

FOI Ref
13372

Response sent
04 Jul 23

(CCC) Stray Dogs and Dog Related Complaints

I hope this message finds you well. We are conducting research on the scale of dog attacks attributed to Bully XLs in the UK. We will be compiling this data nationally and we are happy to share the results with you in advance of publication.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request information regarding incidents involving Bully XL dogs and the collection of stray dogs within your area. Specifically, I am interested in data from the past five years (from 2018 to 2023).

Could you please provide me with the following information:

Q1: From 2018 to 2023, broken down by year: the total number of stray dogs collected per year and how many of these have been a Bully XL or a Bully XL variant (Staffy cross, American Bully, Bully mix, etc.).

Q2: From 2018 to 2023, broken down by year: The number of complaints you have received per year in relation to out-of-control dogs, categorised by breed if possible, and the nature of these complaints.

Q3: From 2018 to 2023, broken down by year: The number of enforcement actions taken per year in relation to out-of-control dogs, categorised by breed if possible, and the nature of these enforcement actions.

Q4: Has your local authority contacted central government about the rise of Bully XL attacks?

If this would make responding to the request easier, we are only interested in the total number and of these which have been a Bully XL or a Bully XL variant (Staffy cross, American Bully, Bully mix, etc.)

Response

1. We do not have data on stray dog breeds before April 2021, therefore data for breeds has only been provided from this period onwards. We do not hold data on strays by calendar year, but only by financial year so the data has been provided in this format.

- 2018-19 – 85 stray dogs collected
- 2019-20 – 68 stray dogs collected
- 2020-21 – 64 stray dogs collected
- 2021-22 – 41 stray dogs collected (10 Staffordshire Bull Terriers and 1 Staffordshire Bull Terrier Cross – the rest of the strays were other breeds)
- 2022-23 – 59 stray dogs collected (7 Staffordshire Bull Terriers and 6 Staffordshire Bull Terrier Cross – the rest of the strays were other breeds)

2 and 3. We do not have data on dog control reports before April 2021, therefore data

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has only been provided from this period onwards. We do not hold data on dog breeds for dog control reports. Please note the term complaint does not just mean a written formal statement logged on the council's complaint system - it includes requests for service and communications received that are not recorded as complaints through the council's complaint system.). Please note that dog control reports includes animal attacks, intimidating dogs, human attacks and dogs not under control.

2021 – 11 cases - outcomes are summarised below:

- Unsubstantiated report / no action – 6
- Informal resolution without involvement of council – 1
- Referred to the police – 3
- Community protection warning - 1

2022 - 21 cases - outcomes are summarised below:

- Unsubstantiated / no action – 13
- Informal resolution without involvement of council – 1
- Referred to the police – 3
- Community protection warning – 1
- Warning letter – 2
- Referral to Woodgreen Pets Charity Outreach team - 1

4. No.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk
