

## COMMUNITY SERVICES - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK CARCASSES

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

To minimise risks all animal by-products must be covered/ contained whilst awaiting collection/ disposal to prevent animals/ birds gaining access. Apart from risking prosecution for causing water pollution, there is a risk of spreading disease to stock on that holding or other 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 an authorised Veterinary Inspector of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – Tel: 03000 600709.

#### 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 APHA.

#### All other livestock deaths

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement)(Scotland) Regulations 2013 (& 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 be considered. If advice is required relating to the selection of burial sites or how to prevent and control pollution from potential on-farm burial sites, please contact SEPA. In all circumstances, the following guidance should be adhered to:

DOs	DON'Ts
<p>Report all sudden deaths and seek veterinary advice.</p> <p>Comply with the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and attempt to use an approved incinerator or approved 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a Location Plan of all burials and a record of type of animal buried &amp; date</li> <li>• Consult SEPA for confirmation that the proposed site is suitable for carcass burial.</li> <li>• Incineration only to be carried out using an approved ABP incinerator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not leave carcasses unburied or in a manner where an animal or bird could have access.</li> <li>• Add lime to a lined disposal pit.</li> <li>• Dump carcasses in remote areas.</li> </ul> <p>Operate an animal carcass incinerator without prior approval from APHA and consultation with SEPA.</p>
<p>RECOMENDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose sites where there is at least 1 metre of subsoil at the bottom of the burial pit.</li> </ul>	<p>DON'T</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury carcasses any closer than 250m from any drinking water supply; 50m from any</li> </ul>

<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), Naim(609) & Petty(451)

- Seek professional advice if in doubt. Advice on veterinary issues is available from your local APHA office. SEPA will provide advice on environmental pollution issues.

- 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 knows, & transporter)
  - if appropriate – approval number of plant of origin
- (b) Where on-site burial or incineration
- quantity, category & species of animal by-product
  - date & place of burial/ incineration

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**For further information contact:**

Highland Council Community Services – Environmental Health  
Animal Health & Welfare Section

Tel: 01349 886603

Email: [envhealth@highland.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@highland.gov.uk)

**Other Useful Contacts:**

**Animal and Plant Health Agency  
(APHA)**

Longman House  
28 Longman Road  
Inverness, IV1 1SF  
Tel: 03000 600709  
Fax: 01463 711495

Email: [APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk)

**Scottish Environment Protection  
(SEPA)**

Graesser House  
Fodderty Way  
Dingwall, IV15 9XB  
Tel: 0800 80 70 60  
Fax: 01349 863987

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)