USDA

JUN 20 2011

United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Legislative and Public Affairs

Freedom of Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Steve Carr

Dear Mr. Carr:

This is in response to your June 6, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for any and all information relating to the September 2010 escape of a deadly rattle snake at the Atlanta Zoo. You also requested the results of your complaint #PS3320-0390, USDA Hotline transcription from operator #8, and records regarding the notification of escape of deadly animals.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service does not regulate reptiles (e.g. rattlesnakes). Therefore, we will not have any records responsive to your request. However, our Office of Animal Care conducted a search of their files and did not locate any responsive records or any information regarding your complaint.

In addition, we referred your request to the USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer for their review and direct response to you. If you wish to contact their office, please dial Tel. 202-720-8164, or email at usdafoia@ocio.usda.gov

Although this does not constitute a denial because no records were found or withheld, you may appeal this determination within 45 calendar days from the date of this letter. An appeal must be submitted in writing to: Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Ag Box 3401, Washington, DC 20250-3401. Please refer to **FOIA 11-572**, 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Staff at (301) 734-8296.

Sincerely,

for Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act

cc:
(USDA OCIO, w/copy of FOIA request 11-572)