



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

August 4, 2011

Deborah Robinson
Captive Elephant Specialist
In Defense of Animals
8 Fernwood Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06119

Dear Ms. Robinson:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for any and all documents related to Carson and Barnes Circus of Hugo, Oklahoma, License Number 73-C-0001, concerning the African elephant Joy, (1) her death in 2010, and any investigation or inspection done by APHIS subsequent to that death; (2) a copy of the necropsy report provided to APHIS; (3) any copies of all veterinary records relating to Joy concerning the illness or condition that caused her death or led to her being euthanized; (4) any and all correspondence between APHIS personal and employees or agents of the Circus concerning the death; (5) documentation concerning Joy's quarantine status or lack of during her time with the circus; (6) and notes from any inspection relating to her presence with any other elephants. The request was received on July 6, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-634.

Agency employees conducted a through search of their files and enclosed are five pages of communications concerning Joy the elephant. However, information has been withheld pursuant to Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6). This exemption protects information from disclosure when its release would clearly constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Specifically, we have withheld the third party names, addresses, and phone numbers along with certain signatures.

However, the program has informed this office that APHIS does not house necropsy reports or veterinary records for these facilities. These reports and records are housed at their facilities. Consequently, nothing has been found concerning the African elephant Joy's Veterinary records or necropsy reports.

Please be advised that pages 4 and 5 of the enclosed records have been released to you previously by way of response to case number FOIA 10-299.

Furthermore, please be advised that inspection reports can now be found on our Animal Care website. To access all available APHIS inspection reports, please visit the APHIS homepage at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on FOIA Reading Room (a bullet item located in the light blue box on the right-hand portion of the screen). Then, click on Lists of active licensed and registered facilities, a bullet item located under a Frequently Requested Documents heading. Then, about halfway down the next page, click on Inspection



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Ms. Deborah Robinson
FOIA 11-634

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Reports and License and Registration list. There, you will be able to access a searchable database.

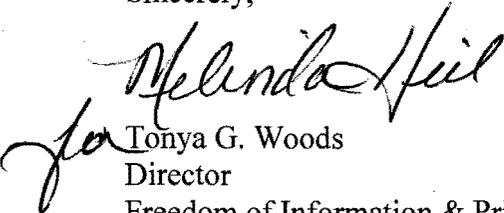
You may appeal our partial denial and no additional records determination. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter. Send to:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Ag Box 3401
Washington, DC 20250-3401

If you choose to appeal, please refer to FOIA 11-634 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.

Because the cost of processing your request is less than \$25, the fee has been waived. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lyndia Taylor of my staff on 301-734-0597.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures