

Euthanasia Resources

Compiled by Carolyn von Hauck to accompany the article "The Good Death" appearing in the Winter Issue of Cross Country, November 2013.

State Regulations For IA, MN, ND, SD, WI

Iowa

State Veterinarian: Dr. David Schmitt - david.schmitt@idals.state.ia.us

State Regulations: - http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Animal_Response/English/pdf/H5c_CarcassDisposalMethods_ADE.pdf

Iowa Code § 167.18 Duty to dispose of dead bodies.

A person who has been caring for or who owns an animal that has died shall not allow the carcass to lie about the person's premises. The carcass shall be disposed of within twenty-four hours after death by cooking, burying, or burning, as provided in this chapter, or by disposing of it, within the allowed time, to a person licensed to dispose of it.

§167.12 Disposing of bodies.

The following requirements shall be observed in the disposal of such bodies:

1. Cooking vats or tanks shall be airtight, except proper escapes for live steam.
2. Steam shall be so disposed of as not to cause unnecessary annoyance or create a nuisance.
3. The skinning and dismembering of bodies shall be done within said building.
4. The building shall be so situated and arranged, and the business therein so conducted, as not to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.
5. Such portions of bodies as are not entirely consumed by cooking or burning shall be disposed of by burying as hereinafter provided, or in such manner as the department may direct.
6. In case of disposal by burying, the burial shall be to such depth that no part of such body shall be nearer than four feet to the natural surface of the ground, and every part of such body shall be covered with quicklime, and by at least four feet of earth.
7. All bodies shall be disposed of within twenty-four hours after death.

Minnesota

State Veterinarian: Dr. William L. Hartmann - bill.hartmann@bah.state.mn.us

State Regulations:

Deceased Animal Disposal Laws: Minnesota Board of Animal Health Dead Animal Disposal:

In Minnesota, carcasses from domestic animals must be disposed of as soon as reasonably possible as follows:

1. bury the carcass in the ground at a depth adequate to prevent scavenging by other animals,
2. burn the carcass,
3. have the carcass picked up by a licensed rendering facility, or
4. dispose of the carcass in a properly operated composting facility.

North Dakota

State Veterinarian: Dr. Susan Keller - skeller@nd.gov

State Regulations

36-14-19. Disposition of carcass of animal dying from contagious or infectious disease. Any animal which is found dead must be presumed to have died from a contagious or infectious disease until the contrary is shown unless another cause of death is apparent. The owner or person in charge of any domestic animal or nontraditional livestock which dies within this state from or on account of any contagious or infectious disease shall dispose of the carcass of such animal as follows:

1. If the animal died of anthrax, as determined by a licensed veterinarian, the carcass must be completely burned at the place where it died if possible. If the carcass must be moved, it may not be dragged over the ground but must be moved only on a suitable conveyor and all body openings in the carcass must be plugged with cotton saturated with a strong antiseptic solution.
2. If the carcass is of a hog which died from hog cholera or swine erysipelas, the same, with hide intact, must be burned within thirty-six hours or given to a licensed rendering plant within such time.
3. If the carcass is of an animal which has died of a disease other than is specified in subsections 1 and 2, or from any other cause, it must be burned, buried, composted, or given to a licensed rendering plant within thirty-six hours, or must be disposed of by a method approved by the state veterinarian. If the carcass is buried, it must be buried not less than four feet [1.22 meters] below the the surface of the ground and covered with dirt to that depth. No carcass may be disposed of along any public highway or along any stream, lake, or river nor be buried near or adjoining any such place.

South Dakota

State Veterinarian: Dr. Sam D. Holland - dr.holland@state.sd.us

State Regulations:

Deceased Animal Disposal Laws: S.D. Codified Laws § 34-16-17.

Whenever the owner and the person in charge of any unburied dead animal shall fail to burn or bury or cause the same to be burned or buried, or otherwise dispose of such body or cause the same to be buried in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations as required by §§ 34-16-10 to 34-16-16, inclusive, he shall have committed a petty offense for each dead body so left unburned or unburied or otherwise disposed of.

Wisconsin

State Veterinarian: Dr. Robert G. Ehlenfeldt - robert.ehlenfeldt@wisconsin.gov

State Regulations:

Deceased Animal Disposal Laws: Wis. Stat. Ann. § 95.50. Disposition of carcasses.

(1) No person shall deposit or throw or allow to be deposited or thrown into any stream, lake or swale, or leave or deposit or cause to be left or deposited upon any public highway or other place the carcass of any animal; nor deposit or leave or permit to be deposited or left upon any premises under that persons control any dead animal exposed in such manner as to be reached by dogs or wild animals for a longer period than 24 hours in the months of April to November, or 48 hours during the months of December to March. The owner of such a carcass or any other person may report to the proper county officials or the contracting private rendering plant pursuant to s. 59.54 (21) for removal and burial or other disposition of a carcass within the time specified in this subsection.

