

## DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK CARCASSES

These notes are for guidance only and should not be taken as a full legal interpretation of legislation.

The disposal of animal carcasses on farm can present significant dangers. Apart from risking prosecution for causing water pollution, there is a risk of spreading disease to stock on that holding or on neighbouring farms as well as a public health risk.

### Sudden death of any animal

Any sudden unexplained animal death should be considered as a suspect Anthrax and should be reported immediately to the Divisional Veterinary Manager, Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVL) -Tel: 01463 728800.

### Deaths of cattle

The owner or keeper of **ALL** cattle over 48 months which die or are killed (other than for control of notifiable diseases) must make arrangements for them to be taken to an approved BSE sampling site. For information on sites approved to test for TSEs contact AHVLA

### Deaths of goats

The owner or keeper of All goats over 18 month old which die or are killed (other than for control of notifiable diseases) should be reported to the TSE Surveillance Helpline service (Tel: 0800 525890) who will arrange to collect the carcasses (free of charge) and arrange for testing for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

### All other livestock deaths

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement)(Scotland) Regulations 2011 (& Regulation EC No 1069/2009 & EU 142/2011) stipulates that disposal should be by either incineration, rendering or other approved means (if appropriate). Only in designated remote areas<sup>1</sup> & **where no other accepted means of disposal are available** should burial or burning on-farm be considered. SEPA should be consulted prior to any carcasses being buried or burnt on-farm and the following guidance should be adhered to:-

#### DOs

Report all sudden deaths and seek veterinary advice.

Comply with the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and attempt to use an incinerator or rendering plant before considering burial on farm. Bury animal carcasses with at least 1 metre of covering soil to prevent dogs, foxes or vermin getting access.

- Keep a Location Plan of all burials and a record of type of animal buried & date
- Consult SEPA for confirmation that the proposed site is suitable for carcass burial.

#### DON'Ts

- Leave carcasses unburied or open to dog or fox access for any length of time.
- Add lime to a lined disposal pit.
- Dump carcasses in remote areas.

Operate an animal carcass incinerator without prior consultation with SEPA.

#### RECOMENDED

- Choose sites where there is at least 1 metre of

#### DON'T

- Bury carcasses any closer than 250m from any

<sup>1</sup> ie Highland Council area but excluding parishes of Abernethy & Kincardine(438), Alvie(439), Ardclach(605), Ardersier (445), Auldearn(606), Boleskin & Abertaff(433), Cawdor(607), Cromdale Inverallan & Advie(586), Croy(446), Croy & Dalcross (608), Daviot & Dunlichity(447), Dores(448), Duthill & Rothiemurchus(440), Inverness & Bona(449), Kingussie & Insh(441), Kirkhill(436), Moy & Dalarossie(450), Nairn(609) & Petty(451)

- subsoil at the bottom of the burial pit.
- Make sure that incineration is carried out at the highest temperature possible.
- Make sure that burning of carcasses in the open is undertaken with care and by the approved method.
- Seek professional advice if in doubt. Advice on veterinary issues is available from your local Animal Health office. SEPA will provide advice on environmental pollution issues.

- drinking water supply; 50m from any watercourse or 10m from any field drain.
- Locate burial pits in areas prone to water logging or at risk of flooding or that are underlain by sandy or gravelly soil.
- Bury carcasses in polythene bags or other impervious material.
- Bury carcasses on archaeological sites or on sites designated for their nature conservation interest.

**Records** must be kept for 2 years as follows

a) Where transporting or consigning to Renderer/ Incinerator/ knackery etc

- date material moved (consignor & transporter only)
- description of material (including ear ID if applicable), and category
- quantity of material (volume, weight or no.)
- place of origin (transporter only)
- name and address of carrier (consignor only)
- name and address of receiver and approval number (consignor, if known, & transporter)
- if appropriate – approval number of plant of origin

b) Where on-site burial or burning

- quantity, category & species of animal by-product
- date & place of burial/ burning

**For further information contact:**

**The Highland Council**

Animal Health Section  
 Transport, Environmental & Community Services  
 38 Harbour Road  
 Inverness, IV1 1UF  
 Tel: 01463 228700  
 Fax: 01463 239133

Animal Health Section (sub office)  
 TEC Services  
 Market Square  
 Wick, KW1 4AB  
 Tel: 01955 6017752  
 Fax: 01955 606376

E-mail: [animal.health@highland.gov.uk](mailto:animal.health@highland.gov.uk)

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**Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**

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 Fodderty Way  
 Dingwall Business Park  
 Dingwall, IV15 9XB  
 Tel: 01349 862021  
 Fax: 01349 863987  
<http://www.sepa.org.uk>



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