



MAR 25 2014

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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

[Redacted]

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received on December 9, 2013. Specifically, you requested copies of all documents or other materials prepared, used, or distributed by APHIS regarding any complaints about Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) during the last 12 years related to the Horse Protection Act (HPA). Your request is assigned case number 2014-APHIS-1089.

Your request was forward to the Office of Animal Care and Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, Administrative Investigations and Compliance Branch where records would exist. Using the following keywords: VMOs, complaints, HPA, Agency employees' located 31 responsive pages. Of these pages, we are releasing four pages in their entirety. The remaining pages originated at the USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and were referred to their FOIA Office for their review and direct response to you. If you wish to contact OIG, please visit their web site at <http://usda.gov/oig/foiareq.htm>.

Although no information has been withheld or denied, you still have the right to appeal our response. 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

Please refer to FOIA 2014-APHIS-1089 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, all fees have been waived. Should you have questions, please contact my staff at 301-851-4053.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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

Enclosures

Cc: (OIG w/copy of incoming of request and 27 pages)