(2) No person shall transport, haul or drag or permit to be transported, hauled or dragged along any public highway in this state the carcass of any animal suspected of having died from anthrax, blackleg, foot and mouth disease, sleeping sickness or glanders or any other disease which the department may designated as highly dangerous. All such carcasses shall be burned or be buried at least 6 feet below the surface of the ground and shall be completely covered so as to prevent their being reached by wild animals or dogs. Whenever it is necessary to transport any such carcass across any public highway for burial, it shall be transported in such a manner as not to contaminate any part of the public highway. The carcasses of animals dying from other communicable diseases may be transported to and disposed of under such regulations as are prescribed by the department. The definition of "communicable disease" in s. 990.01 (5g) does not apply to this subsection.

(3) Any dead animal found upon a public highway or other public place shall, in case the owner of the animal cannot be found, be buried or otherwise disposed of at public expense by the local health department, as defined in s. 250.01 (4)

(a) 1. or 3. or (b), in whose jurisdiction the animal is found. This subsection applies if a county does not exercise its authority under s. 59.54 (21).

(4) In a county which does not exercise its authority under s. 59.54 (21), the owner of a carcass is obligated to dispose of it as specified in this section.

Euthanasia

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), there are three approved methods for the euthanasia of horses: chemical euthanasia, with pentobarbital or a pentobarbital combination (euthanasia solution); gunshot; and penetrating captive bolt.

Chemical euthanasia is the most humane choice for horses, and is preferred by most veterinarians and horse owners, but is the most expensive form of euthanasia. This procedure requires injection of euthanasia solution into the horse's vein. Euthanasia

solution is a controlled drug and must be administered by a veterinarian. Carcasses of horses euthanatized chemically can potentially contaminate the environment, and pose a significant risk of poisoning for prey species (especially birds) unless they are disposed of or protected from predation in a proper and immediate manner (see Burial below).

Gunshot and the penetrating captive bolt are other approved physical methods of euthanasia. When used in the correct manner, they induce death more rapidly than chemical euthanasia. They produce death in the same way, by disrupting the brain and causing loss of consciousness and subsequent death. Euthanasia by gunshot may pose an inherent risk for other animals and humans, and should only be performed by someone skilled in the method, and in a safe environment.

The penetrating captive bolt method of euthanasia is safer than gunshot euthanasia because it does not release a projectile (e.g., bullet). There are two types of captive bolt: penetrating and non-penetrating. The penetrating captive bolt induces death by firing a rod into the brain. The non-penetrating captive bolt causes a severe concussion that stuns the animal but does not kill it. The non-penetrating captive bolt is not considered a humane method of euthanasia.

Gunshot and penetrating captive bolt euthanasia are less expensive than chemical euthanasia and do not present the risks of environmental contamination or animal poisoning. These techniques are considered aesthetically displeasing to many horse owners, but they are effective.

Burial

Burial can be the most cost effective way of disposing of a carcass (if you own equipment to prepare the site), but may not be an available option in all areas of the state. The BAH states that the carcass must be five feet above the high water level, covered with three feet of soil, and not in soils that are within 10 feet of bedrock. These regulations are in place to prevent contamination of groundwater. Burial should include a soil cover of sufficient depth to prevent exposure of the carcass by burrowing, digging, or scavenging animals (and other vectors of disease) and erosion. During winter months (when the ground is frozen), breaking the ground for burial may be difficult or not an option until spring.

Composting

Composting can be an environmental friendly option when dealing with an equine carcass. Compost does need to be managed (adding water and nutrients and rotating the pile when needed), and is considered labor intensive by many. In some states, compost sites need to be built. In Minnesota, compost sites must have a roof and must be on an impervious (i.e. cement) pad. The BAH will assist individual horse (and other livestock) owners in designing composting sites. The BAH can be reached at 651-296-2942.

Equine carcass composting research conducted at West Texas A & M University determined that a mix of 50/50 cattle manure and hay waste or a 50/50 mix of stall waste (horse manure and bedding) worked better as compost compared to 100% stall waste when composting equine carcasses. To compost a single carcass, researchers placed it on a bed of chopped straw before adding other materials. To jumpstart the process, it is advised to add pre-composted materials (because they already contain the needed bacteria) before adding the carcass.

The key to any compost pile is the moisture and nutrient content. A compost pile should be about 50% moisture. Excessive moisture can cause compost to leach harmful chemicals into the soil, and it can displace oxygen within the pile, which creates an anaerobic condition that produces an unpleasant odor and phytotoxic (toxic to plants) substances. The temperature of the compost pile can be a good indicator to determine if the process is working properly. Temperatures in the pile can reach 131° F to 155° F within 24 hours and should remain there for several weeks to a month. These sustained high temperatures will destroy most pathogens and weed seeds. It is also recommended to turn the pile every three months. After three months, only a few large bones should remain. At six months, no identifiable pieces should remain. If working properly, the entire process (from start to finish) should take about seven to nine months.

