

12 September 2020

Mary Phillips

fyi-request-13628-b87bfb47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Phillips

Request for information

Thank you for your enquiry dated 31 August 2020 requesting information on police dogs as detailed in the bullet points below.

1. What is the reason the NZ Police register dogs with the New Zealand Kennel Club Inc.
2. What happens to the dogs that do not meet the requirements to be a Police Dog.
3. Do the NZ Police export dogs to other countries, and
4. Do the NZ Police import dogs from overseas.

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 and I enclose the following information:

1. NZ Police are required to maintain a large dog breeding population to meet ongoing demands for replacement Police dogs. Tracking the lineage of dogs within the population is an important part of making relevant breeding decisions. By registering with the NZKC we are able to maintain an official and internationally recognised method of multi generation pedigree registration and listing. This is vital to maintaining cooperative dog exchange programmes with local breeders and international partners, including other Police Agencies and dog breeders.
2. When a dog is deemed unsuitable to be a Police dog the NZ Police will offer it to other Government working dog agencies, assistance dog organisations or rehome it with police staff or members of the public who have previously contacted police looking for dogs. Background checks are completed before dogs are rehomed.
3. NZ Police work with a number of international working dog agencies from around the world, importing and exporting dogs and frozen semen.

Police National Headquarters

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This is to ensure diversity in our breeding stock. NZ Police also send working dogs to a number of the Pacific Island countries under the Pacific Detector Dog Programme. Due to strong relationships with Australia we have also send / exchange dogs with a number of working dog agencies in Australia.

4. As per question 3.

If you have any questions, you may contact Inspector Todd Southall on todd.southall@police.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd Southall', is written over the printed name.

Inspector Todd Southall

National Coordinator: Police Dogs