USDA

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

NOV 12 2010

Dear

This is in response to your October 10, 2010, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for all owner/shipper papers, (VS 10-13) forms and health certificates of horses shipped out of Texas and New Mexico to Mexico. The search dates range from January 1, 2010 to the latest date of records. Your request was received in this office on October 13, 2010, and assigned case number FOIA 11-018.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their database, but did not locate any responsive records. New Mexico area office processed no records for the time frame for horses shipped to Mexico for slaughter. Texas veterinarian service does not have records of the horses shipped to Mexico for slaughter. These records are maintained at privately-owned export facilities, or export facilities operated by the Texas Department of Agriculture, a state agency.

You may appeal our 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, DC 20250-3401

Please refer to FOIA 11-018 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 to process your request was less than $25.00, the fee has been waived. If you have any questions, please contact

Sincerely,

for

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