



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 26, 2008

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Legislative and
Public Affairs

Freedom of
Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Ms. Marianne Bessey

Re: FOIA 08-884

Dear Ms. Bessey:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated June 18, 2008. Your request was received in this office on June 20, 2008. You requested the report of investigation and all records pertaining to the death of an elephant (Petal) at the Philadelphia Zoo on June 9, 2008.

The records you seek are maintained outside of this office and we have not yet been able to complete a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. Additionally, all Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests are processed on a "first-in, first-out" basis, according to track. Due to the large number of FOIA requests our Agency has been receiving, we have a considerable backlog, and unfortunately a number of requests still remain in the queue. Accordingly, we will be unable to comply with the twenty-working-day time limit in this case, as well as the ten additional days provided by the statute. Please be advised; however, responding to all FOIA requests as promptly as possible is a high priority for our Agency.

I regret the necessity of this delay, but I assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact me at (301)-734-0490.

Sincerely,

Janice Shipman-Hobbs
Program Specialist
Freedom of Information Act
Legislative and Public Affairs



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