



August 30, 2011

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

Julie Caramante

Sent Via Email

Dear Ms. Caramante:

This is in response to your August 8, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for copies of the names of companies or individuals that are engaged in commerce of shipping horses to slaughter from the state of Texas from January 1, 2011 to present. Your request was received in this office on August 8, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-723.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files, but were not able to locate any records responsive to your request. The program office has advised that Veterinary Services does maintain names of companies or individuals that are involved in slaughter horse shipping by name, but not by state. APHIS maintains health certificates but those don't identify if someone is engaged in the commerce of shipping horses to slaughter.

You may appeal our finding of no responsive records. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter. Please send to:

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

If you choose to appeal, please refer to FOIA 11-723 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, please provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, the fee has been waived. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sophie Lau-Lopez of my staff at (301) 734-5360.

Sincerely,

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