

12 February 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180112**

**REQUEST**

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?

**RESPONSE**

You may not be aware that FOI concerns requests for recorded information, rather than comment and does not apply to questions which require 'explanation', 'opinion' and the creation of data such as a request for an 'average'. This rationale affects a number of your questions above.

Under Section 16 of the Act – 'duty to provide advice and assistance', I have however made enquiries with our Dog Training Manager for assistance with your request. He has advised the following responses to each of your questions.

1. *South Yorkshire Police has a breeding programme, however dogs are obtained from a variety of sources. Donated by members of the public, bought from members of the public, bought from dealers, bought from breeders and taken from our Puppy breed scheme.*
2. *As question 1*
3. *No Question.*
4. *The number of Police dogs trained :-*

<i>2013</i>	<i>9 dogs trained . No failures</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>6 dogs trained. No failures</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>3 dogs trained. No failures</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>10 dogs trained. No failures</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>6 dogs trained 2 dogs failed</i>

- 5 a) *The age of dogs starting courses is normally between 11 months and 2 years of age.*
- 5 b) *The training for each different type of working Police dog, General purpose Police patrol dog, Specialist dogs is varied in time and with different dog skills and abilities required. However the courses are generally, 6 weeks, 8 weeks and then 13 weeks. These can change slightly dependent upon the experience and trainability level of either the handler of the dog.*
- 6 *See Q4 dogs fail, however they completed and passed the initial training course. However after 12 / 18 months operational work, they were found to be unsuitable.*
7. *There have been three dogs that have found not been suitable once the training course has started.*
- 2013 No dogs.*  
*2014 No dogs.*  
*2015 No dogs.*  
*2016 No dogs.*  
*2017 3 dogs failed whilst in training.*
8. *There are several options, dependent upon where were acquired. They are*  
*(a). The dogs are returned to the person that donated the dog. (*  
*b). Returned to the breeder, dealer or seller.*  
*(c). If they have been puppy walked they are offered to the puppy walker, for a donation.*  
*(d). They are found a suitable home for a donation.*  
*(e). They are moved on occasions, to other Police force or prison or agency, where they are suitable for the task required.*
9. *South Yorkshire Police have had no dogs euthanized that were undergoing Police training from 2013 the present time.*