



Date: 03/07/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012758/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012758/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding the use of private contracted kennels by your Police Force for seized dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Specifically, I am interested in understanding how contracted kennels are selected, how dog welfare is monitored, the frequency of visits by Dog Legislation Officers as well as the provisions for dogs who may be unable to be exercised outside of their kennel on a daily basis.

1. Do you follow the RSPCA's Welfare of Seized Dogs in Kennels Guide?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what guidelines do you use when selecting contracted kennels and monitoring the welfare of dogs within contracted kennels?

2. Where do you house seized dogs? (Please add the capacity of dogs that can be housed in the kennels in the relevant column)
Police Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity:
Private Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity

3. What provisions do you have in place for seized dogs if/when capacity is full?

4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels?

4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels? (please check)

Frequency of Visits

Seizing Authority Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Vet Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Comments

5. Is your private kennel in your police force area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what is the distance to the kennel from seizing area?

6. Do you provide individual plans for seized dogs that the private kennels can follow i.e. environmental, dietary, veterinary support and exercise plans?

If yes, please can you provide an example of this?

7. What provisions are in place for dogs whose behaviour restricts them from being taken out of their kennel for daily exercise or contact with people?

8. What provisions are in place to provide opportunities for dogs to perform natural behaviours such as exercise, chewing/digging, socialising and to meet the medical needs of dogs who are considered unsafe for staff to enter the kennels of?

9. Are there processes in place to request support from a Clinical Animal Behaviourist to meet the welfare needs of individual dogs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Do you provide the following for seized dogs in both police kennels and contracted kennels?

- Individual dietary requirements i.e. allergies Yes ☐ No ☐
- Medicines provided by the owner's vet for ongoing medical conditions Yes ☐ No ☐

- Preventative Medicines i.e. flea, tick, worm, and vaccinations Yes ☐ No ☐
- Medicines provided by kennels vet for conditions developed whilst kennelled? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Enrichment toys/food puzzles, sniffing/chewing Yes ☐ No ☐
- Bedding of Suitable Material Yes ☐ No ☐

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

1. Yes. GMP also insist on all kennels being licensed by the relevant local authority.
2. We use private kennels with a capacity of approximately 180 seized dogs.
3. GMP have an overflow facility with a subcontractor. We triage all dogs seized under Section 1 prior to going to a kennel to prevent any unnecessary kennelling.
4. Dog Legislation Officers attend kennels weekly. Vets also attend weekly or dogs from kennels will attend the vet weekly.
5. We use kennels both within and outside Greater Manchester. Distance is not a consideration.
6. Yes, each dog has its own record. Dietary needs, treatments and vaccinations are recorded.
7. Unfortunately, some dogs are difficult to handle safely dependant on the experience of the staff member. We appreciate that we do not want kennel staff to get injured. All our kennels attempt to allow dogs to be exercised, but if not, we would ask that they the dogs is stimulated during feeding.
8. See answer to question 7. If veterinary treatment is required consideration would be given to sedating the dog.
9. No.
10.
 - a. If informed of individual dietary needs of a dog by owner, kennel manager or vet we would fully support this.
 - b. We would rarely allow prescribed medicines to be taken from owners, but instead would get the animal prescribed medicines during the initial vet check of the dog when seized (which is independent from the kennels vet). Again, when informed by an owner or requested by a vet.
 - c. Yes
 - d. Yes
 - e. Yes
 - f. Yes