



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

January 28, 2011

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Michael McGinn  
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3050 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC. 20007-5108

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Dear Mr. McGinn:

Freedom of  
Information

This is in response to your October 26, 2010, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was received on October 26, 2010, and assigned FOIA case number 11-052. You requested all communications created, sent, or received by Ms. Denise Sofranko of APHIS regarding captive elephants.

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

Your request sought the following materials:

1. All records of communications between Ms. Sofranko and the following individuals: Susan Mikota, Michelle Miller, and Genevieve Dumonceaux;
2. All records of communications between Ms. Sofranko and other USDA or federal agency staff, including, but not limited to, Ray R. Waters and Janet Payeur;
3. All records of communications between Ms. Sofranko and the Tuberculosis working group of the USAHA and subcommittee thereof...*Et al.* – the various records for the remaining numbered items for the FOIA request.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and located 241 pages of responsive records to your request. Portions of information has been withheld under Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) of the FOIA. Exemption 6 permits the Government to protect from disclosure information that would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The release of this information will not shed any light on Government operations. Specifically, we have withheld the names and signatures of private company and various associations' employees from the enclosures.

You may appeal our partial denial of this information. 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, D.C. 20250-3401

Please refer to FOIA 11-052 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.



Safeguarding American Agriculture  
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
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Mr. Michael McGinn  
FOIA 11-052

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Also contained on the CD-ROM are copies of your FOIA request, this response letter, and Adobe® Acrobat® Reader™, which is needed to view the responsive records. By opening rp505enu.exe and following the on-screen instructions, you will install Adobe Reader. After the installation, the Adobe Reader should render the PDF files correctly.

All fees for processing your request have been waived. 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  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure