



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 30, 2015

Ms. Kristen N. Lee
Assistant County Attorney
Harris County
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2015-20553

Dear Ms. Lee:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 581456 (C.A. File No 15PIA0300).

The Harris County Veterinary Public Health Division (the "county") received a request for the vaccination records for a dog with a specified tag number. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 826.0211 of the Health and Safety Code, which provides, in part:

- (a) Information contained in a rabies vaccination certificate or in any record compiled from the information contained in one or more certificates that identifies or tends to identify an owner or an address, telephone number, or other personally identifying information of an owner of a vaccinated animal is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. The information contained in the certificate or record may not include the social security number or the driver's license number of the owner of the vaccinated animal.

Health & Safety Code § 826.0211(a). We note section 826.0211 is applicable only to information contained in a rabies vaccination certificate or in a record compiled from information contained in one or more rabies vaccination certificates. You state the county compiled the submitted information from information contained in one or more rabies vaccination certificates. Therefore, we find the county must withhold the owner's identifying information, which we have marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 826.0211 of the Health and Safety Code. The remaining information, which does not identify or tend to identify the owner, must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Karen Hattaway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KEH/sdk

Ref: ID# 581456

Enc. Submitted document

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)