



State of Vermont

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AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Department of Environmental Conservation

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**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**STATE OF VERMONT**

**PROCEDURE ADDRESSING**  
**DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS**

**March 2001**

## **PROCEDURE ADDRESSING THE DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

In 1989, the Solid Waste Management Division, with the help of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, developed a guidance document addressing the burial of dead animals. This Procedure replaces that guidance document. This Procedure identifies animal carcasses as a "special" solid waste within the Solid Waste Management Rules.

### **II. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Animals carcasses may be disposed of by the following options:

- (a) At a certified solid waste disposal facility,
- (b) In an approved animal disposal pit as outlined in this Procedure; or,
- (c) (1) By these specific disposal methods:
  - (A) Household pet disposal
    - i. certified solid waste transfer station,
    - ii. burial on owners property, if 25 feet from property line and 150 feet from any water supplies,
    - iii. incineration at a certified veterinarian crematory,
    - iv. pet burial cemetery.
  - (B) Farm Animals, fewer than five animals
    - i. burial on owners property, if 50 feet from property line and 150 feet from water supplies. Disposal can not occur in groundwater, surface water or on bedrock.
    - ii. other solid waste treatment processes, as approved by the Secretary.
  - (C) Farm animals, one time event of greater than five animals
    - i. other solid waste treatment processes, as approved by the Secretary.
  - (D) Animals from veterinarian clinics and animal shelters:
    - i. veterinarian incinerator or crematory.
  - (E) Slaughter & butchering businesses:
    - i. renderer.

(2) Exceptions:

(A) Animal carcasses must be treated as Regulated Medical Waste when it has been determined by either the Department of Health or the Department of Agriculture that disposal by burial or other means outlined in this Procedure would not sufficiently reduce the risk of transmission of a disease to humans or other animals.

(B) Animal carcasses known or suspected of rabies must be double bagged if disposed via incineration or landfilling.

### III. ANIMAL DISPOSAL PITS

Animal Disposal Pits are an alternative to disposing of animal carcasses in a solid waste disposal facility or by the allowable alternative methods specified in (c)(1) above. Animal disposal pits must be designed and managed according to the following the criteria:

(a) Siting of Animal Disposal Pits

- (1) At least 100 feet from property lines;
- (2) At least 300 feet from water supplies;
- (3) At least 100 feet from surface water;
- (4) Bottom of pit not less than 4 feet above seasonal high groundwater, or less than 6 feet above bedrock.

(b) Management of Animal Disposal Pits

- (1) The pit must be managed so that the carcasses do not attract pests or vectors;
- (2) Upon deposit in the pit the carcasses must be:
  - (A) immediately covered with a minimum of 1/8" layer of hydrated lime and covered with at least 2 feet of soil;
  - (B) immediately covered with a minimum of 1/8" layer of hydrated lime and covered with at least 6" of soil and covered with boards; or,
  - (C) managed in an alternative manner if approved in advance by the Solid Waste Program;
- (3) Active pits must have snow fencing, or equivalent around the perimeter until the top of pit is at ground level;
- (4) No carcasses shall be deposited within 2 feet of the surface;
- (5) Final cover shall consist of at least 2 feet of compacted soil and seeded..


**IV. AGENCY APPROVAL OF ANIMAL DISPOSAL PITS**

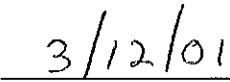
In order to obtain approval for an Animal Disposal Pit an application must be submitted and written approval must be obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources, Waste Management Division, Solid Waste Program before any animals are disposed of. One-time events may apply for an Insignificant Waste Management Event Approval (IWMEA). A regular solid waste certification is currently required for ongoing management events although we intend to eventually amend the Solid Waste Rules to allow for ongoing management events to obtain categorical certifications.

*Please contact the Solid Waste Program (802-241-3444)  
to clarify what type of approval you may need.*

**Effective date:**

This Procedure is effective upon date of Signature.

  
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Canute E. Dalmasse, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Conservation

  
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Date