



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
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Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Freedom of  
Information

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

March 30, 2011

Elizabeth Harmon  
Friends of the Zoo, Inc.  
of Kansas City  
6800 Zoo Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64132

Dear Ms. Harmon:

This is in response to your March 1, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records concerning the death of a black rhino that was being transported from the Kansas City Zoo on October 4, 2008 and died in route to the Phoenix Zoo on October 6, 2009. You are specifically seeking the investigative report and findings. Your request was received in this office on March 2, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-295.

As a result of an ongoing investigation (Case Id. OR09002), the entire investigative case file is being withheld pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(A) of the FOIA. The government is permitted to withhold records compiled for law enforcement purposes when their release could interfere with pending or ongoing enforcement proceedings. Moreover, we are unable to determine when the proceedings will be completed. At a later date, you may submit a new FOIA request concerning the death of the black rhino.

You may appeal our 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 the letter. Send to:

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

Please refer to FOIA 11-295 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 Ms. Kacie Edwards of my staff at (301) 734-5385.

Sincerely,

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



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