



Geneen Bill
Information Rights
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Our Ref: Bedfordshire FOI2018/00254, Cambridgeshire FOI2018 00255, Hertfordshire FOI2018 00253

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00254

I write in connection with your request for information received on 17th January. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Please could I find out if your force breeds (or users breeders) to provide police dogs?
2. If you do not use either of the above methods, please can you explain where you get your supply of new police dogs from.
4. Please can you tell me how many new police dogs have been trained for each year for the past five years, as in the number for 2013 through to 2017?
5. What is the average age (or age range) of a new dog undergoing training to become a police dog. i.e is it a puppy?
5. Can you please briefly explain what training entails and how long it lasts for?
6. Please can you tell me how many of the dogs referenced in question four above failed their training?
7. Please can you tell me how many police dogs that start their training fail?
8. Please can you tell me what happens to these dogs.
9. How many dogs undergoing police training to become new police dogs have been euthanised for each year between 2013 to 2017. What was the reason and how old was each dog?

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

Response – Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police work as a collaborated Dog Unit, therefore this response is for all three forces.

1. We use breeders to provide Police Dogs.
2. Not Applicable.
4. We only hold information from August 2015. Aug 15 – Mar 16 = 9 Apr 16 – Mar 17 = 6 Apr 17 – Jan 18 = 2
5. General Police Dogs 12-14 months. Specialist Dogs 12-16 months.
5. All aspects covered in the NPCC Manual of Guidance (this available of the NPCC website). Course lengths vary in accordance to the course and the experience of the handler.
6. None have failed their training once licenced.
7. We do not keep records of the dogs that start the courses but do not complete as they are not Police Dogs until they are licenced.
8. If a dog fails training it is returned its breeder or a new owner.
9. None.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.