A good reference for composting is the MDA's Composting Animal Mortalities (PDF). <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/animals/compostguide.pdf>

Cremation (incineration).

Cremation can allow horse owners to retain a physical part of their horse, but can be expensive. A burn pile on the property cannot attain a complete incineration and is not a legal carcass disposal option. Generally, incineration is completed by a state-licensed facility under strict emissions and temperature guidelines. In Minnesota, the Department of Health (MDH) is the administrating agency. The following is not an endorsement of the listed cremation service by the University of Minnesota, but is meant to provide horse owners with legal carcass disposal options.

Euthanasia Programs:

Iowa State University

College of Veterinary Medicine ISU Veterinary Hospital
1600 S. 16th Street - Ames, IA 50011
515-294-1500

University of Minnesota

College of Veterinary Medicine
1365 Gortner Avenue - St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-1919

North Dakota State University

College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources Department of
Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory 1301
12th Avenue North - Fargo, ND 58105
701-231-8307

South Dakota State University

College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Animal Disease Research and
Diagnostic Laboratory Box 2175
North Campus Drive - Brookings, SD 57007-1396
605-688-5171

University of Wisconsin-Madison

School of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Teaching Hospital
2015 Linden Drive - Madison, WI 53706-1102
608-263-7600

Equine Crematory Services

Midwest Cremation Service of MN, Inc.

20323 St. Francis Blvd - Anoka, MN 55303
Phone: 763.753.5510 Fax: 763.753.4716

Ashes to Ashes Pet Cremation (serves the Continental U.S.)

22331 590th Street - Pomeroy, IA 50575
712-358-2600

Memorial Pet Care (serves the Continental U.S.)

654 E. King Street - Meridian, ID 83642
208-887-7669

Midwest Cremation Services of Wisconsin

P.O. Box 220 - Poynette, WI 53955
608-635-7270

Equine Cremation

6438 County Road A - Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 729-9449

Metro Animal Service

25613 W. Route 30 - Plainfield, IL 60585
630-904-1100

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

1365 Gortner Avenue - St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-1919

South Dakota State University

College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Animal Disease Research and
Diagnostic Laboratory
Box 2175 North Campus Drive - Brookings, SD 57007-1396
605-688-5171

Equine Cemeteries**Companions Rest Pet Cemetery**

4141 S 27th St - Milwaukee, WI
414-282-6600

Barkshire Pet Services

6438 County Road A - Neenah, WI 54956
920-729-9449

Arlington Park

4141 S. 27th Street - Greenfield, WI 53221
414 282 6600

Sunset Ridge

6211 38th Street - Kenosha, WI 53144
262 652 7488

Forest Hill

3301 E. Forest Hill Oak
Creek, WI 53154
414 762 4446

Email: manderson@oakstllc.com

Rendering/Carcass Disposal:**Antigo Rendering Works**

726 Birch Street Antigo, WI 54409-1710 715-623-5205

Barr Animal Foods

W7276 Chickadee Road Greenwood, WI 54437-7807 715-267-6335

Central Bi-Products Rendering Service

300 Central Avenue Long Prairie, MN 56347 320-732-2819

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300 Central Avenue Long Prairie, MN 56347 320-732-2819

Central Bi-Products Rendering Service

920 4 Street Southeast De Smet, SD 57231 605-854-3500

Darling International, Inc.

P.O. Box 668 Belleview, NE 68005 402-731-7600

Darling International, Inc.

1423 Beaver Channel Parkway Clinton, IA 52732 563-242-9200

Darling International, Inc.

601 SE 18th Street Des Moines, IA 50317 515-265-0381

Darling International, Inc.

9000 382nd Avenue Blue Earth, MN 56013 507-526-3296

D & J Rendering, Inc.

1219 61st Street Luverne, MN 56156-4163 507-283-2553

Dakota Rendering

Freeman, SD 866-686-1103

Five Star Enterprises

2408 State HWY 11 Hazel Green, IL 53811 608-748-4657

Rendering Klarenbeek's

1313 31st Street Steen, MN 56173-4047 1-800-472-2495

Rock Rapids Rendering Service

201 Crestview Drive

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1717 712-472-3461

Sioux Valley Rendering Company

300 10th Street

Rock Valley, IA 51247-1048 712-476-2405

Landfills that Accept Equine Carcasses:

* Waste Management® accepts equine carcasses at some, but not all locations. To find out if your local Waste Management (<http://www.wm.com>) location will take horse carcasses, please contact them: 800-963-4776