagles in the UK for Brucella canis

Thank you for your request for information of 14th October about testing of laboratory beagles in the UK for Brucella canis. APHA have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding dogs—particularly beagles—bred or imported for scientific research within the United Kingdom:

1. Testing Requirements

- Are research establishments or licensed breeders required to test dogs (including imported dogs) for Brucella canis before, during, or after use in scientific procedures?
- If yes, please specify which regulations or guidance documents set out those requirements and the testing frequency or methodology used.”

This will depend on the research establishment. There was no statutory testing requirement for Brucella canis in dogs until 7th October 2025, where a safeguard measure was brought in for commercial imports of dogs (greater than 5 dogs in one shipment) moving from Romania to Great Britain.

“2. Testing Conducted

- Has the Home Office or APHA carried out, commissioned, or received results from any Brucella canis testing on dogs used in scientific research between 2015 and 2025?

- If so, please provide the number of tests conducted, the number of positive results (if any), and the year(s) those tests occurred.”

APHA do not hold this information.

“3. Imported Dogs

- For dogs imported for research from other countries (EU or non-EU), is *Brucella canis* testing required or routinely performed at the border or by the receiving facility?
- If records exist, please provide the total number of dogs imported for research each year since 2015 and whether any were screened for *Brucella canis*.”

All dogs need to comply with the import requirements which are dependant of country of origin. Please see further information which is available to view on GOV.UK:

[Get an export health certificate - GOV.UK](#)

The table below shows the data held for dogs imported from the EU to the UK where the purpose of the import has been recorded as research. The EU data may include animals that have originated from a non-EU country but have travelled through an EU Border Control Post (BCP). The database records the EU BCP Country as the Country of Origin for these imports. The Rest of the World data will not include any animals that have arrived through an EU BCP.

The data does not include imports from the Rest of the World countries as the purpose of research is not available on import notifications from these countries.

APHA do not hold information on whether any of these dogs were screened for *Brucella canis*. APHA do not hold data prior to 2021.

Year	Number of dogs imported for research purposes
2021	723
2022	253
2023	520
2024	12
2025 (Up to 31/08/2025)	1

The information provided is a true reflection of the information that APHA have access to. APHA cannot guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into external customer-facing systems by third parties.

“ 4. Policy or Guidance Updates

- Please supply any internal or published policy updates, risk assessments, or correspondence referring to *Brucella canis* in relation to laboratory dogs or breeding colonies since 2020.”

[Brucella canis: testing dogs before import - GOV.UK](#)

[Declaration of special measures \(England signed\) 6.10.25](#) – Declaration for Scotland and Wales also available if required.

[6 October 2025: Brucella canis testing requirements for commercially imported dogs from Romania - GOV.UK](#)

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, Section 21 of the FOIA exempts APHA from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

Section 21

The information regarding *Brucella canis* in dogs is publically available and is therefore exempt from release under Section 21 (reasonably available to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA 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 or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Team

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.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team 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 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

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.