



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Freedom of  
Information

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

May 26, 2011

Tracy Coppola  
Born Free USA  
P.O. Box 32160  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ms. Coppola:

This is in response to your April 26, 2011 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which was clarified on May 17, 2011, for the Inspection Reports, Animal Care Complaints and all documents/reports related to the complaints for the past five years. Your request was received in this office on May 17, 2011 and assigned case number FOIA 11-445. We apologize for the delay of this response.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and enclosed are 12 pages of records responsive to your request which includes one Inspection Report (not on line) and six Animal Care Complaints. However, information is withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). This exemption protects information from disclosure the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Additionally, Animal Care (AC) Records are only maintained for three years in accordance with Agency records retention guidelines. However, AC located five older complaints (07-073, 07-149, 08-009, 08-185, and 08-253). We have included these five documents in the 12 pages noted above. The hard copies of these documents have been purged from the facility file along with any notation as to the results of AC's Inspector's investigation of the complaints. The sixth AC Complaint number E11-144 is still under review and therefore, there are no results available at this time.

If you wish, you may request the documents related to AC Complaint Number E11-144, again at a later date.

You may appeal our partial denial of this information and or no records determination. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter to:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401



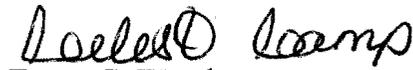
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Please refer to FOIA 11-445 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Please note that copies of inspection reports are now available on our Animal Care web site. To access all available APHIS inspection reports, please visit the APHIS homepage at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on Animal Welfare (a bullet item located in the light blue box on the left-hand portion of the screen under Browse by Subject). Then, click on 03/25/11 Animal Care has developed an expanded and improved (ACIS) Search Engine, located under the heading Latest News in Animal Welfare. Then, at the bottom of the next page, click on the link <http://acissearch.aphis.usda.gov/LPASearch/faces/Warning.jspx>. There, you will be able to access a searchable database.

Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, the fee has been waived. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Deborah L. Leilich of my staff at (301) 734-3623.

Sincerely,

*for* 

Tonya G. Woods  
Director  
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosures